

Notes

the newsletter of

The National Orchestral Association

BARZIN LEGACY

Maestro Leon Barzin was not only a world famous conductor, he was one of the great teachers of conducting. His important legacy lives on in the work of his various protégés who have gone on to conduct many of the world's great orchestras. Meeting Maestro Barzin and watching his interaction with students was a great privilege for everyone who interacted with him. While he was in his 90s, he once again became involved with the NOA, receiving a special award from the Association in New York, and working with young students in both New York and Utah. Despite his advanced age, Barzin revealed himself to be a person of extraordinary enthusiasm and energy, with a twinkle in his eye every time he interacted with students. Maestro Barzin left a lasting impression on everyone who had the privilege of studying with him, including Maestro Jacques Voois, who is perpetuating the legacy with an important monograph on centered conducting. The work of people like Maestro Voois are helping to keep this important legacy alive, and the National Orchestral Association applauds his efforts to continue Barzin's work.

Matthew J. Trachtenberg
President

BARZIN PROTÉGÉ COMPLETING MONOGRAPH ON CENTERED CONDUCTING TECHNIQUE

Barzin protégé, Maestro Jacques Voois, is completing a monograph focusing on the centered conducting technique developed by conductors such as Arturo Toscanini and Leon Barzin. Maestro Voois was mentored by Leon Barzin and in addition to his own conducting career, served as Professor of Keyboard Music, Conducting and Musician Health Studies at West Chester University School of Music (1969-2004), and Music Director of the Chester County Pops Orchestra (2005-2013). Maestro Voois received a BM from Oberlin College; MM, Manhattan School of Music, and DMA from Johns Hopkins University/Peabody Conservatory of Music. He also served as conductor of the West Chester University Orchestra, music director of the Lansdowne (PA) Symphony, and as guest conductor for numerous academic festivals and regional orchestras. He is a founding member of the Conductors Guild.

Maestro Voois' dissertation on Leon Barzin served as the basis for the NOA's documentary, *Leon Barzin and the National Orchestral Association*. In the



Jacques Voois and Leon Barzin

documentary, he recalls his personal experiences with Barzin, as well as an overview of Barzin's approach to conducting. The NOA is delighted to continue its relationship with Maestro Voois, and is pleased to play a part in bringing this important scholarly work to the public.

CONDUCTOR AND EDUCATOR WAYNE TOEWS ON JACQUES VOOIS MONOGRAPH

For some time now, Dr. Jacques Voois has intermittently researched and written sections of the monograph, *The Origins and Evolution of Centered Conducting*. He opens the document with a brief survey of the history of conducting to 1900. The balance of the work is a detailed survey of "centered" conducting and how it contrasts to other prevailing styles of our time.

Leon Barzin mentored him for five seasons in NYC (1971-76) and for a summer in France when he studied and practiced the Toscanini/Barzin conducting technique in great detail. The monograph provides a unique, firsthand description of the stylistic principles derived from this study and serves as a generous gift to those wishing to expand their knowledge of the history and development of the centered, and indeed of all conducting styles.

The work is scholarly but not stuffy; the writing is clear and focused. His special qualities of intellect, curiosity, and openness join with his extensive experience and insightfulness to examine in meaningful detail the gestures used by Toscanini, Barzin, Saito and others. Through prose and videos, it also examines how conductors of the last hundred years have come to use efficient and effective gestures to express and achieve their artistry.

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During his research, I was privileged to share with him my knowledge of the Saito Conducting method developed over more than 40 years of study and teaching. I have been especially appreciative of the openness with which he sought to understand Saito's ideas. His ongoing search for knowledge of all things "conducting" is remarkable and stands as an exemplar of the best in scholarly research. Through astute questions and a gracious manner he made sharing Saito's technique effortless and fulfilling.

This is not a "how-to" manual but rather writings and videos that will provoke thought, invite observation and analysis and provide a foundation for the study of gestures that can enable ensembles to achieve the best musical results. To my knowledge, it is a unique and admirable chronology of centered conducting, a style which began in the late 19th century and continues today, used by ever-increasing numbers of professional conductors.

Wayne J. Toews is a noted Canadian conductor and educator. Mr. Toews has been an educator since 1969 and in 1976 began a 25 year career at Aden Bowman Collegiate, where he taught band, orchestra, choir, general music and jazz band. From 1983 until 2009, he was Director of the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra in association with George Charpentier. He is also a noted expert on center conducting technique, having studied the Saito Conducting method with such noted individuals as Professor Morihiko Okabe and Maestro Kazuyoshi Akiyama. He prepared the English edition of the Saito conducting method published in Tokyo in 1988. The groups he has conducted have won numerous competitions and he has published books on theory, clarinet, bass guitar, as well as several teaching curriculum guides.

REMEMBERING WALTER HAUTZIG



Walter Hautzig, a world-renowned pianist who performed as soloist twice with the NOA orchestra (the first time under founding conductor Maestro Leon Barzin), passed away in January at the age of 95. The Austrian-born Hautzig appeared in countless recitals in more than 50 countries, and

performed with leading orchestras in major cities throughout the world. In addition, he played for the BBC and most European TV and radio networks. He made more than 50 recordings for RCA Victor, Vox, Turnabout and the Musical Heritage Society. In 1979 he was chosen by the State Department to be the first concert artist from the United States to perform in the People's Republic of China. In 2002, The Board of Directors of the National Orchestral Association honored Mr. Hautzig with a special Lifetime Achievement Award for his many accomplishments. Mr. Hautzig is featured in the documentary, *Leon Barzin and the National Orchestral Association*, recalling his fond memories of performing with the NOA orchestra and Maestro Barzin. He was widely recognized as one of the foremost pianists in the world, and the National Orchestral Association is pleased to honor the memory of this consummate artist and friend of the NOA.

NEW CLIP ON BARZIN CONDUCTING TECHNIQUE AVAILABLE ONLINE

A new excerpt from the documentary, *Leon Barzin and the National Orchestral Association*, has just been posted on the Association's website (nationalorchestral.org) and on YouTube. Featuring interviews with Barzin protégés Maestro Jacques Voois and Maestra Patricia Handy, the two discuss Barzin's unique approach to conducting, as well as personal recollections of the Maestro.

INTERLOCHEN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Founded in 1928, this extraordinary organization attracts thousands of artists and arts patrons to its world-class educational and cultural programs. Located near Traverse City, Michigan, Interlochen continues to provide outstanding training in music, theatre, visual arts, film, creative writing and dance. Please visit www.interlochen.org.

THE SPHINX ORGANIZATION

Since its beginning in 1996, Detroit's Sphinx Organization was formed "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." Please visit the Sphinx Organization's website at www.sphinxmusic.org.

SETTLEMENT MUSIC SCHOOL

The Settlement Music School is one of the largest community schools of the arts in the United States, and one of the tri-state area's largest employers of musicians. Settlement has six locations in the South, West and Northeast Philadelphia, Germantown, Willow Grove and Camden, New Jersey. Please visit www.smsmusic.org.

THE STECHER AND HOROWITZ FOUNDATION

The Foundation's continuing mission is to serve 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. Please visit www.stecherandhorowitz.org.

LYRIC CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

The Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York uses intimate settings that promote a strong personal interaction between audience and performer. Programs are created not only to attract wider audiences, but also to engage audience members with a personal and intimate musical experience. Please visit www.lyricny.org.

ARS ANTIQUA

Ars Antiqua is a unique American music organization devoted to performances of 17th and 18th century music on period instruments. Its innovative programming has won critical acclaim and attracts a devoted following. Please visit www.ars-antiqua.org.