

Notes

the newsletter of

The National Orchestral Association

REACHING THE UNDERSERVED

From its beginning, the National Orchestral Association has been at the forefront of reaching the underserved. Founding musical director Maestro Leon Barzin was an early proponent of diversity in American orchestras. He insisted on holding colorblind auditions, asking players to audition behind a screen so that they would be judged by their musical ability alone. Throughout its history, the National Orchestral Association has strived to foster the inclusion of women and minorities in American orchestras.

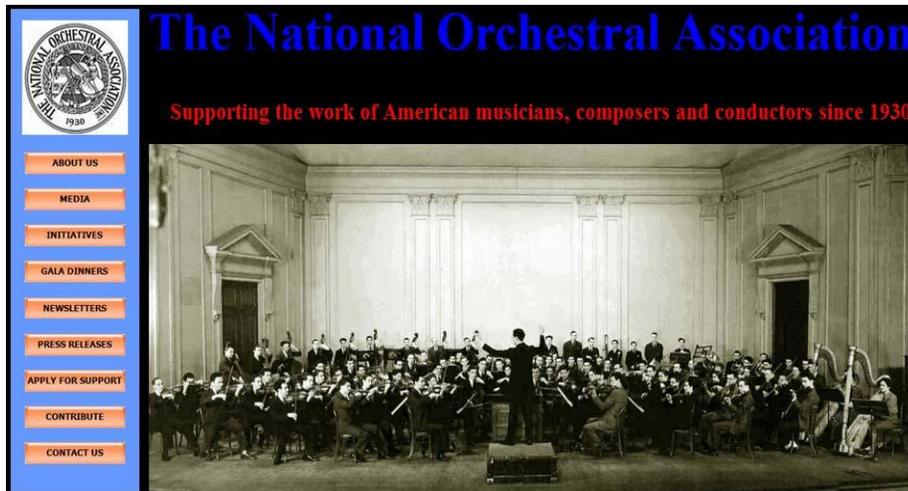
The goal of inclusiveness in American symphony orchestras can only be achieved by bringing music education to underserved communities and young people. To meet these challenges, Maestro Barzin and the National Orchestral Association offered low-priced concerts at Carnegie Hall, broadcast concerts on the radio, and led the way in bringing classical music education programs to public schools. Barzin and members of the NOA toured public schools in the 1940s, exposing young people to the world of classical music, engaging them in unique ways. Not only would the musicians play for them, but students were encouraged to touch and handle the instruments, giving them a direct interaction with the musicians.



The NOA continues to pursue the goal of reaching the underserved through its support of other organizations such as Concerts in the Heights, as well as the Sphinx Organization, which has grown from its Detroit roots, to fostering diversity in musical organizations around the globe.

Matthew J. Trachtenberg, President

NOA LAUNCHES NEWLY REDESIGNED WEBSITE



The National Orchestral Association recently launched a newly redesigned website, created and executed by NOA Executive Director Eric Kuttner. The website includes a video clip from the documentary, *Leon Barzin and the National Orchestral Association*, which serves as an overview of Leon Barzin's career with Association.

The video features commentary by two of Barzin's protégés: Maestra Patricia Handy, reflecting on the important role that the National Orchestral Association played in breaking down barriers for women and minorities in American orchestras, and Maestro Jacques Voois, explaining that the NOA was formed to break down barriers in hiring American musicians for American symphony orchestras, which until that time had been primarily composed of European musicians. American musicians generally had been shut out of American orchestras, but, as Maestro Barzin himself remarked, "if you phoned the Philharmonic and said you had just gotten off the boat from Vienna, there was always a chair available." The NOA's efforts to break down the nationality, color and gender barriers paved the way for more enlightened hiring practices by American symphony orchestras.

The website now has a more user-friendly format, and features, in addition to the video, many stills from the documentary, as well as a wealth of photos from the NOA archive. We invite you to view the website at www.nationalorchestral.org.

THE SPHINX ORGANIZATION

The NOA is proud to be a contributor to the important work of the Sphinx Organization, founded in 1996 by Dr. Aaron P. Dworkin "to help overcome the cultural stereotype of classical music, and to encourage the participation of Blacks and Latinos in the field." Its vision and mission is to "transform lives through the power of diversity in the arts." The Annual Sphinx Competition provides minority musicians with the opportunity to work with professional musicians, and to compete and be judged by an internationally renowned music panel. The Organization has many active outreach programs geared toward developing an interest in classical music among underserved young people. Like Maestro Barzin, the Sphinx Organization not only seeks to provide exposure to great classical music, but to engage young people in the creative process with instruction, performance opportunities and inspiration. We commend this outstanding organization on its many valuable programs, and recommend that our readers visit the Sphinx Organization's very engaging website at www.sphinxmusic.org.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF UTAH

The National Orchestral Association is pleased to be a supporter of the Natural History Museum of Utah, which is rapidly becoming an important venue for science and music. In its architecturally stunning new building, the Museum is engaged in incorporating music and American musicians into its programs. These initiatives explore the intersections of music, sound, science and the natural world, as well as other programs in a variety of performance formats for families examining music in the natural world. Our founding conductor, Maestro Leon Barzin, was a great proponent of creating musical programs that engage audiences in special ways. The Museum's unique approach involves inviting local musicians to perform at the Museum, including Native American singers and drummers.



The Museum also hosts a wide range of performances including recent performances of works by American composers such as Robert Langfield, John Mackey and Francis McBeth. The Museum also has a partnership with the University of Utah Music Department, and has demonstrated a commitment to incorporating music into many of its programs. For more information, please visit www.nhmu.utah.edu.

CONCERTS IN THE HEIGHTS

CITH continues to offer its monthly chamber music series based at the YM & YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood communities in Manhattan. Bringing classical music to underserved communities is an important goal for the NOA, and CITH has been serving these communities in New York for many years. The company was founded by violinist Monica Bauchwitz, and presents monthly chamber music concerts designed to expose neighborhood residents to quality music they might not otherwise have access to. Concerts are interactive, with discussions and opportunities for questions before the concerts, followed by informal post-concert receptions open to all attendees. For more information, please visit www.concertsintheheights.org.

BALLET SCHOOL OF STAMFORD

NOA Director Reka Souwapawong notes that the Ballet School of Stamford is an outstanding example of community-based training organizations, serving Connecticut's Fairfield and Westchester counties, and providing professional dance training for children and adults. The organization also maintains a relationship with the Stamford Center for the Arts, giving the school an ability to provide unique performance opportunities for its students, with a varied repertoire of original productions and classical ballets. NOA founding music director Leon Barzin believed that ballet was an important means of exposing young people to classical music as well as dance. For more information please visit www.balletschoolofstamford.org.

INTERLOCHEN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The NOA is a proud contributor to the Interlochen Center for the Arts, founded in 1928 as the National Music Camp. The Interlochen, Michigan institution has helped train young musicians and artists for decades, with its summer camp and winter academy offerings. For more information, please visit www.interlochen.org.

CONDUCTING WORKSHOP AT CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

The NOA is pleased to be partnering with the Conductors Guild and other organizations to sponsor an upcoming conducting workshop to be hosted by the Cleveland Institute of Music in March 2014. The workshop will be led by Maestro Carl Topilow, a protégé of Maestro Leon Barzin, and will feature the conducting technique of Maestro Barzin. Our organization has been pleased to partner with the Conductors Guild and other Barzin conducting protégés in the past to expand exposure to the Barzin technique. For more information about the Conductors Guild and the upcoming workshop at the Cleveland Institute of Music, please visit www.conductorsguild.org.

ARS ANTIQUA

Ars Antiqua is a unique American music organization devoted to performances of 17th and 18th century music on historical instruments. The company has a devoted following who are attracted to its innovative programming. Every performance has a unifying theme that is designed to provide a cohesive experience incorporating both music and historical perspective. Now in its 25th season, Ars Antiqua's performances "are enhanced by guest speakers and illustrated program books which help place the music within the context of baroque art and social history." NOA Director Reka Souwapawong praised the organization for its work in bringing a truly unique experience to classical music audiences in Westchester. For more information about Ars Antiqua, please visit www.ars-antiqua.org.

THE STECHER AND HOROWITZ FOUNDATION

NOA Director David Levitman noted that the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation is continuing its mission as "an incubator of talent in the world of classical music." The organization mentors young pianists by providing performance opportunities. Its flagship programs, the New York International Piano Competition and the Young Artists Series, have been responsible for identifying many incredible young pianists. For more information about upcoming concerts and competitions, please visit www.stecherandhorowitz.org.

MUSIC CONSERVATORY OF WESTCHESTER

The NOA is a supporter of the Music Conservatory of Westchester. NOA Director Reka Souwapawong reported on a recent recital she attended, and was extremely impressed with the cello playing of one of the eight-year-old students, as well as the high quality of instruction being provided for young people. The Conservatory was founded in 1929, and is the oldest and largest community arts school in the five-county region comprising Westchester, Rockland, Bronx, Putnam and Fairfield, Conn. Counties, serving students at the Conservatory as well as in public schools. For more information about this important organization, please visit www.musicconservatory.org.