

Our 40th Anniversary Year . . .
1980-1981

Northwest Indiana Symphony
Commemorative Book



SEAMAN HALL, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th, 1941

8:30 P. M.

OPENING CONCERT

The Gary Civic Symphony Orchestra

ARTHUR ZACK, Conductor

Soloist: Anne MacIsaac, Mezzo Soprano



PROGRAM

- BOIELDIEU Overture to the Opera, "The Caliph of Bagdad"
- GLUCK Aria: "Che Faro Senza Eurydice" from the Opera,
"Orpheus"
MISS MacISAAC
- HAYDN Symphony in D major, No. 104 (London)
Adagio, Allegro
Andante
Menuetto
Allegro Spiritoso
- INTERMISSION
- CORELLI Concerto Grosso No. 8, for two solo violins
solo cello and string orchestra.
Composed for Christmas night, 1712
Vivace, Grave, Allegro
Adagio, Allegro, Adagio
Vivace, Allegro, Pastorale
- SOLO VIOLINS: Jennie Gaudio, Elizabeth Miller
SOLO CELLO: Frances Monfort
- MENDELSSOHN On Wings of Song
- BRAHMS The Disappointed Serenader
- RACHMANINOFF Floods of Spring
MISS MacISAAC
At the piano: Helen Leefelt
- MacDOWELL Two Woodland Sketches
To a Wild Rose
At an old Trysting Place
- STRAUSS The Emperor Waltz
- SMETANA Three Dances from the Opera, "The Bartered Bride"
Polka
Furiant
Dance of the Comedians

MEMBERS OF THE GARY CIVIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ALTERWITZ, H.
BAILEY, C.
BARTOLOMEO, R.
BAILE, R.
BELSHAW, D.
BENNET, E.
BERG, D.
BLOOM, P.
CASTELICH, L.

CHUKNEY, J.
DEMMON, F. E.
FANN, I.
FILIPOWITZ, M.
GAUDIO, J.
GLASSON, D.
HALLAM D.,
HAYES, V.
JANES, R.

JEFFERI, C.
JOHNSON, B. D.
JOHNSON, V.
KETTLER, F.
KING, R.
KOVACH, J.
LAUGHLIN, M.
LONG, G. A.
MANALAN, H.
MATSON, K.

MILLER, E.
MUNTZ, M.
MULLAN, N.
MUNGER, M.
MONFORT, F.
NELSON, M.
POLK, D.
ROCKWELL, L.
RUTAN, L.

SCHNEIDER, C.
SCHROEDER, E.
SCHEDELLE, E.
SHEDLAK, T.
THOMAS, M.
TOPSIS, A.
WESTERHOLM, K.
WEISLOGEL, J.
WUNDER, J.

The Beginning...

The Gary Symphony Story



In the fall of 1941 a group of loyal and enthusiastic music lovers gathered in the office of the then Mayor Ernest Schaible to discuss the possibilities of organizing a Gary Civic Orchestra. Although some were doubtful regarding the success of such an undertaking, it was decided to support the project. A rehearsal had already been held in the YMCA under the direction of Arthur Zack. At this first rehearsal, 26 local musicians showed up - at the next rehearsal the group had grown to a total of 60 musicians. The first concert was given on December 7, 1941, the historic day is now known as "Pearl Harbor Day," which came as a complete surprise to everyone. The date was originally chosen as being the Ninety-Ninth Anniversary of another great symphony orchestra...The New York Philharmonic.

The first concert was a great success and proved to the skeptics that Gary and surrounding community could and should support a civic orchestra. Sydney

Lighthill, a local real estate and insurance broker, with Mrs. William A. Wirt, head of Auditorium Department of Gary Schools, telephoned and wrote to 75 of Gary's outstanding civic leaders asking them to become directors of the orchestra. A first meeting was held and the directors elected Rabbi Garry J. August as the first President. This first season, 1941-42, the orchestra gave 3 additional concerts, featuring all local talent and selling single admissions for each concert. The following season, E. N. Ripley, insurance broker, took over the Presidency and with Mr. Paul Howard, Librarian of the Public Libraries, organized a campaign and sold our first season subscriptions.

Despite the war and draft, the orchestra maintained a good representative organization and stood on its own feet, never importing more than the necessary musicians from the Chicago Symphony to play the more unusual instruments.

Gary Symphony Orchestra 1941 - 42
Arthur Zack, Conductor



Northwest Indiana Symphony

1980-81

Robert Vodnoy, Music Director



VIOLIN I

Florence Gindl
Concertmaster
Ruth Thompson
Assistant Concertmaster
Leo Michuda
Paul Post
Florence Long
Wanda Jean Stewart
Wilson Barrett
Lisa Antonio
Warren Blessing
Clarence Huber
Betty Hatfield
Manuel Vargas
John Emery
Nina Marler



ROBERT VODNOY
Music Director



FLORENCE GINDL
Concertmaster

VIOLIN II

Yuri Vodovoz
Principal
Elaine Shumway
Dale Smyser
Sonia Langert
Nicole Serbanescu
Katherine Patz
Paul Holman
Theodore Frazek
Miro Beranek
Roscoe Crump

Paul Chilson
Karen Kramer
Linda Abbott
Robert D. Lekberg
Constance Hendricks

CELLO

Michael Beert
Principal
Joan Noven
Susan Dietrich
Denise Kuehner

Jacque Trtan
Yvonne Jolly
Pat Gerlach
Vernon Ehlers
Tatyana Mytnik
Marian Fadrowski

BASS

Harold Carnes
Principal
Nancy McCain

David Min
Davis McCarroll

FLUTE

Anna Belle O'Shea
Cynthia Johnston
Barbara Votaw

OBOE

Lynn Fleisher-Stebbins
Linnea Lee

CLARINET

Donald Kramer
Denise Chigas

BASSOON

Charles Reynolds
George Koutas

TRUMPET

Larry Lane
John Trimmel

HORN

Donna Briggs
G. William Thegze
Charles Foster
Gretchen Peters

TROMBONE

Robert Hiorns
Len Bessette
Art Henderlong

TUBA

Frank Freedman

TYMPANI

Richard Ries

VIOLA

Richard Fagin
Principal
Lucy Lyudkousky

CLASSICAL SERIES

- October 11, 1980** **Crown Point High School, 8:15 p.m.**
Yuri Mazurkevich, Violinist
Tchaikovsky Spectacular
Violin Concerto, Opus 35, in D
Symphony No. 6 in B Minor (Pathetique)
Overture 1812
- November 30, 1980** **Munster High School, 4:15 p.m.**
Anne Perillo, Soprano
Barber
Puccini
Beethoven
Knoxville: Summer of 1915
Arias
Symphony No. 7 in A Major
- February 1, 1981** **Munster High School, 4:15 p.m.**
Lorin Hollander, Pianist
Bach
Rachmaninoff
Franck
Piano Concerto in F Minor
Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
Symphony in D Minor
- March 8, 1981** **Munster High School, 4:15 p.m.**
Young Artist Competition Winner
Bartok
Concerto for Orchestra
- May 2, 1981** **Crown Point High School, 8:15 p.m.**
Yehuda Hanani, Cellist
Larry Rapchak, Commissioned Conductor
Haydn
Rapchak
Mussorgsky-Ravel
Cello Concerto in D Major
40th Anniversary Commission
Pictures At An Exhibition

POP SERIES

- December 14, 1980** **Merrillville High School, 4:15 p.m.**
Christmas Pops Concert
Edith Martin, Mona Stern; Pianists
Special guest narration
Saint-Saens
Carnival of the Animals
Christmas Sing-a-Long
Traditional Christmas Favorites
- April 1, 1981** **Holiday Inn Convention Center, 8:15 p.m.**
Cabaret Pops Concert
A Tribute to the World's Favorite Melodies
with Anna Maria Alberghetti
Manilow
Sedaka
Bernstein
Strauss
Rossini
I Write the Songs
Feelings
West Side Story Medley
Wine, Women & Song Waltzes
"Barber of Seville" Overture
Italian Medley

OTHER SPECIAL DATES

Northwest Indiana Symphony In-School Concerts, Wednesday,
November 12, 1980 Gary West Side High School.

FIFTH ANNUAL YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT

Hear just the kind of popular symphonic music everyone loves.
Informal family fun. Saturday, April 25, 1981, 1:30 p.m. Indiana
University Northwest Auditorium. Adults & children \$1.50.

1980-81 Concert Season



YURI MAZURKEVICH



ANNE PERILLO



LORIN HOLLANDER



ANNA MARIA ALBERGHETTI

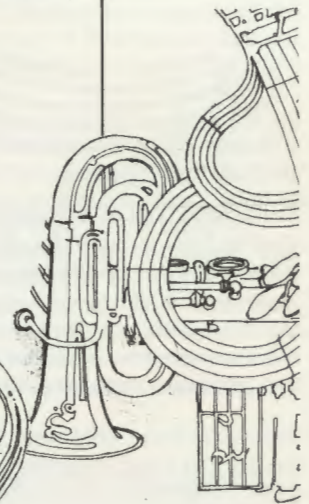
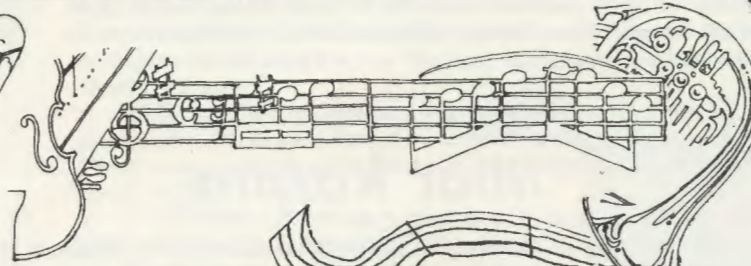
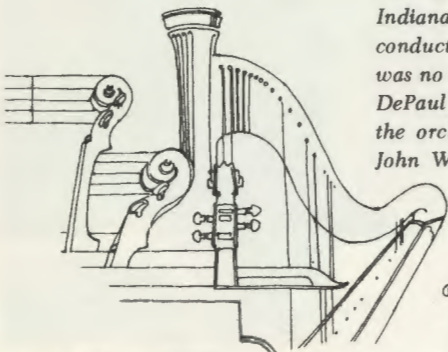


YEHUDA HANANI

THE ILLUSTRIOUS CONDUCTORS

DURING THE PAST 40 YEARS

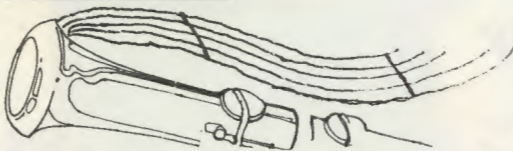
During the past 40 years, the Gary Symphony Orchestra and Northwest Indiana Symphony, ten men have filled the position of music director and conductor. There were periods spanning a total of four years when there was no Music Director. Guest conductors from the Chicago Symphony, DePaul University and other nearby symphonies led the orchestra. Two of the orchestra's conductors were members of neighboring symphonies: John Weicher and Milton Preves.



arthur zack



The Gary Symphony Society was organized in early 1941 and the first concert was planned for December 7, 1941 under the direction of Arthur Zack. Zack was also founder of the Cincinnati Civic Orchestra and New Orleans Civic Symphony Orchestra. Zack was a graduate of the Institute of Musical Art of New York, and continued post-graduate work in Europe. Prior to founding the Gary Symphony, Zack was a member of the New York Symphony Orchestra under Damrosch; the National Symphony under Bodanzky; and served as second principal cellist with the Cincinnati Symphony.



rudolph reiners

Rudolph Reiners was born in Chicago, the son of a long line of distinguished musicians. At an early age, he showed a marked aptitude for the violin. Following musical development from his father, Reiners took advanced training in the United States and Europe. His musical credits included being a member of the first violin section of the Chicago Symphony from 1926 to 1948 and a member of the second violin section of the CSO from 1948 to 1956. Reiners performed under the batons of Dr. Desire DeFauw, who later became conductor of the Gary Symphony, Arthur Rodzinski and Fritz Reiner. Reiners also conducted the Chicago String Ensemble.



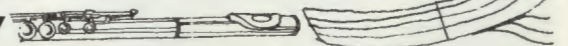
irwin fischer

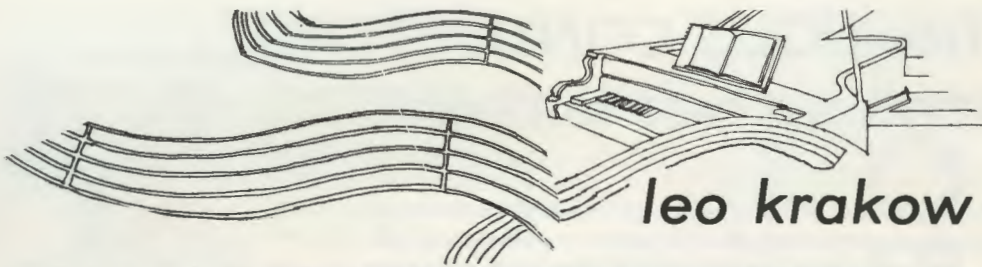
Irwin Fischer came to the Gary Symphony Orchestra from the Chicago Symphony where he was organist from 1944 to 1966. Besides his musical abilities and conducting, Fischer was also a composer. One of his works, "Adventures of a Tune" was premiered by the CSO at the first concert of the 1974-75 Petites Promenades Series for Young People. Fischer was also a member of the literati private club, The Cliff Dwellers, as well as a teacher at a music conservatory in Chicago.



desire defauw

During the 1950's, the Gary Symphony was extremely fortunate to have as its music director, Desire Defauw, the former Music Director and Conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Born in 1885 in the ancient city of Ghent, Belgium, he studied violin and graduated from the Royal Conservatory in Brussels. Defauw's American debut was made conducting Toscanini's NBC Orchestra in 1939. Defauw was also Music Director and Conductor of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra as well as the Belgian National Orchestra.





leo krakow

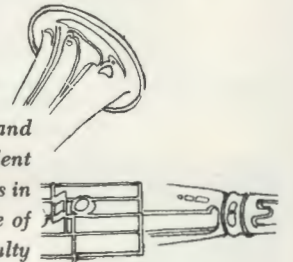


Leo Krakow served as Music Director of the orchestra for the longest period of any director, from 1960 to 1968 and again for the 1971 concert season. A Fellowship student at the Juilliard School of Music, Krakow's studies concentrated in violin, conducting, chamber music and theory. In addition to his position with the orchestra, Krakow served on the faculty at Indiana University Northwest. He also performed with the National Symphony under Hans Kindler for six years as principal violin. Currently, Krakow resides in Chicago and is Music Director of the Skokie Vally Symphony as well as General Music Director of the Shubert Theatre.



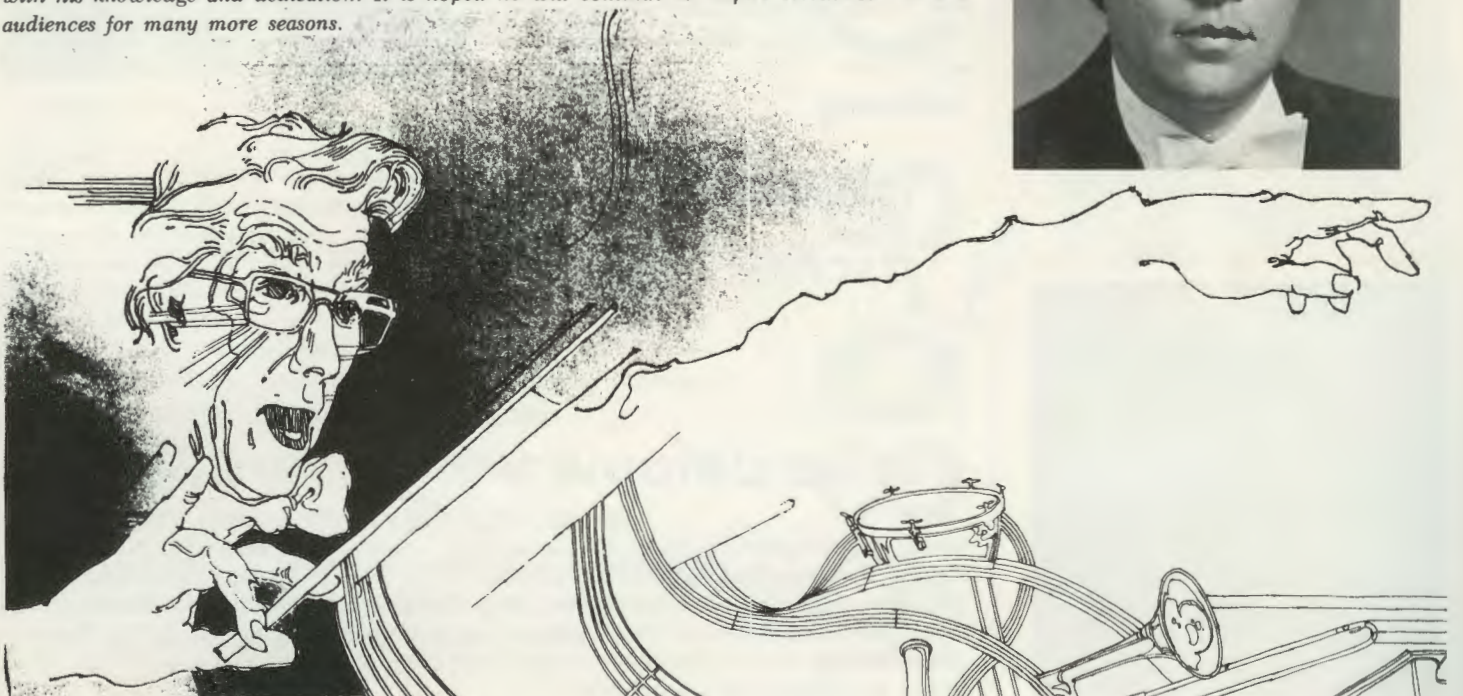
tibor kozma

Tibor Kozma was the ninth man to fill the position as Music Director and Conductor of the Symphony. The Hungarian-born Kozma was a student conductor at the Saxon Opera in Dresden, Germany; conducted operas in Czechoslovakia; conducted Broadway musical orchestras and was one of the Metropolitan Opera conducting staff before joining the music faculty at Indiana University. Kozma was well known as a teacher as well as a conductor. The Northwest Indiana Symphony was Kozma's first community orchestra he ever conducted. Kozma was killed in an auto accident in early 1976 following a return trip to Bloomington after a symphony rehearsal.



robert vodnoy

Robert Vodnoy is the youngest Music Director and Conductor the symphony has worked under during the 40 year history. A native of South Bend, Vodnoy is a graduate of Hartt College of Music of the University of Hartford. Vodnoy has been guest conductor for the St. Louis Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony's Petite Promenades Concert for Young People and Associate Music Director of the Hartford Chamber Orchestra. Robert Vodnoy has impressed concert goers in Northwest Indiana with his knowledge and dedication. It is hoped he will continue to inspire Northwest Indiana audiences for many more seasons.



CHARTER MEMBER OF THE GARY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Florence Kettler Long

Florence Kettler Long of the orchestra's violin section has been actively playing with the symphony longer than any present member. Florence, as a Horace Mann freshman, took part in the memorable first concert on December 7, 1941, and with the exception of the years when she was attending Ball State University, and teaching in the Muncie, Indiana public schools, she has been a member of the symphony for the forty years of the group's existence.

The Kettler family was a musical one, with both Mr. and Mrs. Roland Kettler teaching their children to play the piano. Florence later studied piano with Mrs. A. B. Dickson of a pioneer Gary music family. When she was eleven years old, Florence began her study of violin with Mr. H. M. Johnson, director of the three orchestras at Horace Mann, each of which played an hour every day in William A. Wirt's Work-Study-Play school system.

Her high school years coincided with the first four years of the symphony, and Florence says: "Our ninth grade trio and several other members of the Horace Mann orchestra were mesmerized by the whirlwind direction of Mr. Arthur Zack as he conducted the Tuesday night rehearsals of the Gary Civic Symphony in the Coral Room of the Gary YMCA. Mr. Zack's ambition for the orchestra and his interest in members of the orchestra helped lead me to a teaching career and a lifetime dedication to orchestra and chamber music."

Violin teachers under whom Florence studied later were Royal Eddy, pupil of Ottokar Sevcik; Dr. Ferdinand Schaefer, founder of the Indianapolis Symphony; and Dr. Robert Hargreaves, founder of the Muncie Symphony Orchestra and head of the Department of Music at Ball State.

At Ball State, Florence earned a B. S. degree in Music and Speech Education, and later converted to Elementary Education with a Masters degree from Purdue University.

When she returned to Gary, Florence married George I. Long, a Horace Mann classmate who is now with U. S. S. Sheet and Tin Division. The Longs have three children: Cynthia, a student at the American Academy of Art, Chicago; Susanne, Anthropologist and Ball State graduate; and George, a student at Indiana University. All of them have studied music - piano, violin, and trumpet, and share their parents' love of symphonic music.

At present, Mrs. Long teaches third grade at the Edgar L. Miller School in Merrillville. She is responsible for the current string program in Merrillville which developed five years ago with a violin interest group of seven young violinists in her third grade class. Needless to say, she is an enthusiastic supporter of the movement.

Mrs. Long is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, honorary teaching sorority; and Sigma Alpha Iota, honorary music sorority. She is a member of various trios and quartets popular in the area, and recently joined the newly-formed Chesterton Chamber Music Society.



Jennie Gaudio Wilkinson
Concertmaster 1940-50

CONCERTMASTER 1940-50

Jennie Gaudio Wilkinson was the Gary Symphony Orchestra's first concertmaster and appeared as soloist with the symphony during her ten year reign as concertmaster. Jennie studied at Sherwood Music School and the Chicago Conservatory. She toured as soloist with the Monte Carlo Opera Ensemble and was

a member of the Chicago Artists Trio, performing many concerts in the Chicago area. Today, Jennie teaches private classes in the Northwest Indiana area and continues to perform as soloist in concert and club programs in the Chicagoland area.



Sitting left to right are: Wanda Jean Stewart; 33 years, Florence Gindl; 30 years, Florence Long; 40 years, and Ruth Thompson; 37 years. Standing left to right: Roscoe Crump; 36 years, Paul Chilson; 37 years, Miro Beranak; 29 years, and Paul Holman; 35 years.

MUSICIANS
WITH 25 YRS.
PARTICIPATION

Board of Directors 1941

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Garry J. August

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Mrs. Paul A. Dewitt

Mr. A.B. Dickson

Mrs. A. F. Fowler

Jennie Gaudio

Albert P. Greene

Paul Howard

Lee Kenady

Mrs. T. Merle Kitchen

Sydney Lighthill

Reverend James T. Foster

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Walter Pickart



Jean Richardson

E. N. Ripley

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Edwin Schroeder

Clara Seyl

M. E. Snyder

Paul H. West

Elizebeth Scheddell

Mildred H. Wirt

Louis Vacirca

Lillian Sepiol

Frances Monfort

President: Rabbi Garry J. August

Vice-President: Mildred Harter Wirt

Vice-President: E. N. Ripley

Treasurer: Walter S. Goedecke

Executive Secretary: Sydney Lighthill

NORTHWEST INDIANA
 SYMPHONY SOCIETY, INC.
 STATE OF INDIANA
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 Board of Directors 1980-81
 CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT

LARRY A. CONRAD, Secretary of State

OFFICERS

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- 1st VICE PRESIDENT**
William Schenck
- 2nd VICE PRESIDENT**
Steven N. Sobat
- SECRETARY**
Mrs. James Merkner
- TREASURER**
Mrs. Louis G. Sancya
- MANAGER**
William D. Marler

To All To Whom This Certificate Shall Come, Greeting:

I, LARRY A. CONRAD

Secretary of State of the State of Indiana, hereby certify that the THE GARY SYMPHONY SOCIETY,

The Amendment:

The name of the Corporation is NORTHWEST INDIANA SYMPHONY SOCIETY, INC.

a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Indiana, has this day filed in the office of the Secretary of State in triplicate, showing an amendment to the articles of incorporation of said corporation, in accordance with an Act entitled, "AN ACT concerning domestic and foreign corporations, to amend the Act approved March 7, 1935, as amended, providing for fees, providing penalties for the violation thereof, and repealing certain laws." Approved March 7, 1935, as published at Page 557, Acts of 1935, as amended.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Arnold Williams
- Bernard Williamson
- Mrs. Donald Wray

And I further certify that said certificate has been recorded and on file in this office.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand

and affixed the seal of the State of Indiana, at the

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

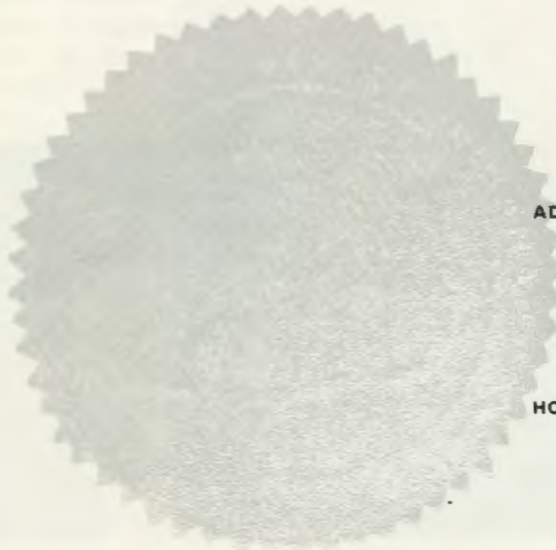
- William Clarke
- Robert Gasser
- Thomas Ferrall
- Thomas Katsahnias
- Jack Tharpe
- Chuck Wheeler

Indianapolis, this 20th day of January 1975.

HONORARY DIRECTORS

- Rabbi Garry August
- Raymond Kastendieck

LARRY A. CONRAD, Secretary of State.
 By Rosemary Gannon Deputy.



YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION WINNERS

The idea of a young artist competition aimed at encouragement and enhancement of young musicians careers came initially from United States Steel. The first competition attracted a large number of individuals from the Northwest Indiana region. Winners of the competition, now an annual event, not only receive a cash award, but appear with the symphony in a showcase concert of young and outstanding talent.

1974 - 75



First Annual Competition

The first annual competition was won by three talented musicians. Mezzo-Soprano Linda Kowalski Reeve received the vocal competition and pianists Christine Diwyk and Stephen Sulich divided the instrumental prize. Both instrumental winners were students at the famed Indiana University School of Music at Bloomington.

Left to right are Mezzo-Soprano Linda Kowalski Reeve and Pianists Christine Diwyk and Stephen Sulich.

1976 - 77 Third Annual Competition

Marla Kensey, Soprano and Violinist Susan Stone were the winners in the third annual competition. Kensey was a graduate of Olivet Nazarene College, and has appeared in several different productions of Handel's "Messiah" and soloed in Mendelssohn's "Elijah" at Orchestra Hall in Chicago. Susan Stone was a student of Valparaiso University and a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy. While a student at Valparaiso, she was winner of the Valparaiso University Concerto Competition and performed as soloist with the Valparaiso Civic Orchestra.



Soprano Marla Kensey and Thomas Ferrall.

1975 - 76

Second Annual Competition

The second competition was also a three way winning. The instrumental award was awarded to James Deal, french horn. Deal received his degree in Horn Performance and Education from Ball State University. The vocal award was divided between Bassist Steven Wilson, a 1969 graduate of Horace Mann High School and Alicia Purcell, a Lyric Soprano and a Masters Degree graduate of Indiana University's School of Music.



Pictured here are Violinist Susan Stone and Mary Lou Merkner, Chairperson of Competition.

1977 - 78 Fourth Annual Competition

The fourth year of competition again produced three winners to appear with the symphony. The instrumental award was divided between 10 year old Paula Moon and Teri Marie Wheeler. Moon was a student of William Browning and winner of a gold medal in the American Conservatory's Annual Voice and Piano Contest. Paula also performed with the Indianapolis Symphony in a series of Children's Concerts in 1978. Teri Wheeler was a graduate of the Indiana University School of Music. She studied in London with Maria Curcio and lives in Hamburg, Germany. The Vocal competition winner was Tenor John Gilmore. Gilmore won the competition while completing his graduate at Indiana University. John has several opera performances to his credit including appearances with the San Francisco, Indianapolis and Pittsburgh Symphonies.



Paula Moon and Competition Chairperson Barbara Charon.

1978 - 79

Fifth Annual Competition

1979 - 80 Sixth Annual Competition

Over 35 individuals took part in the sixth year of competition. Valparaiso University music student Anne Krentz won the instrumental competition and performed the Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 2 in F with the symphony orchestra. Anne also was one of the winners in the annual Valparaiso University Concerto Competition. Linda Kay Nelson, soprano, a candidate for a degree of Master of Music at Indiana University was the vocal winner. A graduate of Valparaiso University, she was a student of Camilla Williams at Indiana University.



Denise Chigas

Two individuals were awarded \$500 scholarships as a result of the fifth annual competition. They were chosen from over 30 contestants. Denise Chigas, Clarinet, of Hammond, was awarded the instrumental award. She was a graduate of Morton Senior High School and a former member of the Hammond Area Youth Orchestra. Ruth Williams, Soprano, also a native of Hammond won the vocal award. A student at Indiana University's School of Music, Ruth appeared in several University musical productions as well as toured Israel and Austria with Leonard Bernstein.

1980 - 81

Seventh Annual Competition

Seeking to expand the competition, the Board of Directors decided to offer the competition to the State of Indiana, thus becoming the First Annual Statewide Competition. The expansion of the program was made possible by the generosity of the United States Steel Foundation for a scholarship of \$1,000.00. The 1981 competition winner will be awarded following their appearance with the symphony on March 8, 1981.



Anne Krentz



Linda Kay Nelson



Peter Nero
Norman Luboff Choir
Rudolph Nureyev
Itzhak Perlman
Pittsburg Ballet Theater
Roberta Peters

Martina Arroyo
Emanuel Ax
Van Cliburn
Canadian National Ballet
Eugene Fodor
Maureen Forrester
Arthur Fiedler
Virgil Fox



Benny Goodman
Rudolph Ganz
Jose Iturbi
William Marshall
James McCracken
Robert Merrill



Ruggiero Ricci
Norman Ross
Doc Severinson
Janos Starker
Billy Taylor
Sandra Warfield
Andre Watts



Young People's Concerts & In-School Concert Performances

In 1977, the Northwest Indiana Symphony embarked on a new and exciting avenue of programming. That year was the introduction of Young People's Concerts in the Northwest Indiana community. The first performance was a public concert in which over 600 children were in attendance. Since that time, additional public performances have occurred as well as in-school performances in the fall of each season. Since the inception of the program, over 12,000 children have attended the concerts.

During the 1980-81 Anniversary season, an additional 5,500 children are expected to attend the in-school and public performances. The concerts are given with the support of the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The individual performances are planned in such a manner to make the concerts become very exciting for children attending their first live symphony concert. Maestro Robert Vodnoy, creator of the program, does more than conducting. A "performer" would be a more accurate term for the conductor. In past concerts, Ronald McDonald has been guest narrator; four young soloists performed with the orchestra; and this year, a ballet company will highlight the in-school concerts in a program entitled "Firebirds, Bagpipes and Toe Shoes."

Northwest Indiana Youth Orchestra

In 1967 the old Hammond Area Youth Orchestra was founded by Donald R. Balk, Music Director of Gavit High School. Then, as now, it met on Saturday mornings in Gavit High School. The original members came from Hammond, Highland, Munster and South Cook County, Illinois. The orchestra performed in June of 1967 for the first time.

The orchestra has always had the highest cooperation from the Hammond School System and has met in Hammond schools for most of its eleven seasons. During the height of the fuel crisis it rehearsed in Woodmar United Methodist Church for three winters.

In 1968 a parents guild was organized to support the young orchestra. The guild planned the concert season and raised money through ticket and ad sales.

Over the years a policy of two formal concerts (winter and spring) has evolved. The orchestra also performs for various civic, cultural and educational events. Small ensembles from the Youth Orchestra also play for these events.

Since 1975 the orchestra has been affiliated with the Northwest Indiana Symphony Association. The name was changed at that time to Northwest Indiana Youth Orchestra.

Mr. Charles Mann of Valparaiso has been the Music Director of the Youth Orchestra since 1969.

The membership area of this year's orchestra extends from Valparaiso, Indiana to Crown Point and west to Lansing, Illinois. Most of the young musicians, however, still come from Munster, Highland and Hammond.

Over the years the orchestra has encouraged young composers, conductors and soloists giving them the only forum for their talents in this area.

Our objective is to provide an opportunity for student musicians to rehearse and perform representative works from the orchestral repertoire.

Membership in the Youth Orchestra shall be limited to youth of Elementary or High School age who can demonstrate proficiency in playing musical instruments of variety constituting recognized symphonic instrumentation. Members who have participated as active playing members during their senior year of high school may continue as active playing members after graduating from high school. Such active membership shall be terminated no later than the end of the season following the member's twenty-second birthday. The degree of proficiency required for membership shall be determined by the conductor in a manner compatible with maintaining a symphony orchestra of proper size and balance.

Introduction

Robert Vodnoy is entering his fifth season as Music Director and Conductor of the Northwest Indiana Symphony. He began conducting the orchestra in 1976 at the age of 28 and is the youngest conductor to take the helm of the orchestra in its 40 year history. In addition to his post with the Northwest Indiana Symphony, he is the Music Director and Conductor of the Twin Cities Symphony in Benton Harbor and St. Joseph, Michigan. He has appeared as a Conductor with the St. Louis Philharmonic, the Hartford Chamber Orchestra, a Festival Orchestra in Siena, Italy, with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra musicians for that orchestra's Petite Promenade concerts, and with the Michiana Opera Guild for its production of "La Traviata." Mr. Vodnoy holds a B.M. (Summa Cum Laude) and an M.M. in Composition from the Hartt College of the University of Hartford. He did doctoral work at Indiana University. For five years Mr. Vodnoy was the pupil of Maestro Charles Bruck at the Monteux Center for Conductors and Orchestral Training in Hancock, Maine.

Dr. Gerald Smith is a member of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Society and Chairman of its Long-range Planning Committee. He is the Clinical Administrator at the Southlake Center for Mental Health in Merrillville and is active in area and statewide projects which benefit the quality of human life. In this interview Dr. Smith explores the activities of

the Northwest Indiana Symphony under Maestro Vodnoy's baton and explores his vision of the future of the orchestra.

an interview with

**Maestro
Robert Vodnoy**

**by
Dr. Gerald J. Smith**

Q. Maestro, how has the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra changed since 1976, when you first became Music Director?

A. Many people have commented on the wonderful improvement in the orchestra's performance in the last five years and on the demanding repertoire which we are now playing. This is directly attributable to the size and quality of the orchestra. In 1976 we had about 55 regular musicians in the orchestra. More players were needed, of course, to reach a well balanced ensemble. So we had to bring in "ringers." These were players who came in at the last minute to fill in. This, of course, was most undesirable because it did not allow the orchestra to reach a level of secure and mature playing.

Now things are quite different. We have about 70 regular musicians on the roster who rehearse together regularly. This is a 25 per cent increase in the orchestra's size. When you take into account the turn-over in musicians and the orchestra's growth in size since 1976, fully 50 per cent of the orchestra are musicians who are relatively new to us. Today we have a fully staffed orchestra of highly skilled and dedicated musicians.

Q. How does the Northwest Indiana Symphony compare to other orchestras in the State of Indiana?

A. There are interesting comparisons to be made. There are 24 orchestras in the State of Indiana ranging from a major professional orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphony, to semi-professional or community-type orchestras like ours. In addition, there are 14 college orchestras and five youth orchestras for a total of 43 orchestras. The Northwest Indiana Symphony is a metropolitan orchestra, the fourth largest orchestra in its class, and the fifth largest orchestra in the State. This is measured in terms of budget size, and number of performances. We also sponsor one of the five youth orchestras in the State...in other words, we are making an impressive contribution to the orchestral community.

Amongst our "colleagues" in the metropolitan orchestra category...for example, the South Bend Symphony, Fort Wayne Symphony, or Evansville Symphony...we are unique. All the other metropolitan orchestras in Indiana serve single communities whereas we have the challenge of serving a multi-nuclear community. This fact, I feel, provides us with some of our most complex problems and at the same time offers us the brightest future if we are bold and creative enough to be effective problem solvers.

Q. How has the programming and repertoire for the orchestra changed during your tenure as Music Director?

A. We have made significant changes in the emphasis of our programming since 1976, and I have striven to introduce a very broad repertoire to the orchestra and the audience. Once again, it is interesting to compare our program offerings this year with 1976 when I first began as Music Director. In 1976 there were five programs in the season. Since some of the programs were presented more than once, the orchestra gave eight performances in the regular season. This year we will give ten performances in the regular season, a 25 per cent increase. However, since most programs are being given only once, this reflects an 80 per cent increase in the number of programs offered. This has happened as a result of our goal to reach more diverse audiences. Now, in addition to the regular symphony concerts, the Northwest Indiana Symphony performs "pop" concerts and children's concerts. In other words, while there has been reasonable growth in the number of performances, there has been spectacular growth in the variety of concerts offered.

Q. Bob, what role do you see the Northwest Indiana Symphony fulfilling in our community?

A. There was a time in this country when the symphony orchestra was the obsession of the wealthy few. It is actually true that the Boston Symphony at one time had no fund raising drive. The President of the Society simply wrote a check at the end of the year to cover the deficit.

Our own orchestra has changed tremendously over the years. We are no longer content to present a few concerts for a limited public. Instead, we strive to serve the total community and with today's broad range of contributors, as well as Federal and State support for the Arts, broad service is demanded, as it should be. Therefore, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Society sponsors not only an orchestra which presents symphony concerts and "pops" concerts, but also youth concerts...both in the schools and for the general public, a youth orchestra, a Young Artist Competition, and a Docent Program to help today's school children become tomorrow's music lovers and concert-goers.

Q. At the most recent National Conference of the American Symphony Orchestra League, the charge was made that the American symphony orchestra neglects the American com-

poser and the American performing artist. Can this accusation be made of the Northwest Indiana Symphony?

A. Certainly not. A glance at our repertoire this season shows that we are commendably presenting the American composer and performer. American born artists, Lorin Hollander and Ann Perillo, will appear on our stage this year. A major work by the eminent American composer Samuel Barber will be presented in honor of his 60th birthday. The Society has commissioned Indiana born Larry Rapchak for a composition to celebrate the Symphony's 40th Anniversary. Nothing is a better indication of our commitment to American music than the celebration of the orchestra's 40th Anniversary with the performance of a work commissioned especially for the occasion from an American composer.

Q. Maestro, could you discuss your ideas on the programs which you choose for the orchestra?

A. I feel it is imperative that I challenge the orchestra and the audience with my choice of repertoire. Let me say, it is equally challenging to play a Tchaikovsky Symphony with technical precision and sincerity of emotion as it is to scale the heights of Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra. For the audience I feel a duty to give them music with which they are familiar as well as music which they may not yet know but will come to love through a convincing, impelling performance. And the season needs to be "balanced." American music, French Romantic Music, the great German classics, the Russian masters, along with Barry Manilow, Leonard Bernstein...they all need to be there for the audience to enjoy.

Q. In 1977 you introduced Young People's Concerts to the Northwest Indiana community. Could you discuss these concerts?

A. Young People's Concerts are great fun to do and among my great challenges to meet as a Conductor. Actually, "conductor" as a term doesn't really cover the task. "Performer" is more accurate...or maybe "conductor-teacher-entertainer." In a children's concert I have to be all three.

In 1977 we did our first Young People's Concert. It was a public concert and about 600 children attended. Since then we have given three more public children's concerts and seven in-school concerts for an audience total of about 11,000 children. In these concerts we've done many very exciting things for our young audiences. Several years ago we ended a concert entitled "Funtastik Festivals" with The Stars and Stripes Forever accompanied by 1,000 colored balloons which we dropped from the ceiling of the auditorium into the waiting arms of our delighted audience. Ronald McDonald has appeared with us. We have featured four very young soloists from the area with the orchestra in past years. This year we are presenting a ballet company with the orchestra in a program entitled "Firebirds, Bagpipes and Toe Shoes."

Q. You have told me that you believe that these concerts hold the key to the future of the orchestra and, perhaps, the key to the future of Northwest Indiana. Could you please explain this statement?

A. If you could be with me on a Wednesday morning in November at Gary's West Side High School and see the faces of 4,000 youngsters from East Chicago, Gary, Munster, Merrillville, Crown Point, Whiting, Portage, Hammond, Highland and many other surrounding communities, you would see what power the arts have to unify people. At the beginning of these programs, members of the orchestra circulate through the audience demonstrating their instruments at close range and talking with the children. The children's delight with the music and the musicians is immediately apparent. Music has the power to elevate, transport, and communicate in very basic and human ways. When we realize that the arts are not "frills" to be dispensed with in the fashionable world of "back to basics" education but are really the tools through which a

child can grasp the world, that exposure to the arts enhance a child's ability to read and write and think, then we'll begin to give music the support it so richly deserves.

Q. The present "pops" concert series resulted from your introduction of a "people's choice" "pop" concert in April of 1979. At this time the "pops" series is sold out. How do you view the rapid success of the "pops" concerts?

A. I think Billy Taylor put his finger on it for me last May after his marvelous performance with the orchestra. He said, "Every 'pops' musician secretly dreams of performing with a symphony orchestra. It is one of our greatest ambitions and 'turn-ons.'" In much the same way I think really good "pops" programs can be one of an audience's biggest turn-ons. For one thing, there is the marvelous cross-cultural sharing that you get from putting the symphony orchestra together with jazz musicians and popular and country-western singers. For another, the so-called popular classics can be played in a more relaxed ambience. These factors have combined to rapidly attract a new audience to the symphony.

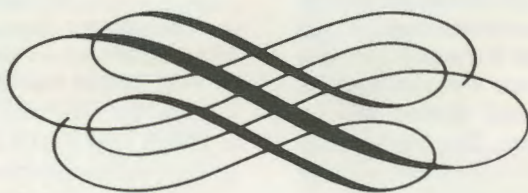
Q. What visions do you have for the Northwest Indiana Symphony as it enters its fifth decade of music making in Northwest Indiana?

A. Gerry, I think the Northwest Indiana Symphony can become all that the people of Northwest Indiana hope for, wish for, and are willing to work for. In this regard, the far-reaching questionnaire which your committee has designed and which the Society will be sending to its various constituencies in the next few weeks will provide important guideposts for our future plans.

For my part, let me say, that I believe we have only begun to scratch the surface. There are so many indications that this is true. While our in-school programs are providing an orchestral concert for 4,000 children, we have had to turn away almost 1,500 children this year alone. With adequate funding we could be playing for thousands more children each year. Our "pops" series sold out in its first year's offering. This is certainly a strong indication of demand for this type of program. Our classical series continues to draw large and enthusiastic crowds. Bold and creative solutions will be needed to make the orchestra readily available to our public which is spread out over a very large geographical area. When those solutions are found, I believe that the Northwest Indiana Symphony can become a truly "regional" orchestra with the artistic and financial resources which will be demanded to serve our community in the years ahead.



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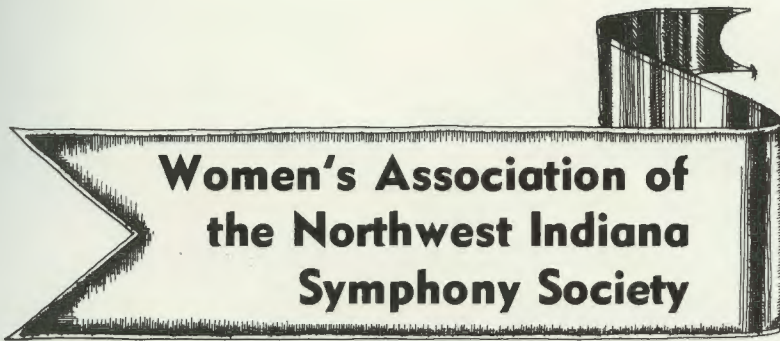
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The Women's Association was organized in the 1962 - 63 season to assist and promote the then Gary Symphony. The Association had 165 charter members. Dues were \$2.00 and activities were confined mainly to receptions following concerts.

When the Northwest Indiana Symphony Society was formed in 1972, the Women's Association expanded to include members from all areas of Northwest Indiana. At present there are over 300 members.

The work undertaken by the Women's Association is wide in its diversity and of inestimable value to the development, growth and maintenance of the orchestra. The major responsibilities include the annual season ticket drive and raising needed funds. Last year, a check for \$20,000.00 was presented to the Symphony Society - a tremendous accomplishment.

Various fund raisers over the years have included, a Ball in the Mall, Candelabra Ball, L. S. Ayres benefit, benefit bridge, an evening at the theater with Mitzi Gaynor, selling of cookbooks, totebags and of course, geraniums. In the past six years through the geranium sale alone, the women have raised over \$37,000.00 for the Orchestra.

Each year the women give a Christmas party for the Orchestra members and their families and hold a reception for winners of the Young Artists' Competition.

The primary objective of this dedicated group of volunteers is to support the development of both the Symphony Orchestra and the Northwest Indiana Youth Orchestra. Each member derives satisfaction from the opportunity to meet and work with others on the many worthwhile projects.

