

CONCORD COMMUNITY CONCERTS ASSOCIATION

FOR 1965 BICENTENNIAL Capsule

The Concord Community Concerts Association was founded in the 1930-31 season by Mrs. Arthur Morrill and Mrs. Charles E. Dolloff. Like hundreds of groups in other cities across the country, the association pools moneys earned from an annual advance ticket sale to pay for touring artists. Since there are so many such groups, the national pool of cash permits the booking agency in New York, Community Concerts, Inc.-- Columbia Artists Management to retain leading artists and groups, as well as those just making their start.

Other persons here forming the backbone of the group have been Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Rainie; Mrs. Grace B. Tilton; Florence McLeod; Mrs. Walter May; Miss Carrie Pearl Underhill; Josephine J. Rolfe; and Edward Dame. Concerts here have been held at the city Auditorium.

The local directorate always includes a campaign chairman and a publicity chairman, who preside over the annual campaign. Tickets are sold as "memberships" under the euphemistic instructions of the New York management, and apply for the number of concerts to be held for the fall-winter-spring season which follows the campaign. No tickets, thus, are sold for individual performances. This assures a firm financial base for each association and, knowing what it will have to spend on artists, it may book them in advance.

Three and sometimes four concerts a season have been held in Concord. For some years the ticket price for the subscription was \$6, being raised to \$7.50 in 1963. Membership has varied from 910 to around 500. Growing slowly but steadily after founding, the association membership reached the high figure during the start-up period for the William H. Gile concerts (see descriptive sheet on these concerts which I also submitted). It began to decline, in part at least because of the novelty of free concerts, but has been gaining since and at this writing numbers 680. Student tickets are offered for each year's series at \$5 each. Ushers are young women undergraduates of a musical bent from the city's three high schools, Concord, Bishop Brady and Penacook.

Over a period of years it becomes obvious that these series offer a most varied selection. Consciously or unconsciously, the local association's board, which selects the artists to appear from lists of available persons and groups furnished by the New York management, has sought to provide a mix of well-known stars, young performers of promise and unusual programs with unconventional approaches. A brace of the latter would be the Don Shirley Trio, and the Virtuosi di Roma. Among others appearing in around 100 Community Concerts to date have been: William Warfield, James Melton, Rose Bampton and Dorothy Maynor, singers; the Joos Ballet; the Trapp Family Singers; the Westminster Choir and Ted Shawn and his dance ensemble; Fritz Kreisler, violinist; Harold Bauer, pianist; Vironsky & Bolin, piano team; the Rochester (NY) Symphony Orchestra and the National Symphony of Washington D.C.

Recent presidents have been Gordon Blakeney and my predecessor, Alan Stevens. Miss Helen Carr is the secretary, filling a difficult job with great grace and efficiency, who succeeded Mrs. Barbara Stewart. Donald G. Rainie, an attorney, has for some years been the treasurer. Miss Norma Gardner is currently campaign chairman and Mrs. Arthur Lavoy publicity chairman. Other current board members are Mrs. Kinsley Batchelder, Mrs. Frederick Berman, Mrs. Mary Perrino Byrne, Mrs. J. Richard Jackman (who with Mr. Jackman has long been active), Richard Peale, Miss Beverly Farnum, Mrs. Stephen Leavenworth, William W. Macurda, Robert Newton, Miss Eleanor Provencher, Mrs. Anita Elkin, Carl Bartlett, Mrs. Irene Gray, Mrs. John Krzyzaniak (of Hopkinton), Dr. Womer E. Lawrence, Gerald Mark, and Mrs. L.K. Moulton (of Bow). As composition of the board suggests, subscriptions are offered to residents in neighboring towns during the campaign//

*Stephen W. R. Linsley
President*

N.B. - And Special mention should be made of the cooperation of my Secretary, who takes care of the checkbook, and notes that yet it was a success

(over)

W.E.K.

The Concord Community Concerts Association was founded in the 1930-31

I must add a postscript to report that under the procedure in effect currently and for some years, holders of season tickets for the Concord series may attend, without further charge, up to two dozen concerts given by Community Concerts Associations in neighboring cities, including Laconia, Manchester, Nashua, Portsmouth, and Lowell, Mass. Under this arrangement members in those cities may attend Concord concerts without charge. The usual procedure on concert nights is to not admit the visitors until all the local members have been seated.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Rainier; Mrs. Grace Rainier; Josephine J. Rolfe; and Mrs. Walter May; Miss Gertrude Leary Underhill; Josephine J. Rolfe; and Mrs. Dana. Concerts have been held at the city auditorium.

The local director always includes a campaign chairman and a publicity chairman, who preside over the annual campaign. Tickets are sold as "memberships" under the euphemistic instructions of the New York management, and only for the number of concerts to be held for the fall-winter season which follows the campaign. No tickets, thus, are sold for individual performances. This assures a financial base for each association and, knowing what it will have to spend on expenses, it may book them in advance.

Three and sometimes four concerts a season have been held in Concord. For some years the ticket price for the subscription was \$5, being raised to \$7.50 in 1955. Membership has varied from 210 to around 500. Growth slowly but steadily after founding, the association membership reached the high figure during the subscription period for the William N. Gile concert (see descriptive sheet on these concerts which I also submitted). It began to decline, in part at least because of the novelty of free concerts, but has been gaining since and at this writing numbers 450. Student tickets are offered for each year's series at \$3 each. There are young women undergraduates of a musical bent from the city's three high schools, Concord, Bishop Brady and Lenox.

Over a period of years it becomes obvious that these series offer a most varied selection. Generally or unconsciously, the local association's board, which selects the artists to appear from lists of available persons and groups furnished by the New York management, has sought to provide a mix of well-known stars, young performers of promise and unusual programs with unconventional approaches. A piece of the latter would be the Don Quixote Trio, and the virtuosi of some. Among others appearing in around 100 Community Concerts to date have been: William Warfield, James Wilson, Rose Samson and Dorothy Maynor; singers; the Long Ballet; the Tracy Family Singers; the violinist; Goltz and Ted Shyan and his dance ensemble; Fritz Kreisler, violinist; Harold Bauer, pianist; Wittonsky & Bolin, piano team; the Rochester (NY) Symphony Orchestra and the National Symphony of Washington D.C.

Recent presidents have been Gordon Blakely and my predecessor, Alan Stevens. Miss Helen Carr is the secretary, filling a difficult job with great grace and efficiency, who succeeded Mrs. Barbara Stewart. Louis G. Rainie, an attorney, has for some years been the treasurer. Miss Norma Gardner is currently campaign chairman and Mrs. Arthur Lavoie publicity chairman. Other current board members are Mrs. Kinsey Batschelet, Mrs. Frederick Bayman, Mrs. Mary Evelyn Byrne, Mrs. J. Richard Jackson (who with Mr. Jackson has long been active), Richard Cole, Miss Beverly Tarnum, Mrs. Stephen Leavenworth, William V. Macurdy, Robert Newton, Miss Eleanor Tovercher, Mrs. Anita Rikin, Carl Bartlett, Mrs. Irene Gray, Mrs. John Krzyanski (of Hopkinton), Dr. Homer H. Lawrence, Gerald Kirk, and Mrs. J.K. Morrison (of Bow). As composition of the board expands, and descriptions are offered to residents in neighboring towns during the campaign

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