

B I N G H A M T O N
Community
O R C H E S T R A



An Absolutely Unique
Symphonic Organization

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P.O. Box 1901
Binghamton, NY 13901



Binghamton Community Orchestra



Perhaps better than in any other way, that describes the Binghamton Community Orchestra. This orchestra is like no other in the region. In fact, its members come from throughout the region — Afton, Bainbridge, Nichols, Neward Valley, Windsor and other towns in between. They come to Binghamton for only one reason: to make beautiful and serious music. They come to Binghamton to join the orchestra's resident members to play the twice annual Spring and Fall Concerts.

This orchestra is like no other in the region because none of the musicians nor the members of the board receives a salary. They are volunteers who come to make music because they love to play and truly enjoy the sound of music. They are musicians only at their leisure who earn their livelihood teaching, accounting, engineering, drafting, building, driving and a hundred other occupations. Some are retired, but when they are playing with the orchestra, they are music professionals with all the talent, know-how and discipline that term implies. For these accomplished, but part-time and non-paid musicians, the Binghamton Community Orchestra serves as a showcase and important outlet for their considerable talents.

The idea of a community orchestra took hold a little over five years ago when the late John V. Hagopian, a professor of English at SUNY Binghamton, and a small group of dedicated people decided to hold an organizational meeting. Forty musicians gathered that Thursday night in 1984 and they've been gathering and increasing in number ever since.

And it's been good. The orchestra has expanded and the repertoire has dramatically increased with selections from Bach to Copland, Handel to Schubert, Grieg to Rachmaninoff and Dvorak to Wagner. We have added concerts to our season, guest soloists to our program and most importantly, a loyal and growing audience shares the orchestra's enthusiasm, challenge and music.

But, the initial objective has not changed. This is still a community orchestra open exclusively to musicians who do not play for a living, but live to play. It is a grass-roots orchestra that makes available the sound of great music at a price everyone in the community can afford, regardless of background or age. It is an orchestra that takes that music regularly to those in our community who cannot come to hear it — to nursing homes, schools, hospitals, senior citizen centers and smaller communities in the region.

Music
Director
Fitzroy
Stewart



Fitzroy Stewart was born in Jamaica, West Indies and grew up in New York City where he attended the High School of Music & Art. He received a Bachelors and Masters degree from Ithaca College, and taught school in New York State for ten years.

While studying and conducting the Collegiate Chorale at the University of Colorado in Boulder, he was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Scholarship to study conducting with the Bach Scholar, Helmuth Rilling, in Frankfurt am Main, West Germany. At the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst (Music Conservatory) in Frankfurt, he was given a scholarship for conducting through the Franz-Grothe-Stiftung, completing a performance degree "Künstlerische Reifeprüfung" (Artistic Diploma) in Conducting with highest grades given by the Hochschule. In 1982, he founded "Das neue Oberurseler Kammerorchester," (The New Oberurseler Chamber Orchestra) which he directed for five years and which continues to flourish today. In 1987, he was appointed music director/conductor of the Binghamton Community Orchestra.

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Make the Binghamton

Contributions to the Binghamton Community Orchestra are tax deductible. Often, employees of many major corporations in the area who make a cash contribution, will find that contribution can be doubled by qualifying for a matching contribution from the employer.

Community

PATRONS who donate \$250 or more receive our heartfelt thanks and recognition in our concert programs throughout the season. SPONSORS who contribute \$100 or more will also receive both our gratitude and program recognition. Obviously, any contribution, no matter how large or how small is greatly appreciated.

Orchestra

If you would like to contribute, to play, to serve on our Board of Directors or simply just learn more about the Binghamton Community Orchestra, contact any board member or write to us at P.O. Box 1901, Binghamton, NY 13901. Or call at 607-723-4620.

Your Orchestra!

Board of Directors

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