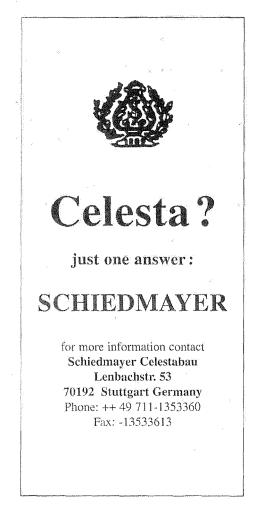
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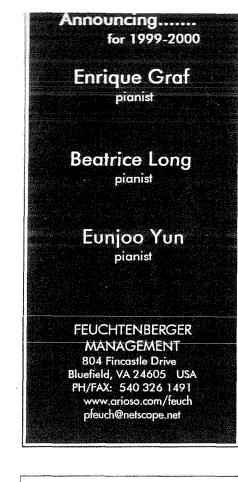
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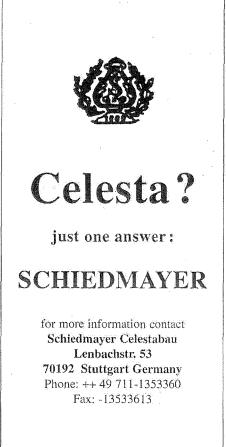
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MAY•JUNE 1





ture articles included in the print annual. Lists of venues, presenters, and associations can be searched alphabetically and are well seeded with links.

Searching on the site is generally quick and easy, and it's simple to navigate. But because the site is new, there are limitations. If you're looking for an artist, mere entry of the last name yields full contact information for the artist's representatives, including a full roster of the firm's other artists and links to web sites where available. On a random afternoon a few weeks after the site's launch, though, the same search didn't work so well in reverse; only one wellknown name we entered yielded results in the artist manager category. Never mind. The Web isn't perfect, either. Having Musical America's massive database online at all is good news.

And in a pinch, you can always check the heavyweight edition. http://www.musicalamerica.com

A TOUR OF TOURS: THE 1999 SYMPHONY SURVEY

Recent mid-season tours by American orchestras have won plaudits abroad in venues from Hong Kong to Hamburg. The Cleveland Orchestra played the Canary Islands, Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, and Paris in January, prompting one local critic to call the orchestra's performance of Schubert's C Major Symphony "the perfect cherry on a fabulous cake," according to Cleveland Plain Dealer critic Donald Rosenberg. In the San Francisco Chronicle, Christopher Bowen reported that a performance of Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony by the San Francisco Symphony in London's Barbican Centre "convincingly underlined the orchestra's claims to world-class status" in the eyes of the Sunday Telegraph. Another January tour brought the National Symphony Orchestra to Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Japan, exposing a wide spectrum of East Asians to American music ranging from classic Broadway (Bernstein's Candide Overture and Symphonic Dances from West Side Story) to the deeply meditative Adagio for Strings of Samuel Barber to the mar-

Stripes Forever.

And at press time SYMPHONY was awaiting reports from three other orchestras that were on the road during the month of January: the Toronto Symphony, which spent the last week of the month in sunny (one hopes) Florida; the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, which performed in Hong Kong and Singapore on a week-long tour that began January 27; and the Chicago Youth Symphony, which visited Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic during Christmas break.

The annual SYMPHONY survey, conducted late last summer for the calendar year 1999, reveals that there's lots more to come. Highlights include a midsummer visit to China by another Chicago-area youth group, the Classical Symphony Orchestra; all-Gershwin and all-Bernstein concerts by the Chicago Sinfonietta in Switzerland and Germany between April 26 and May 10; appearances by two Washingtonarea youth groups, the Montgomery County Youth Orchestra and the D.C. Youth Orchestra, at the June-July American Celebration of Music in Austria; a Texas jaunt by the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, a visit to Kentucky by the Nashville Chamber Orchestra, and performances in Russia by the American Youth Philharmonic, all happening concurrently in mid-April; a 20day tour of Vietnam, Malaysia, Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines by The Philadelphia Orchestra in May; and the annual summer tour by the much-traveled Long Island Youth Orchestra, which this time takes it to the United Kingdom, Europe, and Africa.

Data from the *SYMPHONY* survey, which tracks presenters, venues, airlines, freight companies, budgets, and other such details, are available from the American Symphony Orchestra League's Resource Center by calling 202-776-0212.

ON RECORD

New World Symphony • New World Jazz. Adams: Lollapalooza; Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue; Bernstein: Prelude, Fugue, and Riffs; Milhaud: La Création du Monde; Stravinsky: Ebony

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Schiedmayer Celestabau GmbH Lenbachstr. 53 D-70192 Stuttgart Tel: 49-711-1353360 Fax: 49-711-13533613 to work right. Congress wants it to work wrong. Congress wants it to dispense checks to everybody—well, everybody with approved ideas, anyway, as long as it meets the most important criterion: funding everybody's district.

Sen. Tim Hutchinson (R-Ark.), a newly minted senator (Class of '96), had a fit last year when his state wound up with no grants. It must be conceded (apart from being an obvious political error) that it is hard to see how the entire state, even a small one, didn't get at least one grant in 1997. However, there had been many grants to Arkansas institutions over the years, and the state still got its allocation from within the 40 percent of the NEA's annual budget that goes to state arts agencies.

Since then, more legislators seem to have only one complaint: Their own district didn't get a grant last year. (So much for principle.)



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TicketStop, Inc., 14042 NE 8th St., Suite 108, Bellevue, WA USA 98007 In Canada: ABO TicketStop, Inc., 8531 Fairway Rd., Richmond, B.C., Canada V7C 1Y5 If you just see all this as so much caterwauling over small amounts of money—and I know some of you do you will say, "To heck with it, it's not worth it." I totally disagree.

You've been reading my personal opinion of what the NEA should be but (to a degree) fails to be. It fails simply because Congress-and ultimately, that means all of us-doesn't have the discipline or the guts to let the NEA do what it could. I think the national government of the world's only superpower should dedicate a small portion of its budget to funding the things in art that most private funders don't find sexy enough or safe enough to fund. The nation does not need the NEA to do only the glamorous stuff. We need it to do the unglamorous stuff. We need it to do the things that other funders don't want to bother with, for whatever reason. It's much easier to pitch corporations on funding something that will make them look good; but is that what government is supposed to be about-looking good?

Of course the NEA should fund popular social service-oriented projects. Fine with me: It makes my job easier every day.

But as institutions that seek these grants, and as advocates who make the arguments for public-sector funding—not just the NEA, but for the continued \$54.5 million that went directly to orchestras from local, state, and federal sources last year alone—we need to make an important case.

Sure, music is good for society's ills. But it's also good for the soul. Orchestras create, commission, perform, and preserve much of the greatest music that the human imagination ever conceived. In a society awash with the short-term, the easy, and the middling, that is worth quite a few bucks, both public and private.

We shouldn't apologize for it.

JOHN SPARKS IS THE AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA LEAGUE'S DIRECTOR OF GOVERN-MENT AFFAIRS.

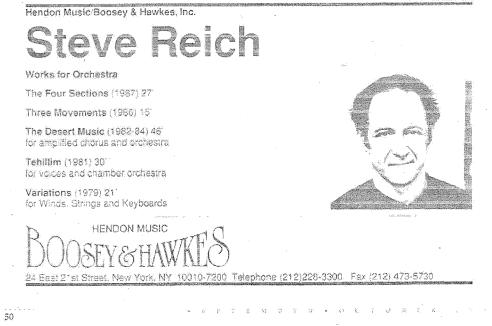
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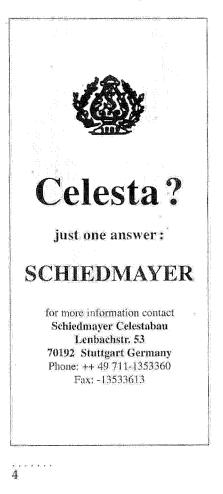




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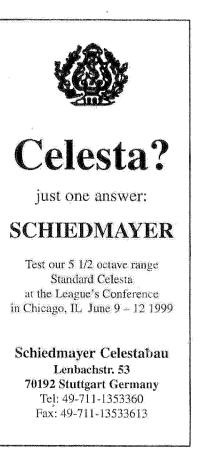
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directors both have a tremendous role to play. I think they are much more open now to welcoming new music into their everyday lives, and into the everyday lives of their orchestras, than they have been for most of the years I've been active in this business. I see that as one of the great and wonderful signposts for the future, despite the fact that some of us are still worried about where new audiences are going to come from. We were also worried ten, fifteen, twenty years ago whether our new music was going to have a platform. Much of that has now been resolved, by those who are in management as well as by those who compose and perform new music.

Music is getting a completely new and exciting push into the 21st century. We're at the beginning of a new era, one in which you, John, and all your colleagues will feel it's good to be alive. Music will be different and, I dare say, all the better for it.



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Steven Sobol, Director ssobol@fineartsmgmt.com and looked right at me and said. 'Don't play louder than your firsts' I've never forgotten that." Nor will be New World fellow.

Vernon is a stickler for precision— "In order for us to play together, we have to have an agreement: When we end the tie?"—and he spends a great deal of time on technical concerns like bowing, arm weight, and positioning. At one point, a fellow comments, "This is more complex than a golf swing!"

WOODWINDS

John Mack's woodwind master class is sprinkled with anecdotes irreverent asides, and lots of stor and starting to "get it right." After a fair amount of discussion he begins the class by asking the principal cover to tune.

Mack (stopping her): "No. It has sound very optimistic, very positive like it came from the Almighty—in such a fashion that people could nee question it. If you go *eeee* [making a wimpy, nasal sound] people are going to think, oh well."

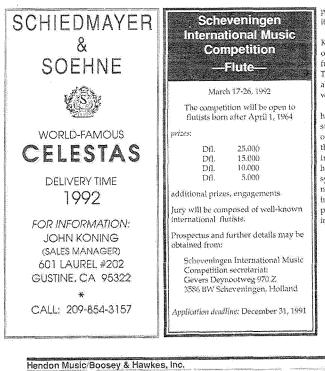
She tunes again. The musicians part the first movement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 6, with Mack single the melodies of the other instrum-"Make this generous," he says as the play. "A tiny bit more in the long but not enough to get loud." He says them. "Let me just say something vibrato: Vibrato should confirm the tainty of the pitch and the identity of the pitch and the identity the note. Try to use vibrato in such fashion that it makes the note sound undeniably where it belongs and like it was slipping around."

They try again. He stops them have to help the dynamics every and then. Oboes in particular, and horns, don't play what's written don't play DA DA DA dum, play [much softer] *dee da da dum*. Give impression of strength—and get the way because we must not mean the clarinet here."

They try again. "One more time it's almost there."

The music resumes. "That's it." Excellent! Thank you."

Next comes the second movement Brahms's Symphony No. 2. Mack –



Steve Reich

The Four Sections (1987) 27

Three Movements (1986) 15'

The Desert Music (1982-84) 46' for amplified chorus and orchestra

Tehillim (1981) 30° for volces and chamber orchestra

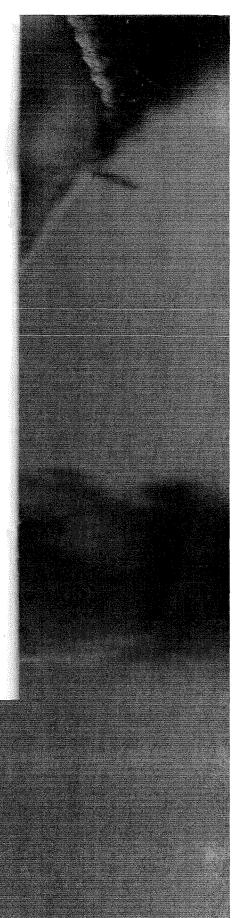
Variations (1979) 21' for Winds, Strings and Keyboards

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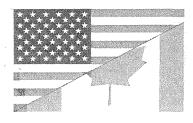


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