Notes
the newsletter of
The National Orchestral Association
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Message from the Chairman…

The extraordinary leadership and vision of the late Maestro Leon Barzin have been an inspiration to all of us associated with the National Orchestral Association. From the sponsorship of a new string orchestra, to the many programs and educational outreach initiatives that bear his name, we feel privileged to be able to carry on the work of this outstanding leader of the musical world. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Eleanor Barzin for her extraordinary commitment to the work of the National Orchestral Association. Eleanor and her late husband have worked tirelessly to enrich our cultural life, and to foster the career development of several generations of classical artists.

The Barzins are an inspiration to all of us, and we are most grateful to Eleanor Barzin for her continuing commitment to the work of the National Orchestral Association.

-- Fran Kennedy

FALL GALA TO HONOR AMERICAN EXPRESS EXECUTIVE

On October 4, 2001, the National Orchestral Association will hold a Gala black-tie dinner in New York honoring Steven B. Allnatt, Director of Public Affairs and Employee Communications for American Express Travel Related Services of Salt Lake City. The evening promises to be a festive tribute to Mr. Allnatt and American Express. Please hold the date on your calendar.

CONCERT HONORS LEON BARZIN

On February 7, 2001, the String Orchestra of New York City (“SONYC”) dedicated the first performance of their 2001 Concert Series to the memory of NOA founding director, Maestro Leon Barzin. The concert honoring Maestro Barzin was held at New York’s Lotos Club, and was attended by music lovers and leaders from the worlds of music and business. The evening was hosted by author and celebrated radio personality Robert Sherman. Acclaimed violinist Stephanie Chase was Guest Concert Master for the evening. Ms. Chase spoke about the personal impact that Maestro Barzin had made on her life. She met Maestro Barzin at age 18, and he remained a lifelong guide and mentor. Ms. Chase recalled the honor she felt in being asked by Maestro Barzin to be the soloist for his final concert in Carnegie Hall with the National Orchestral Association. She also spoke about the graciousness of Maestro Barzin and his wife Eleanor who “invited me for memorable visits to their homes in Paris and Vaux-sur-Seine.”

Ms. Chase noted that “Leon Barzin’s legacy is in the many musicians he helped to educate, and through the living memorial of the String Orchestra of New York City.”

NOA Chairman Frances Kennedy spoke about Maestro Barzin’s long and distinguished career, and reiterated the NOA’s commitment to keeping the great work of Maestro Barzin alive for future generations of musicians. She spoke about the Leon Barzin educational outreach programs that have been sponsored by the National Orchestral Association, and future programs to honor Maestro Barzin’s commitment to nurturing artistic talent. She also recognized the tireless support of International Humanities, Mrs. Eleanor Barzin, and the continuing support of David P. Close, Esq., Partner of the noted Washington, D.C. law firm of Dahlgren & Close.

The String Orchestra of New York City’s program included works by Vivaldi, Tchaikowsky, Bartok and the World Premiere of a string orchestra...
LEON BARZIN CONCERT (cont.)

version of a work by Dr. Phillip Lasser, entitled “Manchester Miniature.”

NOA founding conductor Leon Barzin was an enthusiastic supporter of the String Orchestra of New York City. In 1998, Maestro Barzin served as an inspiration to the newly-formed orchestra by acting as its principal advisor. The String Orchestra of New York City’s 2001 Concert Series is another testament to the extraordinary vision and leadership of the late Maestro Leon Barzin.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

Renowned oboist, Lisa Kozenko, and pianist, Dana Burnett recently visited educational institutions in Utah as part of the Leon Barzin Educational Outreach Program. Ms. Kozenko and Ms. Burnett held master classes at Utah Valley State College, and performed at Larson Elementary School, Foothill Elementary School, Timpview High School and Springville High School. In addition to their performances, the artists gave master classes in the high schools as part of the Educational Outreach Initiative. At the Larson Elementary School, the artists gave a performance before 700 students from kindergarten through grade 6.

Following the performance, the artists led a discussion and supervised group activities for the school’s aspiring musicians. Ms. Kozenko prepared and conducted the school orchestra for a recording session. The outreach program concluded with a concert on March 1oth at Sundance. NOA Chairman Frances Kennedy, in speaking to local educators, remarked that “The National Orchestral Association is proud to be a sponsor of various educational outreach programs across the country. Our founding conductor, Leon Barzin, was a great supporter of our educational outreach program, and we feel privileged to be able to continue his great work in schools throughout the country.” Ms. Kennedy recalled last year’s educational outreach project by the String Orchestra of New York City, and highlighted Maestro Barzin’s personal involvement in the creation of this highly-regarded string orchestra.

KOZENKO NAMED FINALIST

Oboist Lisa Kozenko was recently named one of seven finalists in the 15th Louise D. McMahon International Music Competition to be held in June. The mission of the Competition is to identify artists of exceptional communicative skills, and to provide them prizes, performance opportunities and increased exposure. We wish Ms. Kozenko the best of luck as she competes in this prestigious competition.

SENIOR CITIZEN CONCERTS

The National Orchestral Association is proud to be a continuing sponsor of Concerts in the Heights. The musicians of Concerts in the Heights (www.concertsintheheights.org) are dedicated to providing the Upper Manhattan Washington Heights Community with a professional monthly concert series of the highest artistic integrity.

The monthly series repeats each program twice, with the first concert catering to the elderly from rehabilitation homes and assisted living facilities, and the second concert for the general public. NOA Chairman Frances Kennedy noted the reaction of a recent concert in which senior citizens from the local community were treated to an exciting program. “Watching the faces of the senior citizens in attendance truly reminded us of the power of music. The joy and enthusiasm of the audience confirmed the importance of bringing live performances to the local community. The concert was a wonderful occasion where audience and performers were united in the love of great music.”

DELTA AIR LINES EXEC TO CHAIR BENEFIT COMMITTEE

The National Orchestral Association is delighted that Thomas E. Lazour, District Director of Civic and Promotional Affairs for Delta Air Lines in Salt Lake City, will be acting as Chairman of the Fall Gala Benefit Committee.

ELEMENTS QUARTET TO PERFORM IN BUDAPEST

The Elements Quartet has been invited to perform at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest in October as part of the Tibor Varga Festival. Their participation in this prestigious event underscores the recognition that this exciting Quartet is receiving, and the National Orchestral Association is pleased to be a supporter of Elements.