

# Notes

the newsletter of

## The National Orchestral Association

### REACHING OUT

In this time of diminished school budgets for musical education, it is important for arts organizations to fill this void by reaching out to students and underserved communities. The National Orchestral Association has been at the forefront of this effort since its inception. Founding conductor Maestro Leon Barzin led the way in bringing classical music education programs to the public schools. In addition to performing concerts, Maestro Barzin would encourage young school students to interact directly with the musicians by asking them about their careers and their instruments, and would encourage the students to touch and hold the instruments. The photograph below taken from the NOA archive reveals the kind of joy experienced by young people when they are



permitted to interact with musicians in an up-close and personal manner. We at the NOA believe that reaching out to young people is the single best way to foster the classical musical audiences of the future. Having major performance venues means little without young and enthusiastic audiences. For many years the NOA redirected its efforts to provide essential support to smaller arts organizations that engage young people in their local communities.

*Matthew J. Trachtenberg, President*

### THE STECHER AND HOROWITZ FOUNDATION TO CELEBRATE MAJOR MILESTONE

On April 26, 2015, the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation will be celebrating three important milestones at a gala entitled "Three Major Celebrations" to be held at the University Club in New York City. The world-renowned piano duo of Melvin Stecher and Norman Horowitz will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Duo Pianists and Steinway Artists (1955-2015). In addition the evening will recognize the 55 year corporate sponsorship of Steinway & Sons as well as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stecher and Horowitz school. William S. Hearst, who serves as Chairman of the Board of the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation, was himself a piano student and alumnus of the school. NOA Director David Levitman noted the important contribution that Melvin Stecher and Norman Horowitz have made to the careers of many pianists. He stated that there are very few organizations that provide so many public performance opportunities for aspiring piano virtuosi.

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 the gala at the University Club, please visit [www.stecherandhorowitz.org](http://www.stecherandhorowitz.org).

### CONDUCTING TRAINING WORKSHOP AT CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

The NOA was pleased to partner with the Conductors Guild and other organizations to sponsor a conducting training workshop hosted by the Cleveland Institute of Music March 3-6, 2014. The workshop was led by Maestro Carl Topilow, a protégé of Maestro Leon Barzin, and featured the conducting technique of Maestro Barzin. The workshop was structured to provide the maximum amount of specific and insightful guidance on both technical and musical matters to each of those in attendance. Participants were given the opportunity for extensive podium time as well as video documentation of their work.

The National Orchestral Association 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, please visit [www.conductorsguild.org](http://www.conductorsguild.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, Interlochen is a unique institution that provides training and performance opportunities in music, dance, theater, visual art and other disciplines, in an idyllic Michigan setting. Like the National Orchestral Association, Interlochen was founded to provide training to young musicians at a time in the mid 1920s when few schools had music programs. Today, with many public school music programs being phased out, its mission has become more relevant than ever. In 2006 Interlochen was named recipient of the National Medal of Arts, one of the highest honors bestowed by the President of the United States and the National Endowment for the Arts on individuals and institutions that have contributed substantially to the growth and advancement of the arts. The National Orchestral Association applauds Interlochen for continuing to provide a safe, nurturing environment for arts appreciation and training. For more information, please visit [www.interlochen.org](http://www.interlochen.org).

## SETTLEMENT MUSIC SCHOOL

NOA Director David Levitman has received personal testimonials about the work being done by the Settlement Music School. This organization is the largest community school of the arts in the United States. Settlement has six locations in the South, West and Northeast Philadelphia, Germantown, Willow Grove and Camden, New Jersey. It “provides 10,000 weekly services of individual lessons, classes and activities in music, dance and visual arts to children and adults without regard to age, race or financial circumstances.” Financial aid and scholarships of \$2 million are awarded annually. Settlement is one of the many organizations that are reaching out to local underserved communities to connect with students whose school music programs have been reduced or eliminated. In addition to providing services for young people, the School also provides a variety of adult programs, with discounted lessons and classes for adults age 60 and older. One of its initiatives entitled “Music Education Pathways” “connects neighborhood schools in Philadelphia with Settlement’s branches and, depending on the school’s needs, provides ensemble training experience in band, orchestra or choir, or supplementary individual and group instruction...through MEP, Settlement offers collaborative programs to area public, parochial, and charter schools, preschools, and day-care centers, both at Settlement branches and at the partner’s site.”

Settlement’s programs are taught by highly credentialed faculty, who are dedicated to helping students achieve their artistic, educational and social goals. For more information about this dynamic organization, please visit [www.smsmusic.org](http://www.smsmusic.org).



NOA Program “Adventure in Ballet” 1945

## BALLET SCHOOL OF STAMFORD

NOA founding music director Leon Barzin believed that ballet was an important means of exposing young people to classical music as well as dance. 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. For more information please visit [www.balletschoolofstamford.org](http://www.balletschoolofstamford.org).

## ARS ANTIQUA

Now in its twenty-seventh season, Ars Antiqua is a unique American music organization devoted to performances of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.” On November 1, the organization hosted an evening called “Vermeer – Music, Life and Illusion in the Dutch Golden Age.” The evening featured music of the period performed on authentic instruments followed by a buffet of Dutch cheeses and Bisschopswijn (mulled wine). The organization noted that Vermeer was “a painter of music in a culture where lutes, harpsichords and the very act of music making had complicated social implications.”

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](http://www.ars-antiqua.org).

## MUSIC CONSERVATORY OF WESTCHESTER

The NOA is proud to support the Music Conservatory of Westchester. NOA Director Reka Souwapawong noted that the Conservatory provides the highest quality of instruction to young people. Founded in 1929, the Conservatory is the oldest and largest community arts school in the five-county region comprising Westchester, Rockland, Bronx, Putnam and Fairfield, Connecticut Counties, serving students at the Conservatory as well as in public schools. For more information about this important organization, please visit [www.musicconservatory.org](http://www.musicconservatory.org).

## CONCERTS IN THE HEIGHTS

CITH continues to offer its monthly chamber music series based at Morris Jumel Mansion in Washington Heights as well as Inwood in upper 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](http://www.concertsintheheights.org).

## THE SPHINX ORGANIZATION

Headquartered in Detroit, this organization was founded 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 panel of judges. For more information, please visit [www.sphinxmusic.org](http://www.sphinxmusic.org).