

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 60th 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 50th 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.

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.

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.

