



VOLUME 41

SPRING 2009

News Notes

COMMITTEE OF PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

Los Angeles Philharmonic Association

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Music Lovers,

Relevant. We are hearing this word a lot in the news today. Too often classical music's role in society is in question.

That is why volunteer support groups like COPW, once described as "the little ladies who lunch" are more relevant than ever. Grass roots support – advocacy, volunteerism, and financial – is vital to keeping great music and all the arts a robust part of the community. So, the next time you volunteer, purchase a concert ticket, or yes, have lunch at a COPW event, remember the success of the Los Angeles Philharmonic is not only our passion, it is our responsibility.

As you read through this issue of NewsNotes I think you will see just how relevant your commitment to COPW is. I am pleased to introduce a new column – On Board with COPW. The column will highlight recent board activities, policy changes, and other business of COPW.

Also in this issue we extend a warm welcome to two new members, Elaine Kao and Angie Clifford, who are profiled on page two. Other features include the backstage tour of Disney Concert Hall held on January 17, volunteer activities, recent press on COPW's work, and reference information on the economic stimulus plan for the arts.

It is with deep sorrow that we bid farewell to two cherished members, Anne Brosio and Carol Byers. We temper their loss with the knowledge that we are all better for having known them.

Wishing you peace and harmony,

Colleen.

MEET OUR L.A. PHIL MUSICIANS

Cellist STEPHEN CUSTER grew up in Newton, Massachusetts, where he began piano studies at age seven and the cello at age nine. Music was always his chosen profession, particularly playing cello in a major orchestra. In high school he was principal cellist of All-State orchestras in Massachusetts and a soloist with the Greater Boston Youth Orchestra. COPW is fortunate to have Steve as special guest performer at the May installation luncheon.



Four years at Juilliard followed, with Leonard Rose and Maurice Eisenberg being his main teachers. Summers were spent at the Meadowmount School of Music in Westport, New York, and at Tanglewood. Mr. Custer continued his studies at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio while a graduate assistant in cello, earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in cello at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and was a member of the U.S. Air Force Band Strings.

Stephen joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic in 1974. He also performs with the Westlake Chamber Ensemble, Amici Musicae Ensemble, the Philharmonic's Chamber Music Society and New Music Group. In his spare time Steve likes biking, sailing and skiing.

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COPW GOLD BOOK AWARD RECOGNIZED



Last year, COPW received a Gold Book Award from the League of American Orchestras (LAO) for our work to bring at risk youth to the Toyota Symphonies for Youth concerts. This accomplishment has been recognized yet again in two publications. COPW is the lead story on the Affiliates page in the February 2009 issue of *Performances*, the L.A. Phil's program magazine. In addition, COPW is one of seven volunteer groups featured in the March/April issue of *Symphony*, published by the LAO. A copy of the article, entitled "Class Acts" is available at www.copw.org, or contact Colleen Robertson for a color reprint. A copy of the entire magazine can be ordered from the LAO at <http://americanorchestras.org>

Reporting on another positive result of this project, recently one of the group homes received a donation of musical instruments. A local school and teacher arranged for the children to be mentored and taught by band members. Several of the children became sufficiently proficient to perform with the band, including a gig at Disneyland.

Kudos to COPW and the children!

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN FOR THE ARTS

Thanks to the lobbying efforts of arts organizations from across the country, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the Act) will provide \$50 million in support of the arts. Administered by the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA), funds will be available for competitively selected grants to non-profit arts organizations and to State and regional arts agencies. At present it is not known if the L.A. Phil will apply for stimulus funds. A copy of the NEA plan has been posted to the COPW Web site, www.copw.org, or call Colleen Robertson for a reprint. The full text of the Act can be read at <http://recovery.gov>

ON BOARD WITH COPW

Earlier this season, the Bylaws Committee conducted an extensive review of COPW's Bylaws. To keep COPW in line with current practices, the Committee recommended a number of changes that were approved by the Board in January of this year.

The changes include much needed clarification on the rights and obligations of associate and honorary members and permanent advisors; terms of service for board members and officers; creation of committees; and the deadline for dues payment. The revised bylaws have been posted to the Web at <http://www.copw.org> and will be included in the 2010-11 Roster.

Many thanks are due Committee members Jackie Johns and Meredith Taylor for their work to keep the Bylaws up-to-date.

THE POWER OF MUSIC

"...I have come to understand that music is not part of 'arts and entertainment' as the newspaper section would have us believe. It's not a luxury, a lavish thing that we fund from leftovers of our budgets, not a plaything or an amusement or a pastime. Music is a basic need of human survival. Music is one of the ways we make sense of our lives, one of the ways in which we express feelings when we have no words, a way for us to understand things with our hearts when we cannot with our minds."

Excerpt from a welcome address given to entering freshmen at the Boston Conservatory, given by Karl Paulnack, pianist and director of the music division.

A C T I V I T I E S

BACK STAGE AT DISNEY HALL



Ellen Johnston, Sona Boyd, event co-chairs.

COPW's Annual Meeting and January event was held January 17th at the Dorothy Chandler Hall and Walt Disney Hall. Vice President Adrienne Bass called the meeting to order in the Banquet Room at the Dorothy Chandler. The membership approved the new board members for 2009-2010 and thanked those leaving the board at the end of June. Ellen Johnston inducted two new members to COPW, Angie Clifford and Bea Campbell. Sixty members and guests enjoyed a three course Patina Luncheon.



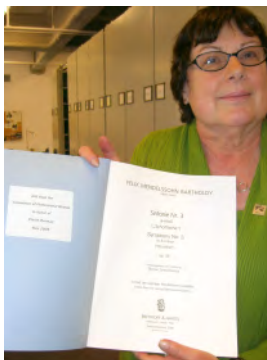
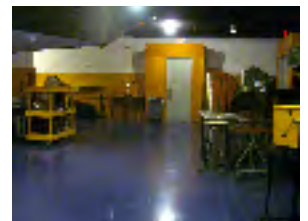
We then crossed First Street and met Los Angeles Philharmonic Music Librarian, Kazue MacGregor for an exciting backstage tour of Disney Hall which culminated in the Music Library. Kazue gave us an informal lecture on music at the LA Phil, including many amusing anecdotes concerning music scores, personalities of conductors and different sections of the orchestra, as well as future plans for the LA Phil. Kazue talked about traveling with the LA Phil. She packs seven trunks. Five contain the scores, etc for the anticipated programs and two trunks contain the "what ifs?" What if they must change part of or an entire program if a soloist is ill? What if the orchestra must play a certain piece in London because the Queen has decided to attend? Kazue with her calm and practical manner is prepared for any emergency.



It was particularly exciting to see many of the scores that COPW has donated to the LA Phil in the names of past presidents. All of the desks and tables of the library were covered with our scores and yet there wasn't room to display them all. Kazue kindly found more scores requested by members. Thank you to Chairs Sona Boyd and Ellen Johnston for arranging this special and exciting afternoon.



Some of the wonderful memories of the event are captured in the pictures shown here from the luncheon, the back stage tour, conversation and discussion with Kazue, and the visit to the music library where the COPW score donations over the years had been displayed for us.



NEW MEMBER TEA AN ELEGANT SUCCESS

COPW members and their guests enjoyed a musical spring afternoon at California Institute of the Arts in Valencia on March 28, 2009. After a social hour on the patio of Langley Hall, we were entertained by three MFA students from Cal Arts.



Mezzo soprano Carmina Escobar, who will be graduated in May in the MFA voice program, performed "Siete Canciones Espanolas," seven Spanish folk songs by Manuel de Falla. Carmina has performed at many festivals in her native Mexico and in California. She also performs medieval songs, opera and experimental music.

She was followed by soprano Jewl Mosteller, a senior in the MFA voice program, who began with four songs by Clara Shuman and then treated us to two arias from Smetana's "The Bartered Bride" (sung in Czech) and "I Puritani" by Bellini. Jewl has performed opera in Berlin, at Carnegie Hall, The RedCat, and with many regional musical theatre companies.



Both young women were accompanied on the piano by Guinevere Saenger, also in her final semester as an MFA candidate in music. Guinevere plays both the harpsichord and the organ. She specializes in art song and chamber music.

Following the amazing performances, we were treated to a proper tea arranged by Becky Novy. Each of the six tea tables was a delight for the eyes and featured one of Becky's china tea and silver services. She tells us that she owns at least 15 different tea sets, five silver tea pots and perhaps eight sets of silver. Becky also provided all of the delicate linens and the tables were decorated with pastel miniature rose plants. The sandwiches and sweets were from Bon Appetit.



Many thanks to event chairs (from left) Becky Novy and Jane Rogers for planning this beautiful event.



Social time ...



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NORTHROP GRUMMAN SYMPHONIES FOR SCHOOLS

The Symphonies for Schools offer COPW members a great way to volunteer to help elementary, middle and high school students experience music at the Disney Concert Hall who might not otherwise get the chance. The 2009 concert series began March 3rd when school busses pulled up to the Disney Hall from 52 local schools for two 45-minute concerts, one at 10 am and the other at 11:15 am. The volunteer operation is a “well greased machine” as affiliates help the busses unload and direct the students to their seats. The concert featured Essa Peka Solonan’s composition “*Wing on Wing.*” It was presented as a musical and theatrical journey of a composer’s imagination--the story about having courage to be creative and pursue one’s dreams.



Vicki Pushee, right, staffs the coat check for volunteers. Esme Douglas drops off her items.



Esme Douglas, right, with another volunteer at the “trouble desk” at the front entrance to Disney Concert Hall



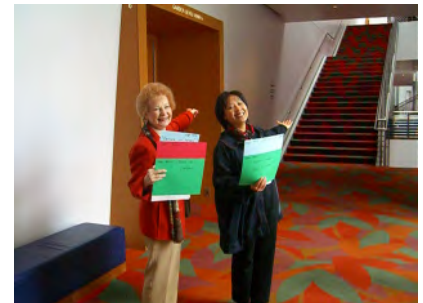
Chart showing the complex seating plan for the schools. One school brought 155 students!



Judy Hirsch has her assignment and is on the way to her post.



Busses arrive and volunteers are ready to help.



These affiliate volunteers are “Hall Monitors” who point the way to the schools’ seating areas.



The students climb (some run!) up the Mancini Stairs with excitement and anticipation.



Students for the 11:15 a.m. performance wait for the first concert to end. It’s a happy social time in BP Hall. Some get a little rambunctious.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ORCHESTRAS FEEDING AMERICA

This nationwide project is inspired by the true story of Nathaniel Ayers, a gifted Juilliard -trained string player who, as a result of a mental illness, was living on the streets of Los Angeles. Los Angeles Times columnist, Steve Lopez, befriended Nathaniel and was drawn to his talent, intelligence and passion for Beethoven. The Soloist, a film about Mr Ayers. Is coming to theaters April 24, 2009.

Over 240 orchestras across the United States are participating and collecting food to help those who may not know where their next meal is coming from. Why? Because orchestras can make a difference in their communities.

LA Phil Affiliates were invited to volunteer to be greeters and accept food donations at Disney Hall prior to concerts Monday March 23 through Sunday March 29. Naturally, COPW members stepped up.

Although advertising of the project was limited, the LA Phil is being credited with collecting over 2700 pounds of food stuffs! The Affiliates alone were responsible for donating close to 700 pounds. While it would have been great to fill every collection carton every night, Affiliate coordinator Louise Peebles notes, this was a first attempt at a new project and the Affiliates should feel proud of their contribution.

The partners in this effort are the League of American Orchestras, Feeding America and the Los Angeles Regional Foodbank. Information about supporting the local food bank is available on their web site at: <http://www.lafoodbank.org>



Ann Kligman stands ready to greet concert attendees and accept food donations.

PHILANTHROPY

PASADENA SHOWCASE HOUSE OF DESIGN



2009 Showcase House of Design

This year's Showcase House is located in San Marino and runs from April 19 to May 17. COPW will have 20 individual volunteers doing 33 shifts earning \$40 per shift. That is \$1,320 for our special projects such as purchasing tickets to the Toyota Symphonies for Youth for abused and neglected children in group homes. From the schedule it appears COPW will field the largest group of volunteers from any one organization.

There are likely to be last minute requests to fill shifts for people who have to cancel, so please let Esme Douglas know if you might be available to fill in. Phone: (310) 393-5493 or E-mail: 2esmedouglas@wgn.net



For our newer members...the Philharmonic Friends campaign provides essential financial support for a full season of outstanding artistry and innovative programming at Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl. A contribution to Friends will support a new generation of L.A. Phil-sponsored programs and youth orchestras that will revolutionize music opportunities in the Los Angeles area and provide free and low-cost L.A. Neighborhood Concerts to enrich the lives of people in communities throughout the County.

There are special benefits for different levels of membership but *any amount*, small or large, even \$5, will benefit the Philharmonic and help COPW reach its 100% commitment goal. This campaign year, COPW members have to date contributed \$3,850 towards a monetary goal of \$10,000. If you wish to make a donation, it can be completed on-line or the donation form can be downloaded from the LA Phil web site at:

http://www.laphil.com/support/friends_prog.cfm

BE SURE TO INDICATE COPW ON YOUR DONATION.