

**HOW**  
**THE ALL-MIAMI YOUTH SYMPHONY**  
**BECAME**  
**THE GREATER MIAMI YOUTH SYMPHONY**

prepared for the  
**Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
of the  
**The Greater Miami Youth Symphony**  
**March 12, 2003**

**Sharon K. Higgins**  
**March 7, 2003**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
GREATER MIAMI YOUTH SYMPHONY**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

**AGENDA**

- I- Call to order.**
- II- Opening remarks.**
- III- Presentation of Executive Board.**
- IV- Approval of previous minutes.**
- V- Report of the treasurer.**
- VI- Report of the Grant Committee.**
- VII- New Business.**
  - A. Determination of Cleopatra's status within GMYS.**
  - B. Discussion of Music Director's position.**
  - C. Nominating Raymond Lim as Concert Orchestra Conductor.**
  - D. Discussion of possible trip to Costa Rica in 2004 and selection of an organizing committee.**
  - E. Nominating Committee for the purpose of submitting a list of candidates for the Board of Trustees and a slate of officers for the Executive Board.**
  - F. To require Symphony conductor to determine music to be played at start of next season by no later than May 31<sup>st</sup> and post sections on the website for auditioning purposes.**
  - G. Presentation of historical information related to GMYS for the purpose of determining if changes are required to the current version.**
- VIII- Adjourn.**

## **How the All-Miami Youth Symphony Became the Greater Miami Youth Symphony**

The All-Miami Youth Symphony (AMYS) was founded in August 1958 by Robert Strassburg. His intention was to provide a training ground for the talented young musicians of Dade County by supplementing the orchestral programs of the public schools. At that time, there was no youth symphony in existence in Miami. Strassburg also created a group comprised of parents and members of the community to support the orchestra that he called "The Friends of the All-Miami Youth Symphony." The AMYS met weekly during the school year and gave regular public performances. By 1961, just as all his hard work in establishing the orchestra was resulting in acclaim, Strassburg resigned as conductor because of friction that had arisen between him and the Friends.

After Strassburg's departure, Robert Laurence, then orchestra director at Miami Edison High School, was selected by the Friends in 1962 to lead the AMYS. It was during his tenure, that the orchestra became a "semi-subsidiary" of the University of Miami (UM) School of Music. Warren Signor succeeded Laurence as AMYS conductor in 1965. By June 1966, the AMYS was absorbed into the UM School of Music's Preparatory Division, a pre-conservatory program for junior and senior high school students, founded and headed by Dr. Lucas Drew. During the orchestra's first season as part of the Prep Division (1966-1967), the renowned Frederick Fennell was conductor and Philip Fink was assistant conductor. Philip Fink and a succession of School of Music faculty members and graduate students followed Dr. Fennell. During this period, the AMYS made a highly successful goodwill tour to Bogota, Colombia in 1969.

In 1972, while still a part of the UM School of Music Division of Musical Arts (formerly the Prep Division) the name of the orchestra was changed to "The Greater Miami Youth Symphony" by its newly appointed conductor, Dr. Charles Campbell, a member of the music faculty. According to Dr. Drew, Dr. Campbell did not care for the name "All-Miami" and thought that "Greater Miami" sounded better and he also wanted to put his "own stamp" on the orchestra. Henceforth, the ensemble was known as "The Greater Miami Youth Symphony" (GMYS) but it was still the same organization. By the 1975-1976 season, due to the expansion of the UM School of Music, the administration decided to abolish the Division of Musical Arts, necessitating the severance of its relationship with the GMYS.

The time immediately following its separation from the university was one of turmoil and uncertainty. Dr. Robert Bobo, who had been conductor of the orchestra from 1969 to 1971, returned as music director. According to Dr. Drew, Dr. Bobo deserves credit for saving the orchestra and seeing it through the difficulties incurred in the aftermath of the separation. One of the most pressing problems was to find a "home" for the orchestra. For a very brief time during the spring semester of 1976, the GMYS was offered rehearsal and storage space at no cost by Florida International University (FIU), but according to Dr. Philip Fink, who was head of FIU's music department and well acquainted with Dr. Bobo, the orchestra's board refused the offer because there was so much bad feeling after the orchestra's separation from UM, they were reluctant to become involved with another university.

It was during the 1976 – 1977 season, as the GMYS was struggling to establish itself as an independent entity that Caesar LaMonaca's name first appeared in its programs. A careful examination of these programs dated December 18, 1976, March 22, 1977 and June 12, 1977, indicates that some manipulation of fact took place. It is not possible to determine who did it or why, but only that some alterations were made.

In the program notes of the December 1976 program, it is correctly stated that the orchestra was in its eighteenth season and listed Robert Strassburg first among previous conductors. According to the second of these programs, the orchestra was still in its eighteenth season, but Caesar LaMonaca's name was inserted ahead of Strassburg's with the years 1949-1954 given as the dates of his purported conductorship. Then in the third program, dated June 12, 1977, the orchestra was suddenly in its 25<sup>th</sup> season, with LaMonaca's leadership from 1952-1954. The dates attributed to LaMonaca are inconsistent in both 1977 programs and the math does not agree with the supposed years of the orchestra's existence.

Caesar LaMonaca did indeed have a youth orchestra, but its dates, as is known from the Dahlenburg dissertation, were from 1946 to 1955. It met only in the summer under the auspices of the Dade County Parks and Recreation Department and usually gave two concerts a season at the Bayfront Park Band Shell, one in July and one in August. The 1952 date that the GMYS has come to believe as the year of its founding by LaMonaca, is based on an erroneous story that appeared in the August 1, 1952 issue of *The Miami Daily News*. Whoever wrote the copy that accompanied the photographs of LaMonaca's youth orchestra in concert at the bandshell, mistook its season debut for its premiere performance. Nowhere in this article is LaMonaca's youth orchestra ever referred to as the GMYS. There are other news items from both Miami papers, one in 1953 announcing auditions for the orchestra's seventh season and one from 1955 about the orchestra's tenth anniversary, which uphold the 1946-1955 dates.

There was absolutely no connection between LaMonaca and Strassburg as individuals or their youth orchestras. LaMonaca was a much admired figure in Miami and several AMYS conductors, including Warren Signor, Philip Fink, and Robert Bobo, had played in his band. Dr. Drew commented that the decision to attribute the orchestra's founding to LaMonaca might have been made by Dr. Bobo as a tribute because he and Mrs. Bobo had both been in LaMonaca's band and they were all good friends. The move to link the orchestra to LaMonaca came at a time of difficulty and opposition to its existence by several high school music teachers, so it is possible that there was also hope that there would be a benefit to the orchestra in using LaMonaca's name and making the orchestra appear older than it was. Unfortunately, it was not right to have deprived Strassburg of the credit due him for his efforts as originator of the orchestra of its true history. By acknowledging Strassburg as founder and 1958 as the year of its beginning, the GMYS recovers its accomplished past, reclaims all its alumni, many of whom have achieved significant careers in music, and still remains the oldest youth symphony in continuous existence in Miami-Dade County and one of the oldest in Florida.



**ROBERT STRASSBURG, DFA**

(1915- )

3394-B Punta Alta

Laguna Hills, California 92653

Telephone: 949-770-1374 Fax: 949-855-9440

Robert Strassburg was well known to Miami audiences during the 1950s as the music director of the Festival of the Americas, Miami's "Composer of the Year" in 1955, and as conductor of several community orchestras. He was a member of the University of Miami's humanities faculty. A student of Paul Hindemith, he earned a bachelor of music from the New England Conservatory and a master of arts from Harvard and was awarded a MacDowell Fellowship in 1946. He founded the All-Miami Youth Symphony in 1958 and was its conductor until 1961. After moving to California, he earned his doctorate and enjoyed a distinguished academic career of more than thirty years. Currently Strassburg is professor *emeritus* of music at California State University-Los Angeles and is internationally known as a composer, conductor and Walt Whitman scholar.

**CAESAR LaMONACA**

(1886-1980)

Caesar LaMonaca was born in San Severo, Italy and began studying music at the age of six. He came to the United States in 1901. After touring with various bands, he was named director of the Famous Royal Italian Band at the age of eighteen. He came to Miami in the early 1920s to conduct a band at the Roman Pools and by 1924 was director of the Hollywood, Florida municipal band. LaMonaca accepted an offer to return to Miami in 1926 and in 1929, he became music director of the Harvey Seeds American Legion Post band, which he led for twenty years. In 1931, LaMonaca formed the Greater Miami Boys Drum and Bugle Corps, which he headed until 1955. The popular free Bayfront Park band concerts, which were given during the winter season for forty-eight years and for which LaMonaca is best remembered, started in 1930.

**ROBERT BOBO, DMA**

(1925-2000)

Robert Bobo received a bachelor's degree from Juilliard, a master of arts from Columbia and a doctor of musical arts from the University of Miami. He spent his professional career in Miami and New York, playing French horn with the Miami Philharmonic, the Fort Lauderdale Symphony, the New York City Opera and Ballet and the New York Philharmonic. As a music educator, he was on the faculty of the University of Miami and taught in the Dade County school system for twenty-six years. In addition to conducting the All-Miami Youth Symphony, he also conducted All-State junior and senior school orchestras. In January 2003, the Florida Orchestra Association honored him posthumously for his contributions to music education.

## SOURCES

*The Miami Daily News*, "Pictures of the Day: Honest Toil – Youth Symphony in Debut," August 1, 1952

*The Miami Daily News*, "Youth Called for Try-Outs in Orchestra," June 28, 1953

*The Miami Herald*, "Young Folks Devote Vacations to Music," August 14, 1955

Dahlenburg, William J., *Music in the Culture of Miami: 1920-1966* (Ann Arbor: University Microfilms, Inc., 1967) 154-157.

*The Miami Herald*, "The All-Miami Youth Symphony has been renamed the Greater Miami Youth Symphony Orchestra," November 24, 1972

## INTERVIEWS:

Elizabeth S. Bobo (Mrs. Robert Bobo), Inglis, Florida

Sam Boldrick, Reference Librarian, Miami-Dade Public Library, Miami, Florida

Dr. Norman Brenneis, Melbourne, Florida  
(Father of Susan Brenneis Fischer)

Mrs. Ricky Caminiti, Hallandale, Florida  
(Member, GMYS Board of Trustees, 1979-1980)

Dr. Lucas Drew, Flagler Beach, Florida  
(Founder & Head of UM School of Music Preparatory Division)

Dr. Philip Fink, Tampa, Florida  
(AMYS Conductor 1967-1968, Head of FIU Music Department, 1976)

Susan Brenneis Fisher, Youngstown, Ohio  
(GMYS concertmistress 1976-1977)

Irwin & Charlotte Futerfas, Miami, Florida  
(President & member, GMYS Board of Trustees, 1977)

Dr. Ruth Greenfield, Miami, Florida  
(Current Member, GMYS Board of Trustees)

Craig Likness, UM Richter Library - Special Collections, Coral Gables, Florida

**Arthur Schneebalg**  
(AMYS Alumnus)

**Dr. Constance Weldon, Beech Mountain, North Carolina**  
(Member of LaMonaca's Youth Orchestra 1946-1949, Assistant Conductor of LaMonaca Youth Orchestra, 1955)

**Joyce Wells, Miami, Florida**  
(President, GMYS Parent Board, 1976-1977)

**Nancy Zovac, UMSchool of Music Library, Coral Gables, Florida**

**NOTE: Contact information provided upon request.**

The All-Miami Youth Symphony became part of the University of Miami School of Music Preparatory Division in 1966. In 1969, the Preparatory Division changed its name to the Division of Musical Arts.

When University of Miami faculty member Dr. Charles Campbell was appointed conductor in 1972, he changed the orchestra's name to the Greater Miami Youth Symphony (GMYS), probably because he thought GMYS sounded better. In addition to the change of name, there were possible governing and legal changes. The orchestra was definitely the same group while part of the university.

The Division of Musical Arts was phased out at the end of the 1975-1976 school year. The collegiate program of the School of Music had grown and needed the limited space. The GMYS was no longer connected to the University of Miami.

I remember saying to colleagues that Dr. Robert Bobo deserves the credit for "saving the youth symphony." Possibly the dormant time of several months was due to the need to reorganize and find a new location to rehearse, etc. Dr. and Mrs. Bobo were close friends of Caesar LaMonaca's and played in his band, so placing LaMonaca's name first on the list of youth symphony conductors may have been intended as a tribute.

Beginning in the mid 1980s, I became less aware of the activities of the youth orchestra.



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Dr. Lucas Drew  
Professor of Music Emeritus (1959-2000)  
School of Music  
University of Miami

Founder-Director,  
UM School of Music  
Preparatory String Division (1962-1964)  
Preparatory Division (1964-1969)  
Division of Musical Arts (1969-1970)

Feb. 19, 2003

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Date

Ruth W. Greenfield, D.M.A.

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Miami, Florida 33136

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Fax 305 273 0072

To: Tony Fernandez, Pres., Exec. Board  
Greater Miami Youth Symphony  
From: Ruth Greenfield, Board member  
Re: The Founder of the All Miami  
Youth Symphony

I regret being unable to attend the meeting, Wednesday, March 12, 2003. In the matter of the Symphony's history which I understand will be discussed and voted upon, I trust you will include my vote for Robert Strassburg as the Founder in 1958 of the All Miami Youth Symphony. At that time Dr Strassburg was a friend and <sup>my</sup> Orchestration teacher. His Youth Symphony, to the best of my recollection, was the only one in existence. He was completely devoted to the growth of youthful musicians and deserves finally recognition for his pioneering with the Symphony. Later the Orchestra's name changed, however, he was there in its beginning and developing.

Yours, Ruth Greenfield 3/11/03

THE ORCHESTRA

- VIOLIN I
  - \*SUSAN BRENNELIS
  - BILL CRUZ
  - ROBERT WECHSLER
  - ALFRED SOSA
  - DORFEN HANRAHAN
  - DANIEL GOLDIAGEN
  - o FERNANDO LOPEZ
  - CARTER CULLEN
  - CLEOPATRA HOPE
- VIOLIN II
  - LAURA GAITHER
  - MARY JANE BENNER
  - LUIS GARCIA
  - IVIE ETKINS
  - MARISELA LOPEZ
  - STEVEN STEINER
  - PUBLICIO SANTANA
  - ANDRES VEGA
  - LINDA SCHWARZ
  - GEORGE MATOUS
- VIOLA
  - †LUCY WELLS
  - ELAINE BRADTKE
  - ELIZABETH RIVERO
  - SARA WELLS
- CELLO
  - † MARIA DEL REY
  - +GRACE FRANCIS
  - JIMMY DYE
  - LARRY HIEMENZ
  - ERIC McCLEAN
  - TINDER KURTZ
- BASS
  - JANET CLIPPARD
  - GREG MATOUS
  - ALBERT STELLMACH
  - BEN DREW
- FLUTE
  - BARBARA BOUTSIKARIS
  - CYNTHIA WALKER
  - BARBARA SCHEER
  - BARBARA WORTMAN
- PICCOLO
  - BARBARA SCHILLER
- OBOE
  - LORI KUDEVIZ
  - STEPHEN McNAIR
  - ROBERT LEMON
  - PAMELA MARKUS
- CLARINET
  - JOHN SPEROPOULOS
  - ALBERT CASSELHOFF
  - BUDDY RUTLEDGE
  - HAROLD LEWIS
  - CAROL LEVIN
- BASSOON
  - †DEANNA KORY
  - GEORGE SCHLAZER
  - TOM CHAPARAS
  - JENNIFER RIGNAULT
- HORN
  - †DIANE MACK
  - ROY LAWLER
  - o KENT BOBO
  - ERIC WALZER
  - LISA WALTER
- TRUMPET
  - CHRIS CHAPARAS
  - KURT HUTCHISON
  - RICHARD BOLLING
  - LEE WICHMANN
- TROMBONE
  - JON HUTCHISON
  - HELENE MEDOFF
  - ALAN FUTERFAS
  - DANA TEOBE
- TUBA
  - JUAN SEGERRA
- PERCUSSION
  - DAVID BARNHILL
  - ROBERT BYRNE
  - SEGIO ECHEZABAL
  - EUGENE GODSEY
- HARP
  - NELI ARASCAL

The Greater Miami  
 Youth Symphony  
 of  
 Dade County, Florida

Dr. Robert P. Bobo  
 Music Director

IN CONCERT

December 18, 1976  
 8 P.M.

Miami Senior High School Auditorium

## YOUTH SYMPHONY

The orchestra is now in its eighteenth year of training young musicians. Through various changes of location, name, administration and conductors, devotion to the art of music through performance has been the single unchanging core of the Youth Symphony.

Many people, parents, friends and administrators deserve credit for providing the opportunity for these students of instrumental music. Here is a listing of the previous conductors:

<i>Robert Strassburg</i> . . . . .	1959-1961
<i>Robert Lawrence</i> . . . . .	1961-1965
<i>Warren Signor</i> . . . . .	1965-1966
<i>Frederick Fennell</i> . . . . .	1966-1967
<i>Phillip Fink</i> . . . . .	1967-1968
<i>Paul Christianson</i> . . . . .	1968-1969
<i>Robert Bobo</i> . . . . .	1969-1971
<i>Willard Ray</i> . . . . .	1971-1972
<i>Charles Campbell</i> . . . . .	1972-1975

Approximately a third of the members of the current orchestra anticipate continuing the serious study of music in college. The Youth Symphony, quite logically, offers a path of experience for these young musicians to enter some part of the profession. The other two thirds of the group will quite likely grow into varied roles as community leaders, members of the governing boards of the Philharmonic, the Opera and other artistic activities. Most assuredly they will be part of the supporting audiences for these organizations.

Artistic experiences lift us from the common existence and cause us to want to share our finer moments with others. Playing in an orchestra such as this gives one an intimate feeling for music that many of the audience can never imagine. As a community investment, the Youth Symphony is of tremendous long range benefit to us all. It is our hope that the program that you are about to hear will also give immediate satisfaction to you, the critically important person, a member of our audience.

## PROGRAM

<i>Overture Theodora</i> . . . . .	G. F. Handel
Freely Transcribed and Arranged by Gordon Jacob	
<i>A Noyse of Minstrels</i> . . . . .	Gordon Jacob
Dedicated to the Croydon Youth Orchestra for their 25th Anniversary	
<i>B. Lucas Drew</i> — Guest Conductor	
<i>The Barber of Seville Overture</i> . . . . .	G. Rossini
<b>INTERMISSION</b>	
<i>Providebam Dominum</i> . . . . .	Orlando de Lassus
Antiphonal Brass from Side Balcony	
<i>St. Paul Suite — Jig</i> . . . . .	Gustav Holst
<i>B. Lucas Drew</i> — Guest Conductor	
<i>Symphony No. 2 in B Minor</i> . . . . .	A. Borodine
First Movement	

12-18-76



## SOLOISTS

Diane Mack, 17, horn, is a student of Elizabeth Bobo. She has performed with the All County Honor Orchestra for two years and was co-principal of the Florida All State High School Concert Orchestra this year. Recently she won first honors at the State level of the Florida Music Teachers Association. She has participated in recitals at the Miami Dade Music Club and at Miami Dade Community College Lighthouse Lively Arts Series. She is a senior at Coral Gables High School where she is an officer in the famed Gables Guild.

Deanna Kory, 17, bassoon, is a student of Maxine Wechsler. She has attended both the Florida Music Center and Interlochen National Music Camp. For the past three years she has been a member of the All State and All County musical organizations. She is vice president of the Greater Miami Youth Symphony and has been its principal bassoonist for two seasons. She is a member of the Silver Knight Nominee in Music from Coral Gables High School.

Laura Taylor, 17, soloist for the first movement of the Rachmaninoff Concerto No. 2, is a student of Rosalina Sackstein. She was the 1976 winner of the Florida State Music Teachers Association High School Auditions. She has performed with the Miami Youth Symphony and the Eastern Music Festival Student Orchestra in Greensboro, N.C. She is a scholarship recipient of the Miami Music Club. Laura is the Silver Knight Nominee from Westminster Christian School.

Gregory Taylor, 14, soloist for the second movement of the Rachmaninoff Concerto, a student of R.E.L. Chumbley. In the very short time he has been studying the piano, Greg has won district superiors for two consecutive years in the Florida Federation of Music Clubs, and superior in the solo category in 1976. He has received a Critics Circle Superior Plus rating in the National Guild of Piano Teachers and was selected to perform at the Miami Music Teachers Annual Honors Recital. Greg is a ninth grader at Miami Lakes Junior High School.

Daniel Lessner, 18, soloist for the third movement of the Rachmaninoff Concerto, is a student of Peggy Neighbor Erwin. Having studied since age four, he has become widely recognized as a brilliant and talented performer. He has performed with the Interlochen National Music Orchestra, as well as with the Miami Beach Symphony. Dan is a senior at Miami Palmetto High School and anticipates study at the Juilliard School of Music with Jefe Marcus.

★★★

The distinctive character of all friends and members is: "A sense of community marked by a lasting concern of one person for another and shared responsibilities for helping the Greater Miami Youth Symphony of Dade County achieve its highest aims."

# The Greater Miami Youth Symphony of Dade County, Florida

VI. I. Music Director  
Robert P. Bobo

VI. I. CONCERT  
March 22, 1977  
8 P.M.

DADE COUNTY AUDITORIUM

## YOUTH SYMPHONY

The orchestra is now in its eighteenth year of training young musicians. Through various changes of location, name, administration and conductors, devotion to the art of music through performance has been the single unchanging core of the Youth Symphony.

Many people, parents, friends and administrators deserve credit for providing the opportunity for these students of instrumental music. Here is a listing of the previous conductors:

Caesar LaMonaca	1949-1954
Robert Strassburg	1959-1961
Robert Lawrence	1961-1965
Warren Signor	1965-1966
Frederick Feinell	1966-1967
Phillip Fink	1967-1968
Paul Christianson	1968-1969
Robert P. Bobo	1969-1971
Willard Ray	1971-1972
Charles Campbell	1972-1975
Robert P. Bobo	1975-

Approximately a third of the members of the current orchestra anticipate continuing the serious study of music in college. The Youth Symphony, quite logically, offers a path of experience for these young musicians to enter some part of the profession. The other two thirds of the group will quite likely grow into varied roles as community leaders, members of the governing boards of the Philharmonic, the Opera and other artistic activities. Most assuredly they will be part of the supporting audiences for these organizations.

Artistic experiences lift us from the common existence and cause us to want to share our finer moments with others. Playing in an orchestra such as this gives us an intimate feeling for music that many of the audience can never imagine. As a community investment, the Youth Symphony is of tremendous long range benefit to us all. It is our hope that the program that you are about to hear will also give immediate satisfaction to you, the critically important person, a member of our audience.

## PROGRAM

Three Pieces from "The Damnation of Faust" . . . . . Hector Berlioz  
*The Minuet of the Will-O'-The-Wisps*  
*Dance of the Sylphs*  
*Hungarian March*

*Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor, First Movement* . . . . . J.S. Bach

Susan Brenneis and Gloria Cruz, Solo Violins

*Symphony Concertante for Double Bass and Piano* . . . . . K.D. Von Dittersdorf  
 First

Janet Clipp  
 Lucy Viola

*Symphony Concertante for Four Winds and Piano* . . . . . W.A. Mozart  
 First

Lori Kupper  
 John Sprockel  
 Deanna Klay  
 Diane Miller-Horn

## PROCLAMATION

Honorable Mayor Stephen J. Clark presents a Proclamation  
 — APRIL "YOUTH SYMPHONY MONTH" —

*Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Major* . . . . . S. Rachmaninoff

Soloist  
 Soloist  
 Soloist  
 Daniel Lessner

First Movement  
 Second Movement  
 Third Movement

3-22-77

The instrumental music for this occasion is made possible by funds supplied by the Recording Companies of America through the Music Performance Trust Funds, a public service organization created under agreement with the American Federation of Musicians.

— Concert Grand furnished by Binder Baldwin —  
 Programs — Combinations of K.A.R. Printing at Florida

# ORCHESTRA

VIOLINI  
 \*SUSAN BRENNEIS  
 BILL CRUIZ  
 ROBERT WECHSLER  
 AL FRED SOSA  
 DOREIN HANRAHAN  
 DANIEL GOLDHAGEN  
 \*FERNANDO LOPEZ  
 CLEOPATRA HOPE  
 EDDIE MARTINEZ  
 VIOLIN II  
 LAURA GAITHER  
 MARY JANE BENNER  
 LUIS GARCIA  
 IVIE ETKINS  
 MARISELA LOPEZ  
 STEVEN STEINER  
 PIIRLIO SANTANA  
 ANDRES VEGA  
 LINDA SWARTZ  
 GEORGE MATOUS  
 VIOLA  
 LUCY WELLS  
 ELAINE BRADTKE  
 ELIZABETH RIVERO  
 SARAH WELLS  
 CELLO  
 †MARIA DEL REY  
 †GRACE FRANCIS  
 JIMMY DYE  
 LARRY HIEMENZ  
 ERIC MacLEAN  
 TINDER KURTZ  
 JOHN YOUNGBLOOD

BASS  
 JANET CLIPPARD  
 GRFG MATOUS  
 ALBERT STELLMACH  
 BEN DREW

FLUTE  
 BARBARA BOUTSIKARIS  
 CYNTHIA WALKER  
 BARBARA SCHEER  
 BARBARA WORTMAN

PICCOLO

OBOE  
 LORI KUDEVIZ  
 STEPHEN McNAIR  
 ROBERT LEMON  
 PAMELA MARKUS  
 CLARINET  
 JOHN SPEROPOULOS  
 ALBERT CASSELHOFF  
 HAROLD LEWIS  
 CAROL LEVIN

BASSOON  
 †DEANNA KORY  
 GEORGE SCHLAZER  
 TOM CHAPARAS  
 JENNIFER RIGNAULT

HORN  
 †DIANE MACK  
 ROY LAWLER  
 \*KENT BOBO  
 ERIC WALZER  
 LISA WALTER

TRUMPET  
 CHRIS CHAPARAS  
 KURT HUTCHISON  
 RICHARD BOLLING  
 LEE WICHMANN

TROMBONE  
 JOHN HUTCHISON  
 HELENE MEDOFF  
 ALAN FUTERFAS  
 DANA TEOBE

TUBA  
 JUAN SEGERRA

PERCUSSION  
 DAVID BARNHILL  
 ROBERT BYRNE  
 SEGIO ECHEZABAL  
 EUGENE GODSEY  
 CARLOS VELASQUEZ

HARP  
 NELLI ABASCAL

“FREE CONCERT”

The Greater Miami  
 Youth Symphony  
 of  
 Dade County, Florida

Robert P. Bobo  
 Music Director

IN CONCERT

June 12, 1977  
 4:00 P.M.

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

The instrumental music for this occasion is made possible by funds supplied by the Recording Companies of America through the Music Performance Trust Funds, a public service organization created under agreements with the American Federation of Musicians.

# YOUTH SYMPHONY

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- Caesar LaMonaca . . . . . 1952-1954
- Robert Strassburg . . . . . 1959-1961
- Robert Lawrence . . . . . 1961-1965
- Warren Signor . . . . . 1965-1966
- Frederick Fennell . . . . . 1966-1967
- Phillip Fink . . . . . 1967-1968
- Paul Christianson . . . . . 1968-1969
- Robert P. Bobo . . . . . 1969-1971
- Willard Ray . . . . . 1971-1972
- Robert P. Bobo . . . . . 1975

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This Symphony Concert is dedicated to the adult community of Miami Beach, in appreciation for the lifetime of contributions they have made for the betterment of our community. The 70 young musicians and Dr. Bobo wish to thank them with our best concert of the season.

# PROGRAM

- Iphigenia and Aulis Overture* . . . . . Gluck
- Concerto for Four Horns and Orchestra* . . . . . Hubler  
Horn Quartet: Diane Mack, Kent Bobo, Lisa Walter and Roy Lawler
- Poem for Flute and Orchestra* . . . . . Griffes  
Lucas Drew, Guest Conductor - Barbara Boutsikaris, Soloist
- Symphony No. 8 in G Major* . . . . . Dvorak

6-12-71





FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

MUSIC IN THE CULTURE OF MIAMI: 1920-1966

by  
WILLIAM J. DAHLENBURG

A Dissertation  
Submitted to the Graduate School of  
Florida State University in partial  
fulfillment of the requirements for  
the degree of Doctor of Education

Approved:

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Dean of the Graduate School

August, 1967

Pennsylvania for one year, received the Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Colorado, the Master of Music degree from the University of Oregon, and completed further advanced studies at the University of Oregon. He had played "professionally under every major conductor in the last thirty years in this country." He conducted the Lake Charles Symphony from 1957 to 1961, and from 1963 to 1965 was Assistant Conductor to Fabien Sevitzyk. At this writing, in 1966, he was also personnel manager and principal violist of the Greater Miami Philharmonic.<sup>1</sup>

Caesar La Monaca organized the Greater Miami Youth Symphony Orchestra in 1946. There was little information concerning this organization with publicity being almost nil. In 1955, an article appeared in the Herald in which La Monaca mentioned that the orchestra had been formed as a "keep them off the street device."<sup>2</sup>

On this tenth anniversary La Monaca said that the orchestra was 80 strong with 25 strings, the rest being woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The orchestra was a summer project and rehearsed for two months and played two concerts

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<sup>1</sup>Signor letter.

<sup>2</sup>Miami Herald, August 14, 1955, n. p., Miami Public Library, Florida Collection.

every summer. The different sections rehearsed in various parts of the city in the city parks and assembled for the final rehearsals previous to the performance. Assisting Mr. La Monaca were his son, Caesar La Monaca, a horn player with the Houston Symphony; Constance Wildon, tuba player; and Artie Canonica, who rehearsed the strings.<sup>1</sup> "Most of them were high school students," he says, "but there were always a few younger, a few older. If they can read music and play fairly well, they're welcome."<sup>2</sup>

One of the representative youth orchestra programs that reflected the La Monaca winter programming of his professional band was the program scheduled for August 25, 1955.

The program will include Sousa's "Manhattan Beach," LeRoy Anderson's "Phantom Regiment," Goldman's "March Cheerio," and the four part "Atlantis Suite" by Safranek. . . . Neva Symes Morris has trained a small chorus which will perform principal numbers from "The King and I." Soloists will be the 15 year old soprano Susan Tallanoff and 17 year old tenor Keith Lawrence.<sup>3</sup>

The program did not mention whether or not the band would accompany the chorus and soloists.

In a letter dated August 1, 1966, Mr. La Monaca not only wrote about the Greater Miami Youth Symphony Orchestra, but made remarks about the history of some of the other youth orchestras.

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.



Answering your letter in regards to the Youth Orchestra, I founded it in 1946; it went on for ten years, sponsored by the city of Miami, for summer (3 months only), played average of three or four concerts during that time at Bayfront Park Bandshell, but frankly, to me it was a pain in the neck. I had about 60 boys and girls, the instrumentation did not balance, then we did not have the orchestra that the schools have now, so it was hard to find strings, then of course you know the youth of today, so I had the time of my life with them, to play those few concerts in order to sound like something. I had to fill in with some of my regular men. And after ten years I was so glad to get it over with.

Few years passed, and I believe around 1960 Robert Strasberg formed a Youth Orchestra, then a couple of years later Robert Lawrence was the Conductor. The parent organization was formed to back up the orchestra and this went well; only played one concert in December and one, I believe, in May. The instrumentation was pretty well balanced, and by this time we had quite a few orchestras in the high schools, in fact, Robert Lawrence was in charge of the orchestra and band at Edison High School, so that was a help. Two years ago Mr. Lawrence went out of town, and the parents wanted to keep up the rehearsals. I was the first one, John Bitter the second, etc. I asked them the question if they had any music. They told me that the Miami University loaned them the music, and being that I had quite a little music that I had gotten for my Youth orchestra, I told them that I would donate it to them, which was done, and they in turn at their annual dinner the end of May, invited us as honored guests, and to my surprise, presented me with a very beautiful plaque in the shape of a musical lyre, with the inscription, etc.

Then Mr. Lawrence (who at the last concert did not look any too well) resigned, and one of my violinists, Basil Warren Signor, who two years ago was concert master with the U. M. Symphony, and last year first viola and orchestra manager, took over, but being that the Miami University Symphony was divorced from the university, and are on their own, the university is using the youth orchestra with the addition of the university students. Frederick Fennell will be the

conductor. I don't think the parents' organization<sup>1</sup> will have much to say anymore (this is my opinion).

Another youth symphony, obscured by lack of publicity, was the Youth Symphony Orchestra. It was sponsored in 1955 by the county school system under the direction of Stefen Jones, a former bandmaster of Miami Jackson High School, and under the supervision of Howard A. Doolin, Supervisor of Music for the Dade Public Schools.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Doolin was interviewed in a signed article by Louise Blanchard of the News.

"Now that we know we have enough strings," he said happily, "we'll do fine. There are plenty of horns and woodwinds in Dade County--but I wasn't certain we'd have enough violins."

It'll be a week or so before the membership of the orchestra is established, Doolin said. Then it will meet for rehearsals every Saturday morning--strings alone from 9 to 10 a.m., and the full orchestra from 10 to 11:30.

He stopped and listened to the string section under Jones' practiced baton. "What do you know!" he said. "Sounds like a bunch of violins already."

The orchestra is being organized, Doolin said, to give advanced music pupils at any grade level "a chance to extend their musical opportunity," to increase students' interest in orchestras and symphonic literature, and to maintain a school orchestra for county events. To become and remain members of the orchestra, he said, pupils must maintain their musical achievements at their own schools.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> La Monaca letter, August 1, 1966.

<sup>2</sup> Miami News, October 16, 1955, n. p., Miami Public Library, Florida Collection.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

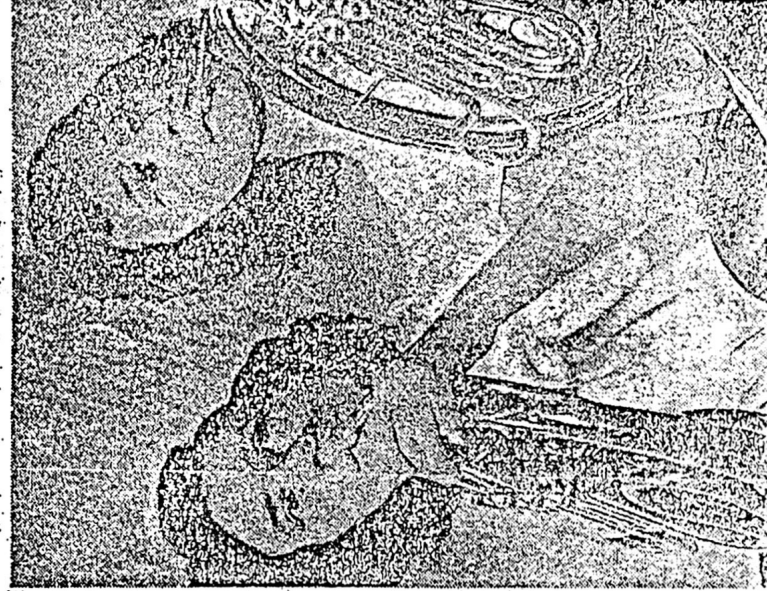
MIRIAM M. MOORE





**HONEST TOIL**

Who is this man, and what is he doing that brings such a glow of pride—and such streams of perspiration—to his eager face? It is Caesar LaMonaca, and he is conducting Miami's new Youth Symphony in its concert debut in Bayfront Park Bandshell last night. A dream of years come true for LaMonaca, the Youth Symphony began rehearsing for last night's performance about a month ago. There are 80 youngsters of junior and senior high school age in the unit, all with some training in music. At right, looking like a double exposure, are twins Annette (left) and Nannette Ratner, 14, who played French horns. The Youth Symphony is preparing for another concert on Aug. 28. Miami Daily News



**YOUTH SYMPHONY IN DEBUT**

Eyes intent on their leader, the young musicians whip up an accompaniment in the tight opera vein for a couple of singers. A full-fledged symphony orchestra, they obliged with an overture, some spirited marches, a waltz or two, all popular classics, and made a big hit with a novelty number, "The Waltzing Cat." Hundreds of music lovers turned out to hear the Youth Symphony, obviously not all parents or relatives of the performers. They applauded vigorously for all the youngsters' efforts. The Bayfront Park concerts are free and sponsored by the city.

**The Themes**

In 1952 LaMonaca's Youth Orchestra was in its 6th season

# Youth Called

## For Try-Outs

## In Orchestra

The Youth Symphony Orchestra, sponsored by the City of Miami Recreation Division and under the direction of Caesar LaMonaca, will begin rehearsals this week at Wyndwood and Shenandoah Parks.

LaMonaca announced that all youngsters are eligible to participate in the Youth Orchestra providing they can read music and have their own instruments.

### Dates Scheduled

Youngsters in the northwest and northeast sections of Miami who are interested in trying out for the orchestra are requested to report to Wyndwood Park, 3400 NW 1st Ave., at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday. Those residing in the southwest and southeast sections of the city are requested to report to Shenandoah Park, 1780 SW 21st Ave., at 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

LaMonaca said that rehearsals would be held weekly for the brass and woodwind sections at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Wyndwood Park and for the string section at 10:30 a.m. Thursdays and Fridays.

Only one rehearsal weekly is scheduled for Shenandoah Park—the brasses and woodwinds will practice at 10:30 a.m. Thursdays.

### Rehearsal Thursday

A general rehearsal will be held weekly at 7:45 p.m. Thursdays at Bayfront Park Bandshell.

The Youth Symphony Orchestra, now in its seventh season, will stage two concerts at Bayfront Park Bandshell this summer. The first concert will be held near the end of July and the final concert will be held in August. N. 6-28-53

LaMonaca will be assisted by violinist Artie Canonico.



IN MIAMI YOUTH SYMPHONY

# Young Folks Devote Vacations to Music

Eight or nine years ago two woodwind-playing youngsters met in Caesar LaMonaca's Greater Miami Youth Symphony Orchestra, which practices two months, then plays two concerts every summer.

They returned to the rehearsals several years running, grew up, got married, and two years after their marriage are still performing with the orchestra!

That's just one of the sagas connected with the Miami Youth Orchestra, which will wind up its 10th anniversary season with its final concert Thursday evening, Aug. 25, in Bayfront Park bandshell.

Dozens of Miami young people have devoted summer vacation after summer vacation to rehearsing and performing with this group, since LaMonaca conceived of the orchestra as a "keep 'em off the streets device" 10 years ago.

"Most of them are high school students," he says, "but there are always a few younger, a few older. If they can read music and play fairly well, they're welcome."

"And some of them get so devoted they won't stay away like that young married couple. We've had some that have been with the orchestra the entire 10 years."

The orchestra, about 80-strong this year, is composed of about 25 strings and the rest woodwinds and brasses.

The groups rehearse separately in city parks in various sections of the city, then get together for final rehearsals just previous to the concerts. This year LaMonaca has been



Caesar LaMonaca  
Constance Weldon  
... 10 years of good music

assisted with the rehearsals by Constance Weldon, tuba-player; Caesar LaMonaca, Jr., French horn player with the Houston Symphony, and Arlie Canolico, who has charge of the strings.

Miss Weldon will conduct two numbers on the August 25 program. H. 8-14-55

Netta Symes Morris has trained a small chorus which will perform principal numbers from "The King and I." Soloists will be 15-year-old soprano Susan Tallanoff and 17-year-old tenor Keith Lawrence.

The program will include Sousa's "Manhattan Beach," LeRoy Anderson's "Phantom Regiment," Goldman's "March Cheerio," and the four-part "Atlantis Suite" by Safranek.

The young singers will contribute light operatic and popular numbers.

NOV 24 1972 MUSIC-ORCH-YOUTH

The All-Miami Youth Symphony Orchestra has been renamed the Greater Miami Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Conducted by Dr. Charles Campbell, the orchestra is under the auspices of the University of Miami Division of Musical Arts.

Membership is open to all qualified instrumentalists of junior high, high school and college age.

Auditions are currently underway and those interested may apply by calling 284-2803.

The expanded program will consist of concerts, music lab reading sessions and appearances at schools throughout the county.

Campbell teaches trombone and theory composition at U-M, from which he earned his Ph.D in 1970.

★ ★ ★

Lucas Drew  
Judith Drew

Feb. 19, 2003

Dear Sharon,

Congratulations on your paper about the early history of the Greater Miami Youth Symphony. Your interest as well as the accuracy of your research is COMMENDABLE.

Thank you and best wishes,  
Lucas Drew

Nov. - May  
P.O. Box 1798  
Flagler Beach, FL 32136  
Phone & Fax (904) 445-6917  
(386)

lucasdrewbass@aol.com  
jdrewsoprano@aol.com

June - Oct.  
P.O. Box 116  
Scaly Mountain, NC 28775  
Phone & Fax (828) 526-4510



703 356

Fax 1733

To Sharon Higgins

From Ruth Greenwald

Re: Research -

Louie, a thoroughly  
scholarly and honorable  
individual. Reading your report  
confirms my belief that it could  
have only been Robert Strassburg  
at the helm. I remember him  
affectionately and appreciatively for  
his major teaching of orchestration -  
Thanks to him I completed  
the score for a Ballet performed  
during that time (1955)

Attached is the fax sent  
Tony Fernandez on 3/11/03

3/12/03



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April 9, 2003

Mr. Tony Fernandez  
President, Executive Board  
The Greater Miami Youth Symphony  
7425 SW 79<sup>th</sup> Court  
Miami, FL 33143-3918

Dear Tony:

I am writing to you by recommendation of Sharon Higgins, who is doing a paper on the history of the Greater Miami Youth Symphony Orchestra. My dear friend Robert Strassburg founded the orchestra under the original name of the All-Miami Youth Symphony.

I have been living in Miami since 1941 and know the history of both the Greater Miami Youth Symphony and of Mr. Caesar LaMonaca, and would like to tell you that there is absolutely no connection between the two. I used to sing on Friday nights with Caesar LaMonaca in the Bayfront Park Bandshell, which was a local pick-up orchestra, and received \$15-\$25 per night.

Robert Strassburg, who is a world-famous composer and pianist, was my voice teacher here in Miami. Dr. Strassburg was a contemporary of Leonard Bernstein and Lukas Foss in Tanglewood. We were very happy to have him in this community as a leading teacher and conductor.

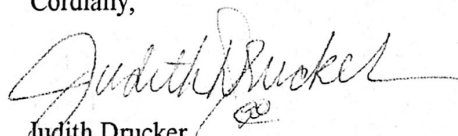
Dr. Strassburg is now 87 years old and lives in Los Angeles. He formed the original All-Miami Youth Symphony Orchestra, which today is called the Greater Miami Youth Symphony Orchestra. I believe the name was changed in 1972.

I can categorically say that Caesar LaMonaca was not the founder of this orchestra. I believe it is only right that you recognize Dr. Strassburg for his monumental efforts in founding what has turned out to be Miami's first viable Youth Symphony.

I certainly hope that you will notify the Board of Trustees of the GMYS as to the Orchestra's actual history. Incidentally, I am in contact with Dr. Strassburg and only two weeks ago he told me that indeed he had founded the orchestra.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Cordially,

  
Judith Drucker  
President

JD: joc

# Greater Miami Youth Symphony

A Total Community Project

POST OFFICE BOX 431125  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33143  
PHONE: 305-267-3002  
FAX: 305-273-0072  
www.gmys.org

May 15, 2003

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Laguna Hills, California 92653

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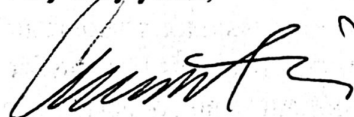
Dear Dr. Strassburg:

After lengthy and thorough investigations into the history of The Greater Miami Youth Symphony, we have been able to determine that the orchestra's origins are traceable to The All-Miami Youth Symphony you founded in 1958. Because of the name change that occurred in 1972, and unexplained subtle changes that were made to the orchestra's history as depicted in the various programs of the mid-1970's, the facts of the orchestra's actual beginnings and your role in its creation became obscured.

On behalf of the officers and board of trustees, it is an honor and a privilege to acknowledge you as the founder of The Greater Miami Youth Symphony that began its existence as The All-Miami Youth Symphony. We are aware of the enormous amounts of time and energy that you put into organizing and running the orchestra and its support group, The Friends of the All-Miami Youth Symphony. You should be gratified to know that your efforts resulted in the first viable youth orchestra in Miami-Dade County that has, over the years, produced numerous professional musicians and appreciative audience members just as you envisioned.

In the future, Greater Miami Youth Symphony program notes and its web site will incorporate a brief history of the orchestra in which you will be recognized as founder as well as in any press releases that mention the orchestra's history. In your honor, future piano concerto competitions will be known as the Strassburg Piano Concert Competition. Your dedication to young people and to music is truly remarkable. We applaud you and wish you all the best.

Very truly yours,



Tony Fernandez

tropiculture



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