

The National Orchestral Association

EXPANDING THE NOA'S REACH

The National Orchestral Association is proud to support performing arts organizations around this great nation, including many in traditionally underserved communities. While the big cities are awash in cultural activities, many smaller communities struggle to maintain performing arts organizations and venues. Our organization is trying to bridge the gap, by identifying musical organizations that serve smaller cities and rural communities. These are the organizations that are often forgotten, and often do not have the benefit of professional fundraisers. The NOA has been expanding its reach to identify and provide financial assistance to a wider-range of musical groups and venues. This newsletter highlights some of our initiatives around the country.

Performing arts organizations are uniquely suited to bringing people together. The enjoyment of a live performance is a special experience where joy is shared both by the audience as well as the performers. We encourage our readers to support local performing arts venues and organizations throughout the country. Sharing a common love of music in a local performing arts venue reminds us of our common humanity, and helps to unite us through our love of the performing arts.

The National Orchestral Association relies entirely on private donations, and does not accept nor solicit government funding. Please consider a year-end gift to the NOA in any amount to support its ongoing efforts on behalf of American musical performers and venues.

*Matthew J. Trachtenberg
President*

MUSIC IN WEST VIRGINIA

The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra in Charleston, West Virginia, is a premier organization performing primarily at the Clay Center. The WVSO began in 1939 as a partnership with local chemical plants in Charleston, West Virginia, who "agreed to recruit and hire chemical engineers and chemists who were also symphonic musicians."

The WVSO has played with renowned soloists, and has an award-winning educational program, including the Symphony Chorus and Young People's Concerts, as well as regular season concerts presenting annual classical, pops, family and chamber music concerts. The WVSO "has been a proud member of the community who enriches the region by providing affordable, high-quality concerts, collaborations with West Virginia arts organizations and a nationally award-winning education program." For more information, please visit www.wvsymphony.org.

MUSIC IN ALABAMA

The Alabama Symphony Orchestra, located in Birmingham, Alabama, is the State's foremost orchestra. Formed in April 1921, and though forced to close in 1993 due to financial difficulties, it re-opened in 1997 after substantial fundraising. Its mission is to change lives through music "by entertaining, educating, and inspiring audiences of all ages and backgrounds."

In addition to the annual six subscription series and 11 special event concerts, the ASO also offers a series of Young People's Concerts, where each season thousands of students are taught an appreciation of music, with teachers receiving study guides in advance "to help prepare students for these concerts, and to enhance the educational experience." The Alabama Symphony Orchestra Chorus, formerly known as the Birmingham Concert Chorale, was founded in 1966, and in 1997 was officially designated as The Official Chorus of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra.

During the Summer of 2020, a group of six ASO musicians volunteered to collaborate with hospital staff "to bring patients perfectly orchestrated repertoire to fit the listeners best needs. From Bach to The Beatles, flute solos to string duos, each experience is one of a kind and memorable." Music therapist Wesley A. Hyde, said music "can elicit a very strong emotional response, and we can utilize that to improve mood. We can also use it to alleviate symptoms of anxiety and depression." ASO will soon be participating in UAB's Arts in Medicine Program, broadcasting prerecorded concerts to patients on various campuses.

The ASO's "Check out the Symphony!" program "is designed to broaden access to classical music across the community. This innovative program partners with local libraries, allowing patrons to check out free tickets to symphony performances just as they would a book. Aimed at breaking down financial and logistical barriers to attendance, "Check out the Symphony!" provides an enriching cultural experience to individuals and families who might not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy live orchestral music." For more information about the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, please visit alabamasymphony.org.



NOA Founding Conductor Maestro Leon Barzin, 1970s

MUSIC IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The Koger Center for the Arts is located in Columbia, South Carolina, on the University of South Carolina campus, adjacent to the School of Music. Built in 1988, the Center has 2,256 seats, and is the home of the Columbia City Ballet, the South Carolina Philharmonic, and hosts the School of Music's large ensemble concerts. It is also used for The Conductor's Institute, The Columbia Classical Ballet, and the dance concerts for the Columbia City Ballet, Southern Strutt's year-end concert and the university's doctoral hooding ceremonies. The Koger Center is a vital component of cultural life in South Carolina. For more information, please visit kogercenterforthearts.com.

MUSIC IN WYOMING

Located in Casper, Wyoming, the Wyoming Symphony Orchestra brings live, symphonic music to Central Wyoming, producing five concerts each year with guest soloists. In addition, the WSO presents an annual children's concert, and a family-friendly summer concert in Washington Park. The WSO "strives to expand the musical horizons of children and enrich the cultural lives of adults. We create opportunities for all ages to experience and participate in music in order to create a strong network of musicians and music supporters that will sustain musical expression in our community for generations to come."

The Orchestra's Music on the Move program brings the power of music to a healthcare setting. Collaborating with Banner Health Wyoming Medical Center, the outreach initiative "involves professional musicians visiting the medical center to perform live classical and therapeutic music in various hospital settings, such as waiting areas, lobbies, and patient rooms. Through this partnership, the WSO contributes to the well-being of the community by integrating the therapeutic benefits of music into the healing environment of Casper's Banner Health Wyoming Medical Center." The WSO also partners with AARP to provide transportation for seniors to be able to attend a WSO concert. In addition, the WSO sponsors a Young Artist Competition for high school and college students residing in or who grew up in Wyoming, and a Children's Program serving Central Wyoming elementary schools. To learn more, please visit wyomingsymphony.org.

MUSIC IN MICHIGAN

The Sphinx Organization in Detroit, Michigan, was founded in 1996 by the American violinist Aaron Dworkin. The organization is dedicated to "increasing representation of Black and Latinx artists in classical music and recognizing excellence." In addition to its well-known annual competition, the organization has created educational programs across the United States, which are free and aimed at developing interest in classical music in urban underserved areas. To learn more about this organization, please visit www.sphinxmusic.org.

MUSIC IN SOUTH DAKOTA

The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1922 and has a rich history of performing concerts in underserved towns throughout South Dakota. Performances are attended annually by over 50,000 people, with live streamed concerts available through a partnership with South Dakota Public Broadcasting. To learn more about this fine organization and its activities, please visit www.sdsymphony.org.

MUSIC IN FLORIDA

The underserved communities of Southwestern Florida have a new performing arts organization called the Florida Philharmonic, which is Charlotte County's only professional orchestra. Rising from the ashes of the former Punta Gorda Symphony, this organization enjoys robust support from the local community, with concerts ranging from sold-out performances of holiday music to Mahler's Fourth Symphony. The Florida Philharmonic aims to increase audience engagement and community outreach, attract younger concertgoers, and increase ticket sales. This organization will undoubtedly become a vital part of the cultural life of Southwestern Florida. For more information about the Florida Philharmonic, please visit thefloridaphilharmonic.org.

MUSIC IN COLORADO

The Symphony of the Rockies (formerly Arapahoe Philharmonic) was founded in 1953, and is among the longest-established, continuously operating musical organizations in Colorado. The orchestra's musicians are volunteers, playing for the love of music, with a core of compensated section principals who provide technical leadership and help ensure the excellence of performance. Its mission is to "engage, enrich, and inspire its community through musical performance, education, and outreach." The organization also engages children through its program of annual children's concerts, and outreach to elementary and middle schools. For more information, please visit www.symphonyrockies.org.

MUSIC IN OHIO

Founded in 1943 in the State of Ohio, the Springfield Symphony Orchestra has become an important part of bringing music to underserved communities in the Springfield area. The orchestra presents six full concerts annually, and through its performances reaches thousands of music lovers in and around the Springfield area. The orchestra calls the Clark State Performing Arts Center its artistic home. The Center's 1,490-seat Kuss Auditorium has been hailed as one of the finest concert venues in Ohio. In addition, the orchestra proudly supports numerous educational programs for young people in the Springfield area. We are pleased to salute the important role that the orchestra plays in the cultural life of the Southwest Ohio area. For more information, please visit www.springfieldsym.org.

MUSIC IN WASHINGTON STATE

The Walla Walla Symphony, founded in 1907, is the oldest continually-operating symphony orchestra west of the Mississippi, offering symphonic concerts and fully staged ballets, as well as "extensive, free and low-cost offerings for youth and families," seeking to cultivate a growing appreciation for symphonic music. The NOA is pleased to recognize the important role that this organization plays in the underserved local communities. While Seattle has a vibrant cultural scene, smaller cities and towns in Washington State depend upon organizations like the Walla Walla Symphony to bring orchestral music to their communities. For more information, please visit www.wwsymphony.org.

MUSIC IN PENNSYLVANIA

Settlement Music School continues to bring outstanding musical education to the greater Philadelphia region, with six branches, ensuring that excellence in arts education is available to all regardless of location. For more information, please visit settlementmusic.org.