



Cincinnati's Music Hall

Forever
NEW

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Cincinnati's Music Hall

Forever New

**The 125th Anniversary
Celebration**

**Wednesday, May 7, 2003
Cincinnati, Ohio**

Presented by

**Society for the Preservation of
Music Hall
and
Cincinnati Arts Association**

HONORED GUESTS

**Patricia Corbett
Louise Nippert
Charles Westheimer**

and

James Conlon

Music Director, May Festival

Eugene Frey

President, Cincinnati Musician's Association, Local No. 1

Paavo Järvi

Music Director, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

Erich Kunzel

Conductor, Cincinnati Pops Orchestra

Victoria Morgan

Artistic Director, Cincinnati Ballet

Nicholas Muni

Artistic Director, Cincinnati Opera

"Cincinnati's beloved Music Hall turns 125 years young this Ohio Bicentennial year, but a May 7 anniversary show to honor the national historic landmark will celebrate youth, not age.... The idea is to use the grand occasion to welcome talent of the future with audiences of the future." – Cincinnati Enquirer, February 10, 2003

"This year the Society for the Preservation of Music Hall and the Cincinnati Arts Association are planning a 125th birthday party in a style we enthusiastically endorse." – Cincinnati Post, March 13, 2003

Special Thanks To

Andy's Grill
Baroque Violin Shop
Bruegger's Bagels
Buddy Rogers Music
Busken's Bakery
Cincinnati Ballet
Cincinnati Media
Cincinnati Musical Festival Association
Cincinnati Opera
Cincinnati Pops Orchestra
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
Divine's Chocolates
The Kroger Company
Midwest Espresso
Music Hall Concessions
Music Hall Staff
Music Hall Ushers
North Avondale Montessori
Over the Rhine Steel Drum Band
Papa John's Pizza
David and Robyn Petersen
St. Francis Seraph School
Lester Schmerr
School for the Creative and Performing Arts
Skyline Chili
Ticketmaster
United Dairy Farmers
University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music
Nancy Walker

Painted Violins Artists

Barbara Ahlbrand
Judy Anderson
Chris Bieri
Amanda Hogan Carlisle
Julia Green
Lynn Hogan
Beverly Kirk
Mike McGuire
Thomas McKenna

Les Miley
Keith Mueller
Carl Samson
Amy Tangvald
Althea Thompson
Barbara Trauth
Lavender Wather
Martha Weber

125th Anniversary Celebration of Music Hall Committee

J. Thomas Osterman, Chair

Van Ackerman
Sylvia Benjamin
Thomas Buck
Richard Diehl
Joel Ebersole
Stephen Finn
Marlesa Gray
Barbara Hahn
Barbara Harshman
Joyce Holmes
Marlene Johnson
Mace Justice
Mark Kallick
Dorothy Lewis
Annie Miller Lyle
Edward Marks

Alberta Marsh
Karen McKim
Cynthia Muhlhauser
Norma Petersen
Claire Phillips
Ruthann Sammarco
Darcy Scheer
Rosemary Schlachter
Melvin Schulman
Martha Seaman
Susan Sommer
Ethan Stanley II
Janet Taylor
Joyce Van Wye
Tracy Wilson

Future 125th Anniversary Events

Painted Violins	Joyce Holmes and Alberta Marsh, Co-Chairs
Archives	Robert Howes, Chair
Pennies for Preservation	Danielle Cahill, Chair

Sponsors

**The "Big" Birthday Cake
Candles**

Claire B. Phillips/Phillips Supply
Archielectric Electric Company
Carrigan and Grimm
Joseph L. Cronin
Glaserworks
Messer Construction Company
Norma Petersen
Mark and Rosemary Schlachter
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wiedemann

Program Design and Printing Contributors

Program Cover Photo Credit
Program Cover Design
Program Printing
Letter/Flyer Printing

Phil Groshong
Gray & Pape, Inc.
The Merten Company
MMP Printing "Downtown"

Special Thanks To

Andy's Grill
Baroque Violin Shop
Bruegger's Bagels
Buddy Rogers Music
Busken's Bakery
Cincinnati Ballet
Cincinnati Media
Cincinnati Musical Festival Association
Cincinnati Opera
Cincinnati Pops Orchestra
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
Divine's Chocolates
The Kroger Company
Midwest Espresso
Music Hall Concessions
Music Hall Staff
Music Hall Ushers
North Avondale Montessori
Over the Rhine Steel Drum Band
Papa John's Pizza
David and Robyn Petersen
St. Francis Seraph School
Lester Schmerr
School for the Creative and Performing Arts
Skyline Chili
Ticketmaster
United Dairy Farmers
University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music
Nancy Walker

Painted Violins Artists

Barbara Ahlbrand
Judy Anderson
Chris Bieri
Amanda Hogan Carlisle
Julia Green
Lynn Hogan
Beverly Kirk
Mike McGuire
Thomas McKenna

Les Miley
Keith Mueller
Carl Samson
Amy Tangvald
Althea Thompson
Barbara Trauth
Lavender Wather
Martha Weber

Cincinnati's Music Hall

FOREVER NEW

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

7:00 p.m., Music Hall

Production Coordinator

Stephen Finn

Emcees

Courtis Fuller

Mackenzie Duan

Script

Mary Tensing

Performances by

Cincinnati Ballet Venture Dancers of the Otto M. Budig Academy

Daniel Simmons, Director

Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra

Sarah Ioannides, Conductor

Edwin Uhey, Tenor

May Festival Youth Chorus

James Bagwell, Director

Marilyn Libbin, Assistant Director

North Avondale Montessori Choir

Wesley Barnfield, Director

Over the Rhine Youth Steel Drum Band

Avery Hammonds and Betsey Zenk, Instructors

St. Francis Seraph Youth Choir

Beverly Toon, Director

School for the Creative and Performing Arts Children's Choir

Laurie Wyant, Director

University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music,

Preparatory Department Brass Choir

Paul Hillner, Conductor

Program

MILDRED J. HILL AND
PATTY SMITH HILL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Courtis Fuller and Mackenzie Duan

MICHAEL D'AMBROSIO

FANFARE IN COMMEMORATION OF
THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF
MUSIC HALL (*World Premiere*)

*University of Cincinnati
College-Conservatory of Music
Preparatory Department Brass Choir*

*Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra
Brass Section*

Paul Hillner, Conductor

CECIL MACK AND
JIMMY JOHNSON

CHARLESTON

*St. Francis Seraph Youth Choir
Beverly Toon, Director*

ALLISTER MACGILLIVRAY
Arranged by Stuart Calvert

AWAY FROM THE ROLL OF THE SEA

TRADITIONAL LATIN
Additional Words and Music
by Emily Crocker

GLORIA FESTIVA

*School for the Creative and Performing
Arts Children's Choir
Laurie Wyant, Director*

WILLIAM OWEN MENEFIELD

MY MELODY (*World Premiere*)

North Avondale Montessori Choir

Over the Rhine Youth Steel Drum Band

*School for the Creative and Performing
Arts Children's Choir*

St. Francis Seraph Youth Choir

*Laurie Wyant, Director
William Owen Menefield, Accompanist*

TOMAS LUIS DE VICTORIA AVE MARIA
RANDALL THOMPSON THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID

*May Festival Youth Chorus
Marilyn Libbin, Director*

JOHANNES BRAHMS LIEBESLIEDER WALTZ – REDE
MÄDCHEN, ALLZU LIEBES,
OP. 52, NO. 1

*May Festival Youth Chorus
Marilyn Libbin, Director*

*Cincinnati Ballet Venture Dancers of the
Otto M. Budig Academy*

Choreography by Daniel R. Simmons

TRADORI ZOKU KODO (Based on Traditional Japanese
Drummers)

COLE PORTER CAN-CAN

*Cincinnati Ballet Venture Dancers of the
Otto M. Budig Academy*

Choreography by Daniel R. Simmons

Intermission

HECTOR BERLIOZ ROMAN CARNIVAL OVERTURE

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS VIOLIN CONCERTO NO. 3,
1ST MOVEMENT

Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra

*Sarah Ioannides, Conductor
Joseph Maile, Soloist*

ELGAR HOWARTH

TWO PROCESSIONAL FANFARES

DIETRICH BUXTEHUDE

FANFARE AND CHORUS

Edited by Robert King

FREDERIC CHOPIN

NOCTURNE

Edited by Matty Shiner

Arranged by Kloman Schmidt

Alan Keller, Trombone Soloist

GEORGE F. HANDEL

ALLELUJA FROM ANTHEM VIB

Arranged by David Sartor

VACLAV NELHYBEL

THREE INTRADAS FOR BRASS
CHOIR

University of Cincinnati

College-Conservatory of Music

Preparatory Department Brass Choir

Paul Hillner, Conductor

GEORGE GERSHWIN

MUSIC HALL SALUTE

Arranged by Kan Sawada

(Based on SWANEE)

Edwin Uhey, Soloist

MILDRED J. HILL AND

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

PATTY SMITH HILL

Arranged by Steve Reineke

Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra

May Festival Youth Chorus

*School for the Creative and Performing Arts
Children's Choir*

St. Francis Seraph Youth Choir

Sarah Ioannides, Conductor

Cincinnati Ballet Venture Dancers of the Otto M. Budig Academy

Daniel Simmons, Director

The *Venture Program* is a pre-professional training program comprised of full-time students from the Level V and VI classes at the Otto M. Budig Academy of Cincinnati Ballet. The program enables students interested in a career in classical ballet to garner the experience of working on classical repertoire, while also introducing them to other forms of dance and theater. Along with classical ballet, students learn different styles of dance, including jazz, modern, flamenco, and musical theater. Dancers of the *Venture Program* have performed as featured guests with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Northern Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, and at a variety of community galas and social functions.

Venture Dancers

Heather Liberman	Cincinnati Ballet Trainee and Venture Dancer
Kelly Whitaker	Cincinnati Ballet Trainee and Venture Dancer
Sheilah Queener	
Ashley Roberts	
Emily Scott	
Eliza Kelly-Swift	
Carol Tang	
Allison Whitaker	

Other Members of the Budig Academy of Cincinnati Ballet

Cathryn Lacy
Shannon Sinclair

Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra ***Sarah Ioannides, Conductor***

A vital part of Cincinnati's musical culture since its beginning in 1964, the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra (CSYO) is the city's premier ensemble for talented high school orchestral musicians. The CSYO is dedicated to the cultivation of young talent and provides outstanding instrumental students the opportunity to perform repertoire not always available to them in their area schools. Under the auspices of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, CSYO members cultivate an appreciation for the arts and learn the value of excellence and discipline that they take back to their individual school programs. Students attend CSO concerts at Music Hall, study with CSO musicians in sectionals held several times throughout the season, and perform their own concerts often with peer soloists. Students graduate to become professional symphony orchestra members, music educators, non-professional musicians, and advocates of the arts.

The CSYO was founded in 1964 as the Cincinnati Youth Orchestra by Max Rudolf, Music Director of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and area music educators, who recognized the importance of providing talented young musicians with the opportunity for serious training and extensive orchestral experience. The first conductor of the CSYO was Sigmund Efron, CSO concertmaster, who was convinced that "it was vitally important to the community and to these youngsters that they meet other young people of the same interest" and that they have "an opportunity to play in a symphonic group which devotes itself to the works of the great masters."

Sigmund Efron guided the CSYO until 1970, when he was followed by a series of distinguished conductors: in 1970 by Dr. Robert Cowden, who taught at the College-Conservatory of Music and eventually headed its Music Education Division; in 1976 by David Stahl, who had served as Assistant Conductor of the New York Philharmonic under Leonard Bernstein, was appointed the Exxon/Arts Endowment Conductor of the CSO, and became the Music Director of the St. Louis Philharmonic; in 1979 by H. Teri Murai, a CCM faculty member and accomplished percussionist, who became the Music Director of the Symphony and Concert Orchestras at the Peabody Conservatory of Music; and in 1991 by Keith Lockhart, former Associate Conductor of the CSO and Music Director of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. Maestro Lockhart became the conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra in 1995. In 1993, the CSYO welcomed Elizabeth Stoyanovich as Music Director. In January 1997, Chelsea Tipton, II, doctoral candidate at CCM and former CSYO Coordinator, became the seventh Music Director. September 1999 brought the arrival of Alastair Willis who served as the eighth Music Director of CSYO and also the Assistant Conductor of the CSO. In 2000, José-Luis Novo joined the CSO as Assistant Conductor and ninth CSYO Music Director. In 2002 Sarah Ioannides became the Conductor of the CSYO as well as the Assistant Conductor for the CSO.

Now in its 39th season, the 2002-03 Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra is made up of 101 musicians from high schools in southwestern Ohio, northern Kentucky, and southeastern Indiana.

Violins

Joseph Maile,
Concertmaster
Laura Belland
Carolynn Billman
Lauren Buchakjian
Marie Buldain
Agatha Clixby
Michael Davis
Annabelle Estera
Allyson Gray
Jacob Haney
Jacob Hanna
Jeff Hentschel
Amy Kim
Addison Kimmel
Lois Kwa
Andrea Lee
Danielle McNeil
Sarah Michael
Arun Nagaraj
Shastin Purvis
Abby Quin
Rose Reidmiller
Kristin Ruthemeyer
Lauren Schloemer
Emily Schroer
Katie Sluka
Nicole Smile
Megan Smith
Emma Sutton
Nilani Thiyagarajah
Claire Timmerman
Maile Tilden
Annie Wang
Kristin Weber
Laura Weeks
Albert Wu
Anna Wu
Ryan Zhang

Flutes

Christina Durchholz
Christopher Matthews
Emily Michael
Morrigan O'Brien

Violas

Adam Neeley*
Elizabeth Adams
Carrie Campbell
Julie Chapman
Victoria Cheu
Amanda Hall
Mark Johnson
Elise Kaminsky
Abbe Schriber
Sarah Slavick
Alex Smith
Carroll Wallace

Violincellos

Kameron Schlachter*
Caia Black
Sean Duncan
Sarah Gardner
Emily Greenberg
Tim Kwan
Colin Lambert
Lauren Latessa
Andrea Nadel
Vesper Williams

Basses

Tristan Sutton*
Ann Wood Driscoll
Adam Jeranek
Charity Kennedy
Petr Manto
Alix Reynolds
Gerald Torres
Richard Winkelmann

Harp

Kathryn Wigger

Oboes

Ryan Hendrickson
Lindsey Merz
Karen Rubush
Scott Turner

Clarinets

Zachary Baharov
Ronnie Hill
Rachel Taylor
Nichole Upchurch

Bassoons

Brian Flynn
Dana Lutt
Ben Moermond
Kristin Rude

French Horns

Megan Barclay
Katie Herman
Patrick Hines
Nathan Smith
Catherine Turner

Trumpets

Alan Bothe
Kevin Lynch
Andy Minge
Wesley Sparkes

Trombones

Alan James
Alan Keller

Bass Trombone

Andrew Fowler

Tuba

Deepak Bal

Percussion

Lee Joy
Ralph McClinton
Joey Schneider
Tim Viars

*denotes first chair

May Festival Youth Chorus
James Bagwell, Director
Marilyn Libbin, Assistant Director

Soprano

Megan Aylward
Talia Broering
Megan Callahan
Anne Donnellon
Katelin French
Jenifer Hatch
Katherine Hensey
Meredith Hohe
Kelly Holterhoff
Katie Johnson
Alex Kesman
Erin Kiley
Sara Krehbiel
Christine Ledden
Gina Lin
Ariel Matthys
Stacey Erin Sands
Nicole Stein
Katie Troller
Kimberly Wilburn

Tenor

Victor Burkhart
Will Cole
Jesse Draud
Dennis Fiser
Zach Kazior
R. T. Moore
Michael Tindall
Jeremy Williams

Alto

Jane Cheng
Alicia Falcón
Rachel Fisher
Olivia Johnson
Olivia Lewis
Charlotte Loflin
Caitlin Mosley
Rebecca Newcomer
Anna Ryan
Molly Scruta
Kimberly Stern
Amy Stollberg
Margaret Vennemeyer
Catherine Vermeersch
Brittany Wheeler
Corey Zacharias

Bass

Jefferey Berger
Colin Brush
John Callison
Mike Casey
Michael Dauterman
Lytle Germann
Paul Henrich
Michael May
David Schaengold
Patrick Stoutenborough
Chris Vaught
Michael Weigand
Dean Willis

North Avondale Montessori Choir
Wesley Barnfield, Director

Harris Atha-Simonton
Haviland Atha-Simonton
Olivia Bauer-Nilsen
Camille Borders
Candace Borders
Dajhani Brown
Madelynne Campbell
Cesseli Chambers
Tia Curd
Adrienne Curry-Ziegler
Erin Curry-Ziegler
Mykal DeRamus
Naomi DeRamus
Madelon Dickerson
Jessica Donaldson
Deja Evans
Nicholas Farnham
Oriana Farnham
Gabrielle Feldman
Amir Gantt
Anna Gardiner
Ben Ghosh
Sharina Harris
Paris Hill
Brigid Iverson
Katie Johnson
Mikol Joiner
David Keller
Nathaniel Lampley
André Lewis

Raykell Lewis
Brandon Mack
DaMarcus Matthews
Jayde Mauldin
Sophia Melnyk
Anna Mendlein
Samantha Meyung
Marvin Montgomery
Taylor Mosley
Alex Muni
Max Nemhauser
Carol Newbauer
Amhad Pouncey
Katherine Rhame
Elijah Rion
Helen Roberts
Ashley Robinson
Emily Roemhild
Anna Rosenberg
Emma Schatz
Ziva Schatz
Alexis Schramm
Akili Smith Washington
Jeremy Smitherman
Nicholas Sonnenberg
Owen Sonnenberg
Anne Sostok
Alexis Thompson
Victoria Thompson
Adrienne Tong

Over the Rhine Youth Steel Drum Band
Avery Hammonds and Betsey Zenk, Instructors

Ashley Brown
Kenny Brown
Niesha Clark
David Darden

Demico Dunn
Ashley Freeny
Kerry Gordon
Jaquize Grant

St. Francis Seraph Choir
Beverly Toon, Director

Tyania Baggett
Passion Bush
Stanyell Chancellor
Donisha Collis
Raven Frazier
Nigel Harris
Kameron Harrison
Yael Israel
Shantina Kelley
Feneshia McCrary

Robert Menefield
Tiara Peeples
Marnai Powell
Bri'Yona Ragland
Tiara Ragland
Marvin Reeves
Jasmine Smith
Ashley Thompson
Diamond Trimble
Diedre' Walker-Flack

University of Cincinnati
College-Conservatory of Music
Preparatory Department Brass Choir
Paul Hillner, Conductor

Trumpets

Kevin Lynch
Andy Minge
Molly McPheron
Anthony Cavanaugh
Alex Price

Tuba

Matt Brumbach

Trombones

Alan Keller
Mitch Roeleck
Andrew Fowler

Horns

Magan Barclay
Katie Herman
Patrick Hines
Catherine Turner
Jared Kreuger

Euphoniums

Mike Hartglass
Mike McClanahan

School for the Creative and Performing Arts Children's Choir

Laurie Wyant, Director

Tyler Abbatiello
Danielle Adams
Michelle Anderson
Alexandria Baldwin
Keenan Barron
Sidney Baskin
Shovon Bell
Darin Bontrager
Kaylah Burton
Rosie Carson
Nicholas Castle
Holly Chernay
Kendra Childress
Amy Counts
Jeanetta Crawford
Sheenah Crawford
Laura Dent
David Deye
Chloe Dressel
Mackenzie Duan
Matthew Dunigan
Simeon Ellis
Maleah Eubanks
Daniel Ferrell
Jonathan Fieweger
Jennifer Fitzwater
Kayla Fowler
Jessica Gallatin
Alfred Gover
Kaitlyn Hamilton-Meier
Brooke Hiedler
Brooke Hines
Laurie Hoeweler
Brooke A. Howard

Chelsea Irvin
Kayla Isaacs
Shaeera Jackson
Courtney James
Matthew Jarosezewicz
Anna Johnson
Clare Jungkunz
Jacqueline Kitzmiller
Brittany Lucas
Nikiti Mamedov
Erin McAfee
Audrey McLain
Dustin Miller
Richard Miller
Tara Niemeyer
Lucia Pattullo
Ameera Perkins
William Pope
Courtnei Prince
Lacey Robinson
Jessica Sassler
Katlyn Stephens
Shyra Stinson
Terra Strong
Tess Talbot
Alyssa Theuerling
Christian Vannasdall
Rebecca Vonderchek
Kara West
Jessica Wilson
Mikela Woolfork
Raven Young
Nicholas Zerafa

Edwin Uhey, Soloist

Tenor Edwin Uhey earned his music degree at Western Kentucky University and was a winner of the Metropolitan Opera regional and district competitions of the Upper Midwest. His professional operatic experience includes: Elder Gleaton in *Susannah*; Larry/Matt in *Face on the Barroom Floor*; Beppe in *Pagliacci*; Pang in *Turandot*; Fiorello in *The Barber of Seville*; Tony in *Master Class*; and Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet*. Edwin was a finalist in the 2002 Utah District Metropolitan Opera auditions and was invited to sing at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, London, December, 2002.

Courtis Fuller, Emcee

Recognized as a broadcast journalist, community advocate, and motivational speaker, Courtis' successful career has allowed him to positively impact the lives of thousands of people. In 2001, Courtis added another item to his long list of accomplishments when he ran for mayor of Cincinnati.

His journalism career began over two decades ago and, ever since, countless individuals and organizations have recognized his efforts and accomplishments. It's easy to understand how he once earned the title of "Cincinnati's Favorite TV Personality" from the Broadcast Hall of Fame. The community leader is an award-winning 22-year veteran newsman who has been volunteering in the trenches of numerous Tri-State communities since shortly after he joined the parent company of WLWT-TV in 1987. Courtis was one of the leading longstanding journalists at the NBC affiliate where he was co-anchor of the weeknight Eyewitness News Five nightly newscasts. He was also the host and producer of the show "Issues Cincinnati," voted the Best Public Affairs Program by the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists and recognized for outstanding achievement by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Courtis is now the host of a new talk show on 1480 WCIN radio in Cincinnati, and president of his own media relations firm.

During the course of his career he has been honored with the Bethune-Cookman College Distinguished Leadership Award, the Miami University Service Award, Cincinnati NAACP's Wright-Overstreet Leadership Award, and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Leadership Award from various organizations for his leadership and commitment to community service.

Mackenzie Duan, Emcee

Mackenzie Duan, nine years old, is in the fifth grade at the School for the Creative and Performing Arts. She is a Vocal, Musical Theater, and Drama Major. Mackenzie has performed with the Cincinnati Opera and the Cincinnati Pops along with other local productions. She hopes to someday perform on Broadway.

Michael D'Ambrosio, Composer

Michael D'Ambrosio is a graduate of Lehigh University and holds a Master of Music degree from the College-Conservatory of Music where he is currently pursuing a D.M.A. in composition. Originally from Long Island, New York, Michael has already won several awards for his musical compositions. His latest project is a piece for wind ensemble to commemorate CCM conductor Terrance Milligan's twenty-fifth year at the institution.

William Owen Menefield, Composer

William Owen Menefield is currently a student at the College-Conservatory of Music. Recently he was named as the Taft Museum's Duncanson Artist in Residence and in 1999 he was selected by the Cincinnati Arts Association to receive recognition as their Emerging Artist. A graduate of the School for the Creative and Performing Arts, William is finishing work on his second CD which will be released shortly.

Cincinnati's Music Hall – Forever New

Famed for its imposing architecture, brilliant acoustics, and colorful history, Cincinnati's Music Hall is truly forever new. Defying the ravages of time, periods of community apathy, competition from later structures, and occasional perceptions of irrelevance, Music Hall today stands proud as one of the city's best-loved icons.

Reviewing its history, one cannot help but be amazed at the myriad of uses to which Music Hall has been placed. Originally completed in 1878 as the home of the Cincinnati May Festival and as an industrial exposition hall, it hosted the 1880 Democratic National Convention and the 1888 Centennial Exposition. It served as the first home of the Technical School of Engineering (now the University of Cincinnati College of Engineering) and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music (now University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music). It was the former home of University of Cincinnati basketball and housed the first educational television station in America (WCET). A riding school used the entire floor of the auditorium in 1890. Innumerable proms and graduations have been held under its roof. Local heroes and national leaders have been eulogized in these halls. It currently serves as the home of the Cincinnati May Festival, the Cincinnati Opera, and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

The list of luminaries who have graced the stage and the wings of Music Hall is no less a study in contrasts. Thomas Alva Edison was honored here, William Jennings Bryant orated here, and Billy Sunday preached here. Buster Crabbe swam and Gorgeous George wrestled before admiring audiences. Imagine if all of the performers from Music Hall's past were gathered together for this tribute. Where else could one see on the same stage Luciano Pavarotti, Mikhael Baryshnikov, John Phillip Sousa, the Glenn Miller Band, Tony Bennett, Beverly Sills, Leontyne Price, Richard Strauss, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Elton John, Janis Joplin, The Who, Eric Clapton, Ella Fitzgerald, Maria Callas, Jose Carreras, Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Count Basie, Red Skelton, Jerry Seinfeld, Tim Allen, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Bill Cosby, Garrison Keillor, Frank Sinatra, Igor Stravinsky, Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Isaac Stern, Pinchas Zuckerman, Yo-Yo Ma, Jessye Norman, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, David Copperfield, the Bolshoi Ballet, and Phish, among many, many more.

Despite the overwhelming magnificence of the building's architecture, the variety of events that occurred here, and the performers whose lingering presence is still felt within these walls, Music Hall's future was at times uncertain. During the mid-20th century, financial hardships and neighborhood problems led to physical deterioration of the building. Calls for its demolition fortunately went unheeded. Beginning in 1969, the Corbett Foundation led the way in the restoration of Music Hall. Major renovations were completed in 1975, but efforts are ongoing. The most recent endeavor is the construction of new Cincinnati Opera offices, rehearsal halls, and performing space in the North Wing, and the expansion of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra offices in the South Wing. In 1975, Music Hall was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a National Historic Landmark.

In 1978, Cincinnati historian Zane L. Miller wrote that "...historical perspective offers encouragement. The past is past, and just as Music Hall, its neighborhood, city and the metropolis of the late 19th century differed from those of the mid-20th century, so too will those of the late 20th century differ from those of the mid-20th century." To this I might add that the early 21st century continues to offer the same encouragement. Music Hall is celebrating its 125th birthday and, as time has shown, it continues to be "Forever New."

Marlesa A. Gray, 2003

SOURCES

Ashley L. Ford, Compiler, *Cincinnati's Music Hall: A Brief History of the Grand Old Lady of Elm Street, in Timeline Form* (Cincinnati: Society for the Preservation of Music Hall, 1998).

Zane L. Miller, George F. Roth, AIA, with an Introduction by Luke Feck, *Cincinnati's Music Hall* (Virginia Beach: Jordan & Company, 1978).

Society for the Preservation of Music Hall Board of Trustees

OFFICERS

Norma Petersen, President
Barbara Harshman, Vice-President
Sylvia Benjamin, Vice-President
Karen McKim, Recording Secretary
Joyce Holmes, Co-corresponding Secretary
Sue Sommer, Co-corresponding Secretary
Julia C. Stephen, Treasurer
Joyce Van Wye, Assistant Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Barbara Boyd
Thomas F. Buck
Paul Darwish
Joel Ebersole
Barbara Hahn
Robert Howes
Mace Justice
Mark Kallick
Eileen Knollman
Walter Langsam
Dorothy R. Lewis
Cynthia Mulhauser
J. T. Osterman
Claire B. Phillips
Rosemary Schlachter
Martha Seaman
Ethan B. Stanley

CO-FOUNDERS

Jean Reis
Joyce Van Wye

LIFE MEMBERS

Patricia A. Corbett
Louise Dieterle Nippert

PAST PRESIDENTS/ADVISORS

Marlene Johnson
Melvin Schulman
Joyce Van Wye

ADVISORY/LIAISON

Richard Diehl – Music Hall
Janet Taylor - CAA

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hon. Charlie Luken
Charles Westheimer

Cincinnati Arts Association Board of Trustees

OFFICERS

Dudley S. Taft, Chair
Michael K. Keating, Vice Chair
Donald Siekmann, Treasurer
Edward G. Marks, Secretary
Stephen A. Loftin, President and Executive Director

Stanley J. Aronoff
John F. Barrett
Otto M. Budig
Lee A. Carter
Lauren Chesley Cohen
Patricia A. Corbett
J. Stephen Dobbins
John Dowlin – Ex-Officio
Penny Friedman
Barbara Gould
Judith Green
Thomas D. Heekin
Stanley M. Kaplan
William J. Keating – Emeritus
Jerry Kirby
Phillip C. Long
Charlie Luken – Ex-Officio
Craig Maier
Marjorie Marx
Rhoda Mayerson
Howard Pecquet
Ronald Roberts
Yvonne Robertson
Melvin Schulman
Christopher Sehning
Merri Gaither Smith
Kathy Wade
Debie Crosset Warkany
David F. Westerbeck