

MRP QUARTER NOTES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSIC REVITALIZATION PROJECT, INC. JAN/FEB/MAR 2001 VOL 2 - ISSUE 1

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

By now most of you have heard about the retirement of Rojack's owners Rose and Jack Hagopian. Their generosity to charitable and non-profit organizations in the Attleboro area is legendary, so I thought it only appropriate to share with you the contribution the Hagopian's have made to the MRP.

Four years ago, we had the good fortune of winning a \$5,000 award from Newman's Own, Inc. when our current Vice-President Doreen was chosen as a finalist in a recipe contest - barbecued ribs using Newman's salsa. In addition to making an award to the MRP, Newman's Own also awarded to the grocer from whom the Newman product was purchased, \$7500 to be issued to the charity of their choosing. Of course the grocer was Rojack's and the Hagopian's donated Rojack's portion of the award to the MRP. It was this combined gift that provided us with the strong financial base we needed and enabled the MRP to immediately launch the Music Lending Library, our annual Music Scholarship Fund, and has helped finance a number of other projects over the years.

Without the generosity of Rose and Jack Hagopian, the MRP would not have been able to establish itself as quickly as it has. We are forever grateful to these outstanding citizens and friends of our community. And for your edible pleasure, the award-winning recipe is enclosed. Bon Appetit!



Dave Rolince

Dave Rolince, President
Music Revitalization Project

MRP SCORES 3 NEW GRANTS

In our continuing drive to sponsor live musical performances in the area, we submitted proposals in October to the local cultural councils in Attleboro, Norton and Seekonk.

We are happy to report that we have won approvals for all three. The events include summer concerts in Seekonk, which will feature the The Epic Brass, and in Norton with the Con Brio Quintet. The third event is coming up next month and features the Con Brio Quintet at the Attleboro Library. We are grateful for the continued support of funds from the Massachusetts and local Cultural Councils.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a hearty "THANK YOU!" to all those who played with us this year for our annual fundraiser, the Musical Holiday Cards. Non-MRP members who reSounded the Joy of the Season were: James Bond, Paula Bozoian, Peter Brooks, Marie Savas, Dave Tagliamonte, Terry White, and Stonehill College students, Carla Curtis and Andrea LaFont. We hope you will join us again next year; it was wonderful to have you play along!!

-John Zawislak

CON BRIO QUINTET PERFORMING FEBRUARY 17

Mark this date on your calendar - **Saturday, February 17th. At 5:30pm** at the Attleboro Public Library, the Con Brio Quintet will be featured in a FREE concert sponsored by the MRP and the Attleboro Library, and funded by a grant from the Attleboro Cultural Council. This fascinating quintet will perform Peter and the Wolf, as well as a selection of pieces that introduce their mix of classical woodwind instrumentation - oboe, bassoon, clarinet, flute and French horn. This event is sure to delight the whole family. Though this is a free concert, you will need a ticket for admission. Tickets are available by calling the Attleboro Library at 222-0157 and should be picked up prior to the concert.



MUSICIANS THROUGH THE CENTURIES:

LEROY ANDERSON (1908-1975)



"Leroy Anderson is one of the great American masters of light orchestral music. Though we have performed his works countless times over the years at the Boston Pops, his music remains forever as young and fresh as the very first day on which it was composed." Thus spoke John Williams of Leroy Anderson.

My son, several years ago, heard the concert band I was performing with play *Sleigh Ride*. After the concert he remarked that it sounded just like on the radio (This from a boy who only listened to Rap at the time). That compliment said more for Leroy Anderson than it did for the band. *Sleigh Ride* was written in 1948 and is still one of the most recognizable light orchestral pieces heard during the holiday season...even among young 'rappers.'

Leroy Anderson was a New Englander. Born in Cambridge, MA, he attended the New England Conservatory of Music studying piano and music at the ripe old age of 11! He composed, orchestrated and conducted his class song for his High School graduation.

He attended Harvard where he studied music with such luminaries as Walter Piston. He studied and performed on double bass, trombone, tuba and organ. As a student he was director of the Harvard University Band in 1929. At the same time he was a church organist for a church in Milton. He resumed his duties as Harvard Band Director from 1932 to 1935 and began writing arrangements for that band that are still performed and held in high regard today.

In 1936 he began writing for Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops. After a serving in the US Army, he was a principle writer/arranger from 1946 to 1950. Out of this collaboration came many tunes including *Jazz Pizzicato*,

Promenade and *Syncoated Clock*. Among his other more recognizable tunes are included *Buglers Holiday*, *The Typewriter*, *A Christmas Festival*, *Plink-Plank-Plunk*, *Saraband*, *Chicken Reel*, *Clarinet Candy*, *Fiddle-Fiddle*, *Sandpaper Ballet*, and *Blue Tango*, which won a gold record for 1 million in sales in 1952.

All in all, he wrote about 50 light classics, defining the sound of the American pops orchestra. Probably the most endearing quality of many of his tunes lies in the use of unusual sounds to enhance them. As examples, there is the 'crack' of the whip and whinny of a horse in *Sleigh Ride*; tapping keys, grinding shifts, tinkling bells in *The Typewriter*, and humorous 'sighs' that turn a Strauss waltz into cat meows in *The Waltzing Cat*. In the tradition of the Sousa band, he wrote many tunes that highlighted soloists, as in the trumpeting trio of *Buglers Holiday*.

Anderson continued to write, primarily for the Boston Pops, until his death in 1975. At the time he resided in Woodbury, CT, his home since 1949. After his death he was elected to the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and Harvard University, in 1995, named new band quarters the "Anderson Band Center" in his honor.

For more on Leroy Anderson, a good starting point is www.leroy-anderson.com, or your local library.

-John Zawislak

MUSICAL HOLIDAY CARDS STRIKE A JOYFUL CHORD

Once again this year the MRP featured the MRP Musical Holiday Card fundraiser. For those of you who haven't been following along, a Musical Holiday Card is 15 minutes

of live Holiday music for \$25. We performed for families in their homes, businesses (Century21 offices), assisted living (Village at Willow Crossing) and even in the Union Congregational Church of East Bridgewater.

It is always a joy to do the Musical Holiday Cards. Everyone who participates, either as musician or part of the audience, seems to come away feeling that something special has just happened. Children and adults alike will smile, move and sway, and sing along.

This year, because of schedule constraints we kept performances only to the weekends in December before Christmas. In spite of this we still had 14 performances and added \$618.50 to our general funds to help with Scholarships, the Music Lending Library, and Music Education Concert Series. Some of this was contributions over and above the performance fee. We also received a contribution of a used trumpet to help us get our instrument loan program off the ground.

Thanks to all who made this year a success.

MARCH IS MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

This year, the MENC's theme for Music In Our Schools Month is "Music... Pass It On!" This very special theme is significant for two reasons. The first is that the music of many cultures and its influences are passed along in a very special way from one person to another. Oral traditions, including story telling and singing, were and are important in preserving and sharing cultural identities. The second reason is to remind us that the celebration and making of music are passed along from adult to child. Sharing music along generational lines is a significant way to embrace one's culture, and to strengthen

the bonds between family and friends. Music is a needed and effective tool in not only teaching and learning about people of all cultures, but in providing a link, a connection between all people.

"Music... Pass It On!" will serve to remind us every day of the impact music has held in our lives, and the place it should hold in the lives of our children. Support your school music programs by attending their concerts. Check out the Community Calendar for performances in your area.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

Help support your local music organizations by attending these live concerts:

- 2/14 Attleboro HS Solo/Ensemble Robert Bray Auditorium - 7pm
- 2/17 Con Brio Quintet - Attleboro Library - 5:30 pm
- 2/18 Continuum - Metropolitan Wind Symphony, BC College Winds, & MYWE - Boston College - 3pm

MRP WISH LIST:

- Resources for Website Creation
- Donations of Band Music for the Music Lending Library
- Woodwind, Brass or Percussion Instruments
- Volunteers

If you would like to serve on the Board or volunteer for a committee, meetings are held the 2nd Friday of every month. Call 508-226-6897 for details.

The MRP QUARTER NOTES Newsletter is a quarterly publication. Contributions are welcome by writing to the Music Revitalization Project, Inc., P.O. Box 789, Norton, MA, 02766. All articles included are at the discretion of the editor as space allows.

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NORTON
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MUSIC REVITALIZATION
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