Bernstein’s Legacy Lives

by John Ardoi
The Dallas Morning News
December, 1997

A mong the anniversaries to note and celebrate this year is the 80th birthday of Leonard Bernstein on August 25th. How he would have relished and reveled in it — this rabbi of music, this prophet of tonality, this giant of the podium, our great musical father figure. But we will have to light the candles and toast him by ourselves, for 1998 is also the eighth anniversary of his death.

I still can’t bring myself to believe he is gone. I was weaned on his broadcasts, television shows, recordings and concerts. He shaped so much of my outlook on music by urging me — for everything he did seemed so personal — and the rest of the world to look inside music, see what made it tick and to love it with every fiber of our being.

He is still so potent and influential a figure through his music, records and videos, it is no wonder that when I am in Tanglewood or cities such as Tel Aviv or Manhattan — places he called home — I expect at any moment for him to enter a room or walk onto a stage and fill it once again with his life-giving presence.

That feeling, that expectation, returned acutely, almost painfully, during late November when I journeyed to Jerusalem for the third year of the contest established in his memory.

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The Leonard Bernstein Collection

The Library of Congress

by Mark Eden Horowitz

The Music Division at the Library of Congress is the proud home for many significant collections of the papers and manuscripts of American composers, including John Philip Sousa, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Aaron Copland, Richard Rodgers and Ned Rorem.

A particularly notable jewel in our crown is the Leonard Bernstein Collection. Because Bernstein was a national figure from the very beginning of his career, and because his friend and teacher, Helen Coates, became his secretary and “preserver of the flame” beginning in 1944, the Bernstein Collection is not only remarkably complete, but much of it is annotated by Miss Coates to an extraordinary degree. These factors combine to make the Leonard Bernstein Collection one of the most exceptional in the Music Division in the variety and scope of material it contains. And, estimated as containing over 400,000 items, it is also one of our largest.

Because of the extraordinary research value and great interest shown in the Bernstein Collection, the Music Division has made the decision to make each “series” available in our reading room when processing for that series is complete — rather than wait for the entire collection to be processed. There are currently four series available to researchers in the Library’s Performing Arts Reading Room (PARR): Personal Correspondence (15,500 items from 3,300 correspondents), Writings by Bernstein (9,257 items; this series includes articles, lectures, program notes, talks, poetry, school papers, and drafts for his books and television programs), Photographs (17,439 items), and Scrapbooks (132 items). Within the next few months we anticipate the following additional series to become available: Datebooks, Programs, Press, and Fan Mail. Music will probably be the last series to be processed.

There are no restrictions placed on researchers wishing to view the processed materials in the PARR, which is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. However, in order to copy most materials in the collection, the Music Division requires the written permission of the copyright owner — usually the author or his or her heirs.

For instance, the letters from Serge Koussevitzky to Bernstein require the permission of the Koussevitzky estate before they may be copied. Music Division staff answer reference letters and telephone queries about the collection based on information in the Finding Aid, but not by examining the contents for the collection. For example, to an inquiry about correspondence between Lukas Foss and Bernstein, we can respond that there are seventy-one letters from Foss to Bernstein from 1943 to 1990. We would not be able to answer more specific questions relating to the contents or subject matter of the letters. Also, we are not able to select items for researchers; this comes up most frequently with researchers looking for photographs to illustrate articles, books, exhibits and recordings.

The Music Division is currently working with the Library’s National Digital Library (NDL) American Memory program and Nina Bernstein to create an online Leonard Bernstein Collection. The first release is planned for early 1999, to be drawn mostly from the Personal Correspondence and Writings. In the meantime, I encourage you to check out the Library’s website at http://www.loc.gov to see portions of some of the Library’s other extraordinary holdings.

Mark Eden Horowitz is Music Specialist at the Library of Congress and is currently the archivist for the Library’s Leonard Bernstein Collection.

For Further Research

In addition to the Library of Congress, the following institutions have important collections of Bernstein materials. The New York Philharmonic Archive houses the collection of Bernstein’s conducting scores as well as other materials relating to his tenure with the New York Philharmonic. The Archive is open to musicians and scholars by appointment; requests should be made in writing to Ms. Barbara Haws, Archivist, 10 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York NY 10023, Fax: 212-875-3933.

The Museum of Television and Radio in New York and Los Angeles maintains an extensive collection of Bernstein’s television programs (many of which are not available on home video) such as his work for the Omnibus series, the Ford and Lincoln series with the New York Philharmonic, and the complete Young People’s Concerts, also with the New York Philharmonic, as well as many later concert performances and specials. The Museum is open to the public. Please contact either of its branches for hours, viewing policy and fees. (NYC Tel: 212-621-6600; LA Tel: 310-786-1025).

Both the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center, Theatrical Division (Tel: 212-870-1639) and the Museum of the City of New York, Theater Collection (Tel: 212-534-1762) contain materials relating to Bernstein’s musicals, including excellent photo collections.
Bernstein’s Legacy Lives, continued

(continued from page 1)

Elsewhere in the world, Bernstein the composer made news in London during the summer, when music from his last and ill-fated musical, 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, was reshaped into A WHITE HOUSE CANTATA.

This summer the Lincoln Center Festival will honor Bernstein with performances of his music, and symposia. Symposia are also in the planning stages at the Smithsonian Institution and at Indiana University. The University is also sponsoring a Young Composers Competition in honor of the Maestro.

Bernstein the conductor is also still vividly with us through a new series of CDs from Sony Records titled The Bernstein Century. The first batch and second batch have already been released, with more to follow in June. Though some of the items are repeats from the last Bernstein-Sony bonanza, The Royal Collection, there are many items that are making their first appearance on CD.

Among them is the first Bernstein recording of Mahler’s Second Symphony with the New York Philharmonic, filled out by the opening movement of the Mahler Eighth, taped at the inauguration of Lincoln Center’s Philharmonic (now Avery Fisher) Hall, and the Adagietto from the Mahler Fifth recorded live at the funeral of Robert Kennedy. Also included is music by Foss, Barber, Copland and W. Schuman.

And finally, in December, Bernstein’s children put on the auction block at Sotheby’s in New York many personal and professional items amassed by their parents. This move was to raise more money for the BETA (Bernstein Education Through the Arts) Fund established by their father, a foundation that supports the integration of the arts into teaching and learning. The effects, valued at $500,000 raised more than $1 million.

Actually, the results of the sale should not have come as a surprise, for such recent celebrity events have a track record of exceeding expectations. And where so emotional a figure as Bernstein is concerned, you can readily understand why admirers who possessed the wherewithal were willing to bid heatedly to obtain something he touched or used.

As Bernstein generated so much frenzied admiration while he was alive, it is hardly unexpected that he would continue to do so in death. If there is any one conclusion to be drawn from all of the attention that continues to swirl about him, it is this: Lenny lives.

John Ardoin is Music Critic for the Dallas Morning News.

Website Update

Our website www.leonardbernstein.com continues to be praised. Web Magazine awarded the site five stars, calling it “the new standard for web based biography.” Excite reviewed it with a four star rating, writing that it is a “must see” location on the web. Other accolades include “Best of the Web” from Snap! Online, while Britannica Internet Guide reviewed it as “exceptional” and Live Online named it a “spotlight site.”

Classical Insites, the home page for our website, has also received numerous awards. Some of these include “Best of the Web” by Yahoo Internet Life, in both the classical and Opera categories. NetGuide Live gave it a four star rating as one of their top 100 entertainment sites. We commend our partners at N2K for their dedication to making this a site which honors the legacy of Leonard Bernstein.

A Reminder

The Leonard Bernstein Society continues to make available for purchase the YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS, THE UNANSWERED QUESTION: SIX TALKS AT HARVARD (THE NORTON LECTURES) and other videos by Leonard Bernstein. You may also order books by, and commemorative articles about the Maestro, from the Society’s toll free number: 1-800-382-6622.
Lincoln Center to Honor Bernstein

The Lincoln Center Festival 98 will honor the 80th anniversary of Leonard Bernstein’s birth. Maestro Kurt Masur will lead the New York Philharmonic in two programs at Avery Fisher Hall celebrating Bernstein the composer as well as featuring other composers championed during his conducting career. On July 7th and 9th, the orchestra will perform SYMPHONY NO. 2: THE AGE OF ANXIETY with pianist Lukas Foss, who gave the first performance with the New York Philharmonic in 1950. Also featured on the program will be Mahler’s Symphony No. 1. The evenings of July 14th and 15th will feature Bernstein’s SYMPHONY NO. 1: JEREMIAH with Susanna Poresky, mezzo-soprano; also featured on the program will be works by Ives, Copland and Gershwin. On July 15th and 18th the Hamburg Ballet will give the American premiere of Bernstein Dances, a new ballet conceived and choreographed by John Neumeier.

Other performances will include a concert, on July 20th, The Unknown Bernstein, featuring previously unperformed and unpublished compositions. Michael Barrett will serve as musical director for this program, whose cast includes Judy Collins, flutist Paula Robison and cellist Carter Brey, performing small scale works for voice, piano, and chamber ensembles. On July 23rd Jonathan Sheffer, with the EOS Orchestra, will present Literally Bernstein, a concert that will include the complete concert version of DYBBUK, a ballet composed by Bernstein for choreographer Jerome Robbins. Additional works will illustrate the role that literature played in Bernstein’s musical life.

As part of the festival there will be three symposia on Leonard Bernstein. The symposium of July 8 will be Bernstein and His Collaborators, moderated by Jonathan Sheffer, with panelists including Stephen Sondheim and Arthur Laurents. On July 20 the topic will be Bernstein as Student: Classical Education for Musicians. The discussion of Bernstein’s own educational experiences will be moderated by Alexander Bernstein with Ron Gwiazda of the Boston Latin School. July 23 will offer a discussion of Leonard Bernstein as Teacher: The Young People’s Concerts and the Norton Lectures. The panel for this program includes Schuyler Chapin, Jamie Bernstein Thomas and Mary Rodgers Guettel.

For more information please contact the Lincoln Center Festival at (212)875-5388.

Tanglewood: A Special Tribute to Leonard Bernstein

To mark the 80th anniversary of Leonard Bernstein’s birth, Tanglewood will honor the man whose life made such an impact on Tanglewood and on the music world as a whole. The Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) and Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra will be joined by guest artists in a program that will include a number of the composer’s symphonic works. Robert Shaw will conduct the first of these programs, which will feature CHICHESTER PSALMS, on July 5th.

On July 31st Robert Spano leads the BSO with pianist John Browning in SYMPHONY NO.2: THE AGE OF ANXIETY. This symphony had its world premiere in 1949 with Serge Koussevitzky and the BSO, with Bernstein at the piano. Also, on this program will be Beethoven, Symphony No. 7, the last composition Bernstein conducted at Tanglewood, two months before his death in 1990.

On August 1st, Maestro Seiji Ozawa will share the podium with Joel Smirnoff and Robert Spano, leading the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra in the annual Leonard Bernstein Memorial Concert. For this program Mr. Ozawa will conduct SONGFEST, featuring soloists who all worked with Bernstein: soprano Sheri Greenawald, mezzo-soprano Wendy White, tenor Neil Rosenstein, baritone Kurt Ollmann, bass Michael Devlin, and bass baritone to be announced.

On August 2, James DePreist will lead the BSO with pianist André Watts, whom Bernstein introduced to the music world on a YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERT in 1963. The program will include Bernstein’s SYMPHONY NO. 1: JEREMIAH, with mezzo-soprano Florence Quivar.

For further information contact Tanglewood at (617)266-1492.
Leonard Bernstein: A Legend on Deutsche Grammophon

by John Stopford

Leonard Bernstein is without question one of the best-known and most-loved artists to have left a major recording legacy with Deutsche Grammophon in the course of its 100-year history. Bernstein’s association with the Yellow Label dates back to the early 1970s, when DG was intensifying its recording activities with American orchestras and artists. Bernstein made his first recording for the label in 1972—a complete version of Bizet’s Carmen based on performances at the Metropolitan Opera New York, with Marilyn Horne in the title role. There followed in 1976 a recording of Liszt’s Faust Symphony and Beethoven’s Fourth Piano Concerto, the latter with Claudio Arrau.

From 1981 to his death, Bernstein was under exclusive contract to DG. The relationship yielded complete cycles of the Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms and Mahler symphonies and a host of other works from Mozart to the present. Sometimes controversial, many of these recordings are regarded as definitive, and several of them have that quality of transcendence which was Bernstein’s hallmark during his last decade.

Needless to say, Bernstein’s recordings of Bernstein occupy a special place in the catalogue. In 1977 the composer recorded all three of his symphonies as well as his CHICHESTER PSALMS. In later years there followed many of Bernstein’s other compositions, from the CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA and DYBBUK SUITES NOS. 1 and 2, to the musicals WEST SIDE STORY, CANDIDE and ON THE TOWN 1989, marking the collapse of the Berlin Wall. More than any other artist at the time, it was Bernstein with this recording who captured the spirit of hope associated with the dropping of political barriers and the reunification of Germany. This spirit found an echo throughout the world and the recording became an instant best-seller.

Two months later, Bernstein signed his last exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon. His death the following October prevented the fulfillment of a contract that could have brought many more superb recordings.

Leonard Bernstein with German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt during a visit to the Deutsche Grammophon offices in Hamburg in 1984.

Bernstein’s last concert on August 19, 1990 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Tanglewood, was also the occasion of his last recording for the Yellow Label.

To celebrate his 80th birthday in 1998, Deutsche Grammophon is releasing a special edition of Bernstein’s recordings of the composer with whom he was most closely identified—Gustav Mahler. The Bernstein Mahler Edition includes Bernstein’s famous interpretations of all the Mahler Symphonies and orchestral lieder with the New York Philharmonic, Concertgebouw and Vienna Philharmonic Orchestras. The 16-CD set presents the symphonies and songs in chronological order, and includes Bernstein’s recordings of the Kindertotenlieder and Rückert-Lieder with Thomas Hampson—as well as a Das Lied von der Erde originally recorded by Bernstein for Decca.

Another special Bernstein release planned for 1998 is a two CD set with music by Bernstein featured in a new ballet by the world-famous choreographer John Neumeier. Also planned for 1998 is the release of Bernstein’s own WEST SIDE STORY recording for the first time on a single CD, and a special “Artist’s Album” featuring previously unreleased pictures and recordings. And to round off the 1998 Bernstein celebrations, Deutsche Grammophon is releasing the soundtrack of the American Masters documentary film about Bernstein. Produced by Susan Lacy, the film is scheduled to be aired on television in the USA, Japan and many other countries later this year.

John Stopford is the International Press Officer for Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft mbH.
In the News

Armani Outfits the Hamburg Ballet

The Hamburg Ballet has announced that fashion designer Giorgio Armani will design the costumes for John Neumeier’s new ballet Bernstein Dances. This new work, described by Neumeier as “a ballet revue based on the music and spirit of Leonard Bernstein,” will be premiered on June 14th at the Hamburg State Opera.

Neumeier said, “Giorgio Armani is the most important fashion designer of our times. The unique qualities of his vision — his subtle, sophisticated sense of color, the striking but easy elegance we call ‘classic,’ but at the same time the direct and clear ‘now’ of his designs are more than fashionable. His vision has always danced! I am extremely happy about our collaboration.”

According to Armani, “I was immediately attracted to this project by the modernity inherent in Leonard Bernstein’s work, which I have always loved, and by the contemporary but timeless purity of John Neumeier’s vision of dance. Given John’s deep insights into the artistic, personal and mythical aspects of Bernstein, I became fascinated by the possibilities of contributing something of my own sensibilities.”

Bernstein Dances will premiere in Hamburg June 14th, and will be repeated in New York, at the Lincoln Center Festival on July 15th and 18th.

Ojai Music Festival

The Ojai Music Festival will present a salute to Leonard Bernstein on May 30th. This event will present singers Joyce Castle and Kurt Ollmann in their special Bernstein Concert. The evening will include songs from seven Bernstein stage works. The concert will take place at the Libbey Bowl in Ojai, California. For more information please call (805)646-2094.

Vienna Film Festival

Vienna’s annual open air film festival in front of the City Hall will be dedicated to Leonard Bernstein’s 80th and Herbert von Karajan’s 90th birthdays. The festival will present, on a large screen, many of Bernstein’s filmed concerts produced by Unitel.

New Bernstein Biography

The London based publisher Phaidon Press has recently released Leonard Bernstein as part of Phaidon’s 20th Century Composer series. Written by Paul Myers, who first met Bernstein through his work as producer for Columbia Records, the author draws upon his professional association with Bernstein to give a richly layered overview of the composer’s works. For further information contact: Phaidon Press Limited, Regent’s Wharf, All Saints Street, London NW1 9PA, England.

* partial listing
### May

1. Brussels, Belgium: **Suite from a Quiet Place**; London Symphony Orchestra; Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor; Palais des Beaux Arts.

2. Amsterdam, Netherlands: **Imaginary Coney Island** from ON THE TOWN, SYMPHONY NO. 2: THE AGE OF ANXIETY; London Symphony Orchestra, Michael Tilson Thomas, conducting; Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano; Concertgebouw.

3. Amsterdam: Suite from **A Quiet Place**; London Symphony Orchestra, Michael Tilson Thomas, conducting; Concertgebouw.

4. Pfalz, Germany: **Mass**; Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz; Klaus Arp, conductor; Kultursommer Rheinland Pfalz.

5. Rome: **Serenade**; Santa Cecilia Orchestra; John Adams, conductor; Robert McDuffie, violin; Accademia Nazionale Santa Cecilia.

6. Melbourne, Australia: **Candide Overture**; Melbourne Symphony Orchestra; John Curro, conductor; Melbourne Town Hall.

7. Portland, OR: **Mass**, Oregon Symphony; Murray Sidlin, conductor; Douglas Webster, Celebrant; Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.

8. Suffolk, UK: **In Search of Leonard Bernstein**; lecture by Humphrey Burton; Edmund Festival.

9. Frankfurt, Germany: **Candide Overture**; Frankfurt; Nikos Athinaios, conductor; Alte Oper.


12. New York, NY: **West Side Story Suite**;

13. New York City Ballet; Jerome Robbins, choreographer; New York State Theater.

14. Palm Desert, CA: **Mass**; College of the Desert Opera; Anne Turner, musical director; Cecilia Shahandeh, chorale director; Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church.

### May, continued

24. Brighton, UK: **Symphony No. 3: Raddish, Candide Overture**; Brighton Symphony; Carl Davis, conductor; Brighton Festival.

24. London, UK: **Side by Side Leonard Bernstein**; BBC Concert Orchestra and Chorus; John Mauceri, conductor; Dennis Quilley, narrator; Palace Theater; Live Radio Broadcast.

28. Vienna: **Symphony No. 1: Jereihai**; RSO Vienna; Dennis Russell Davies, conductor; Hanna Schwarz, mezzo-soprano; Konzerthaus.

29. Berlin, Germany: **Chichester Psalms**; RSO Berlin Symphony Orchestra; Robin Grinton, conductor; Philharmonie.


30. Memphis, TN: **Overture to West Side Story**; Memphis Symphony Orchestra; Alan Balter, conductor; Vincent de Frank Music Hall.

31. San Francisco, CA: **Symphonic Dances from West Side Story**; San Francisco Symphony; James Yannatos, Davies Hall.

### June

2. London, UK: **In Search of Leonard Bernstein**; lecture by Humphrey Burton; Covent Garden Festival.


15. Tilburg, The Netherlands: **Candide Overture, Symphonic Dances from West Side Story**; Het Brabant Orkest; Gabriel Chmura, conductor; Concertzaal.

18. Auckland, New Zealand: **Candide Overture**; E. Tichvzhal, conductor; Auckland Town Hall.

18. Turin, Italy: **Symphonic Dances from West Side Story**; Santa Cecilia Orchestra; Myung-Whun Chung, conductor; Lingotti.

18. Vienna, VA: **Symphonic Dances from West Side Story**; National Symphony Orchestra; Leonard Slatkin, conductor; Wolf Trap.

18. 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands: **Candide Overture, Symphonic Dances from West Side Story**; Hets Brabant Orkest; Gabriel Chmura, conductor; Theater aan de Parade.

19. San Francisco, CA: **Leonard Bernstein 80th Birthday Concert**; Suite from **A Quiet Place**; Chichester Psalms; San Francisco Symphony Orchestra; Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor; Davies Symphony Hall.

22, 23. Dortmund, Germany: **Symphonic Dances from West Side Story**; Dortmund Philharmonic Orchestra; Andreas Ligeti, conductor; Opera House.


26. Dallas, TX: **Symphonic Dances from West Side Story**; Dallas Symphony Orchestra; Andrew Litton, conductor; Meyerson Symphony Center.

### July

3. Aspen, CO: **Hall**; Aspen Chamber Symphony; Murray Sidlin, conductor; Mark Sparks, flute; Aspen Music Festival.


5. Tokyo, Japan: **Symphonic Dances from West Side Story**; In honor of Bernstein's 80th, Pacific Music Festival; Santa Cecilia Orchestra; Myung-Whun Chung, conductor; Sumida Triphony Hall.
July, continued

5. Lenox, MA: CHICHESTER PSALMS; Boston Symphony Orchestra and Tanglewood Music Festival Chorus; Robert Shaw, conductor; The Shed.

6. Villach, Austria: SYMPHONIC DANCES FROM WEST SIDE STORY; San Francisco Youth Orchestra; Alasdair Neale, conductor; Carinthian Summer Festival 1998.

7. Vienna, Austria: From Rossini to Bernstein; Orchester der Verinigten Buchnen Wien; Caspar Richter, conductor; Illdiko Raimondi, soprano; Thomas Hampson, baritone; Katia and Marielle Labèque, pianists; Marcel Prawy, host; Theater an der Wien.


7-31. Düsseldorf, Germany: WEST SIDE STORY; Deutsche Oper am Rhein.

8. New York: Lincoln Center Festival; Leonard Bernstein Celebration; Leonard Bernstein and his Collaborators; Jonathan Sheffer, moderator; Betty Comden, Adolph Green, Arthur Laurents and Stephen Sondheim, panelists; Kaplan Penthouse.

9. Nagoya, Japan: SYMPHONIC DANCES FROM WEST SIDE STORY; In Honor of Bernstein’s 80th; Pacific Music Festival, Santa Cecilia Orchestra; Myung-Whun Chung, conductor; Aichi Geijutsu Gekio.

11. Sante Fe, NM: Bernstein Tribute; Sante Fe Chamber Music Festival; Kurt Ollmann, Lorraine Hunt, Michael Barrett, Steven Blier; St. Francis Auditorium.

12. Highland Park, IL: SYMPHONY NO. 1: JEREMIAH; Chicago Symphony Orchestra; Christoph Eschenbach, conductor; Jill Grove, mezzo-soprano; Ravinia Music Festival.

12. Sapporo, Japan: SYMPHONIC DANCES FROM WEST SIDE STORY; In Honor of Bernstein’s 80th; Pacific Music Festival, Santa Cecilia Orchestra; Myung-Whun Chung, conductor; Kitara Hall.


15-18. New York: Lincoln Center Festival; Leonard Bernstein Celebration; Bernstein Dances; New York Première; Hamburg Ballet; John Neumeier, choreographer; Giorgio Armani, costume designer; The New York State Theater.

18. Chitose, Japan: CANDIDE OVERTURE; Pacific Music Festival Vienna Woodwind Quintet; Chitose Shimin Bunka Center.

18. Villach, Austria: CANDIDE OVERTURE; DIVERTIMENTO; Moscow State Symphony Orchestra; Pavel Kogan, conductor; Carinthian Summer Festival 1998.

20. London, UK: SYMPHONIC SUITE FROM ON THE WATERFRONT; BBC Philharmonic; Jan-Pascal Tortelier, conductor; Royal Albert Hall.

20. New York: Lincoln Center Festival; Leonard Bernstein Celebration; The Unknown Bernstein; Michael Barrett, musical director; Judy Collins, Paula Robison, flute, others; Alice Tully Hall.

20. New York: Lincoln Center Festival; Leonard Bernstein at Student: Classical Education for Musicians; Alexander Bernstein, moderator; Lukas Foss, Ron Gwiazda, Jonathan Sheffer, panelists; Kaplan Penthouse.

23. New York: Lincoln Center Festival; Leonard Bernstein Celebration; THE YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS AND THE NORTON LECTURES; Schuyler Chapin, moderator; Jamie Bernstein Thomas, Roger Enghard and Mary Rodgers Guettel, panelists; Kaplan Penthouse.

23. New York: Lincoln Center Festival; Leonard Bernstein Celebration; Literally Bernstein, featuring the complete DYBBUK; EOS Orchestra; Jonathan Sheffer, conductor; Alice Tully Hall.

24. Sapporo, Japan: SYMPHONIC DANCES FROM WEST SIDE STORY; Members of the London Symphony Orchestra, Members of the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra; Eric Cress, conductor; Kitara Hall.

August

1. Lenox, MA: Leonard Bernstein Memorial Concert; SONGFEST; Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra; Seiji Ozawa, conductor; Sheri Greenawald, soprano; Wendy White, mezzo-soprano; Neil Rosenshein, tenor; Kurt Ollman, baritone, Michael Devlin, bass; bass baritone; TB3; Tanglewood.

2. Lenox, MA: SYMPHONY NO. 1: JEREMIAH; Boston Symphony Orchestra; James DePreist, conductor; Florence Quivar, soprano; Tanglewood.

15. Highland Park, IL: CANDIDE OVERTURE; SYMPHONIC DANCES FROM WEST SIDE STORY; Chicago Symphony Orchestra; Christoph Eschenbach, conductor; Ravinia Music Festival.

16. San Juan Bautista, CA: SERENADE; Cabello Festival Orchestra; Marin Alsop, conductor; Brian Lewis, violin; Mission San Juan Bautista.

21. Neumeister, Germany: DIVERTIMENTO; SONGFEST; SYMPHONIC DANCES FROM WEST SIDE STORY; THREE DANCE EPISODES FROM ON THE TOWN; CANDIDE OVERTURE; Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival Orchestra; David Shallon, conductor; Holstenhalle.


27. Highland Park, IL: DIVERTIMENTO; Chicago Symphony Orchestra; Asher Fisch, conductor; Ravinia Music Festival.
Saint Roger

Roger Stevens, founding chairman of the Kennedy Center.

by Harry Krutz

Roger Stevens was a saint. For millions of theater and music lovers who attend the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, and the Met. For thousands of performers whose work he presented. For hundreds of politicians who gladly took credit for the virtues of patronage he invented. And for Leonard Bernstein and me.

At significant moments in Leonard Bernstein’s life, Roger appeared, to show Lenny the way, to encourage him and to shield him from self-doubt and fear, to help him press forward. Without Roger, WEST SIDE STORY might have foundered in its creation. (After being turned down by its first producer, the dispirited authors of WEST SIDE STORY called Roger from a Broadway phone booth. He said, “Keep working!”) And MASS certainly would not have been finished. Roger had a heart attack in early 1971. When Lenny asked him at the hospital what he could do to help him, Roger simply said, “Finish MASS.” (And Lenny did.)

Roger believed in the arts, and even believed that they could be supported by profit-making ventures. Long before the notion of home video, Roger organized the investors for a video production of Verdi’s Requiem filmed in St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, conducted by Leonard Bernstein. Surely other investments made more money faster, but Roger felt especially satisfied as the returns came in, and ultimately, the project turned a profit. He “did well by doing good,” and set an example for us all.

When a conservative and influential Congressman objected to the program (SONGFEST!) Lenny proposed to play in Washington, Roger told him that no one would want to get into the ugly fight he would provoke if the politician threw his weight against the program. The Congressman backed down. St. Roger shielded artistic freedom.

1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, which Roger had rescued after the first producer withdrew, was a flop on Broadway, but Roger never lost faith in its elements. He encouraged experimentation with its book and revival for its music — just a few months ago, he wrote an encouraging thanks after hearing a tape of A WHITE HOUSE CANTATA, the current representation of music from that show. His enthusiasm helped, to the end.

The effects of St. Roger’s faith in the arts have been felt by us all, whether at the great centers he helped found, or through the National Endowment for the Arts which he initiated. Or in the dozens of works which he brought to life on Broadway, and across the country. We will continue to have the benefit of those effects for a long time.

In that place where all the music and theater people go when they leave here, I’m certain that Roger is actively encouraging new works and more performances, as the angels (and his own) reward. But we miss him here already.

Harry Krutz is an executor of the Estate of Leonard Bernstein.

The Bernstein Century

Sony Classical has announced plans to release 10 more CDs of THE BERNSTEIN CENTURY series in late June. These reissues will include Bernstein’s recordings with the New York Philharmonic of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 6 and No. 8, Dvořák’s Symphony No. 7 and No. 9, Mahler’s Symphony No. 7, and Copland’s opera The Second Hurricane.

Of special interest are recordings of Bernstein’s own compositions, SYMPHONY NO. 2: THE AGE OF ANXIETY, with Lukas Foss as pianist; SERENADE, with Zino Francescatti, violin; PRELUDE, FUGUE AND RIFFS with Benny Goodman; and FANCY FREE. Also being released is What Is Jazz?. This historic recording, based on the Maestro’s Omnibus TV show of the same name, includes such great artists as Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong, and Dave Brubeck.

Note to Readers

prelude, fugue & riffs will be sent upon request. Please send all correspondence to:

Craig Urquhart
prelude, fugue & riffs
25 Central Park West, Suite 1Y
New York, NY 10023 Fax: (212) 315-0643
e-mail: craigamb@aol.com

Tax deductible donations to The Bernstein Education through the Arts (BETA) Fund, Inc. may be sent in care of the same address.

We appreciate notice of any performances or events featuring the music of Leonard Bernstein or honoring his creative life and shall do our best to include such information in forthcoming Calendars.

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Executive VP: Harry J. Krutz
Managing Editor: Craig Urquhart
Editor: Jack Gottlieb
Design: BorsaWallace, NYC
Visit our website: www.bernstein.org
New CDs

Two notable new CDs have been recently released which feature the music of Leonard Bernstein. RCA Red Seal has released a new recording by the great mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne, with Martin Katz at the piano. This recording includes the Bernstein songs: My House, So Pretty, Greeting, Take Care of This House, Rabbit at Top Speed, Sonnet: What Lips my Lips have Kissed, Nachspiel and Dream with Me. London Decca has released a recording of the SYMPHONIC DANCES FROM WEST SIDE STORY, the CANDIDE OVERTURE, FANCY FREE and FACSIMILE with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, David Zinman conducting.

WONDERFUL TOWN

Reprise! Productions will repeat their successful production of WONDERFUL TOWN. Based on the book My Sister Eileen by Ruth McKenney, with book by Joseph Fields and Jerome Chodorov, lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green and music by Leonard Bernstein, this production will run at the Orange County Performing Arts Center from July 30th through August 2nd. This production features Lucie Arnaz as Ruth Sherwood and Stephanie Zimbalist as her sister Eileen.

prelude, fugue & riffs
25 Central Park West, Suite 1Y
New York, NY 10023