

**Binghamton
Community
Orchestra**

P.O. Box 1901
Binghamton, NY 13901

Place
Stamp
Here

The New Binghamton Community Orchestra



the new BINGHAMTON COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

"...fulfills a great longing and urgent need..."

In the old days, amateur musicians in the Southern Tier had a great time making beautiful music and giving concerts as members of the Binghamton Symphony Orchestra under the leadership of Fritz Wallenberg. But when the BSO went professional about a decade ago, amateur musicians were left with a void. Of course, we are all pleased with the immense success of the Binghamton Symphony. Listening to fine music in live performance gives great joy and spiritual fulfillment. But for amateur musicians, even greater joy and fulfillment comes from *making* fine music! In the winter of 1983 a group of players who wanted to revive the old tradition sent out an exploratory questionnaire—and the response was overwhelming! Obviously, there was a great longing and urgent need for an amateur symphony orchestra in this area. In March, 1984, we held an organizational meeting and accepted the invitation of the Binghamton High School to hold rehearsals

in the music studio of their new annex—beautifully designed with marvelous acoustics, fully furnished and equipped. Some forty musicians have been gathering there every Thursday night. Our first season was devoted to reading through a wide variety of music—Bach suites, Haydn's 101st, the Mozart Clarinet Concerto, Beethoven's 8th, a Wagner Overture, an Aaron Copland suite—with the purpose of developing an ensemble effect. We do not yet have a perfect balance of instrumentation. But there is great enthusiasm, high morale, and optimism about the future.

WHO RUNS THINGS?

John V. Hagopian (professor of English at SUNY-Binghamton) is President of the Board of Directors. Other members are: Anthony Diorio (musician and educator), David Banner (president of Computer Solutions Unlimited), and Lori S. Cyr (housewife).

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Our Music Director



Objectives of the Binghamton Community Orchestra

We Need Your Support!

It's a classic story—local boy makes good elsewhere and comes home!

Born in Chicago and raised in the Southern Tier, Asher Raboy graduated from SUNY-Binghamton and went on for an MFA in conducting at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh. He acquired further professional training with Robert Page of the Cleveland Symphony, Peyton Hibbitt of the Tri-Cities Opera and with Charles Bruck at the Monteux-Domain School for Conductors in Maine. Raboy was one of eight finalists selected from nationwide auditions for a Master Class with Fritz Allers and the Chicago Civic Orchestra.

Before returning to Binghamton, Asher Raboy served as Music Director at the famous Provincetown Playhouse in New York City and in Pittsburgh he conducted twenty-five world premieres, including that of Leon Katz's opera, *The Making of Americans*.

In 1980 Raboy's suite of Four Processional Dances for Flute was premiered in Long Island; in 1981 his children's opera *The Ill-Fated Princess* premiered in Pittsburgh. He has also composed sonatas and orchestral compositions and is currently at work on a piece for Voice and Orchestra in collaboration with the poet, Milton Kessler.

ACCOLADES: "The orchestra...conducted by Asher Raboy was exquisite!" Gene Grey, *The Evening Press*, October, 1976.

"Asher Raboy, conducting at the keyboard, was brilliant" *Pittsburgh Press*, September, 1980.

Raboy is also an accomplished pianist, a member of the Binghamton Symphony Orchestra and accompanist for the Binghamton Symphony Choral Society.

The principal objective of the BCO is to provide an opportunity for amateur musicians in this area to play symphonic music. Though we would like to tap the very best talent and develop a first-rate community orchestra, we have no intention of becoming professional. Individual members, especially among the younger players, may of course eventually become professionals. Indeed, we will serve as a "training orchestra" for other groups. But many of us are employed in other areas, or retired, and make music only for personal fulfillment and as a community service.

As an amateur group, we provide opportunities and services that the Binghamton Symphony Orchestra cannot:

- We are available for concerts in the public schools, senior citizen homes, etc.
- We sponsor private quartets and chamber music groups.
- We accompany amateur opera and choral groups.
- We plan to sponsor scholarships to deserving young musicians.
- We provide an opportunity for alumni of the Binghamton Youth Symphony.
- We hold rehearsals during the summer season, when college students are home and can join us.

We plan to give one or two public concerts per season, primarily to have a motive for improving our skills and playing well.

At this time our projected annual budget is less than \$10,000, which covers only essentials. We pay no salaries to the administrative staff, nor maintain an office and equipment. Our costs include:

- Salary of the music director and librarian
- Rental and acquisition of music scores
- Payment of fees (\$16 per member per season) to the Binghamton School District for use of the music studio and equipment
- Printing of brochures, posters and tickets
- Publicity and advertising
- Preparation of grant applications to foundations and government agencies
- Fees for membership in the American Symphony Orchestra League and the Amateur Chamber Music Players, Inc.
- Master classes and section rehearsals led by the Alexander String Quartet
- Preparation and distribution of the Directory of Chamber Music Players

DONATIONS

Founder: \$1,000 will be rewarded with lifetime recognition as a builder of the orchestra

Benefactor: \$500 will be cited with gratitude on all our publicity during an entire season

Patron: \$250 will receive thanks in all our concert programs for an entire season

Sponsor: \$100 will also receive thanks to all of our concert programs

All of the above will be provided with complimentary tickets to all concerts—and will be granted a 10% discount on all purchases at Computer Solutions Unlimited, 435 Main St., Johnson City.

Please fill out this form and mail to:

Binghamton Community Orchestra
P.O. Box 1901
Binghamton, NY 13901

I am interested in supporting amateur symphonic music in the Southern Tier in the following way(s):

Contributor \$ _____ Musician _____ (name instrument)
 Volunteer _____

Please put me on your mailing list.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Date: _____