

THE PIERRE MONTEUX SCHOOL

for Conductors and Orchestra Musicians

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2004

Contributing to the Monteux School's Future

Ginia Davis Wexler, a niece of Pierre Monteux and among the first students to attend his newly-founded school in Maine, has joined the Foundation's Board of Trustees and made two generous donations toward ensuring the School's future. Ginia's mother was Doris Monteux's sister Hilda, and her father was another of the best-known conductors of the 20th century, Meyer Davis.

Ginia began studying voice in Philadelphia, where her family lived, when she was 15, and by the age of 18 was singing professionally. She later traveled around Europe with Doris and Pierre, studying voice with her aunt and beginning to perform with her famous uncle. Her musical collaborations with Monteux were not based on family connections, however. Says John Canarina in his recent biography of Monteux, the Maitre's "musical integrity would not have permitted Ginia to sing with him had he not genuinely felt her to be talented. In fact, she became his favorite singer for Ravel's *Sheherazade* and Debussy's *Melisande*."

Wexler studied the part of *Melisande* with Mary Garden, the singer who had originated it and who passed along to Ginia



Pierre Monteux and Gina Davis Wexler outside the Monteux home on the shores of Taunton Bay in Hancock.

the original stage directions given to her by Debussy himself. Ginia and Monteux performed *Pelleas et Melisande*, an opera she says he "adored," a number of times, including with the Royal Belgian Opera Company and the Montreal Symphony. She sang *Sheherazade* with him "all over the place," she says, in the United States,

Germany, France, and with the BBC Symphony Orchestra in the Royal Festival Hall in London.

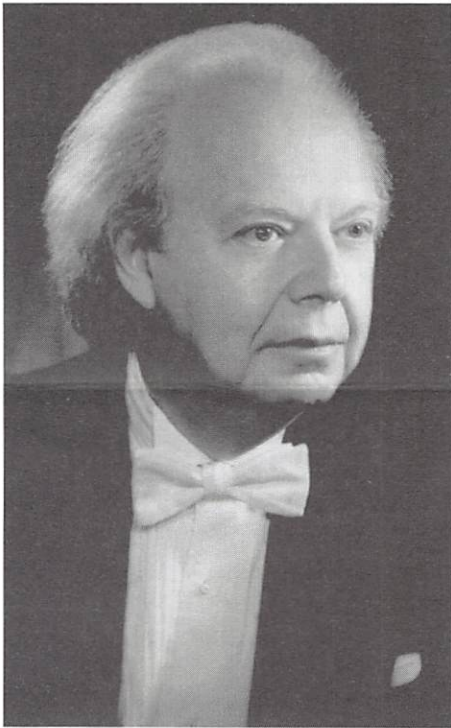
When the Monteux School first began, Ginia says, Pierre insisted on having singers among the students so the conductors could learn to accompany them. "We need to do more of that now," she adds.

After "traveling, traveling, traveling" and living in Paris for a number of years, Ginia and her husband bought a home in Sullivan, Maine, in 1969. Every July for the past 34 years, she has presented a four-week series of programs for children in the barn at Farmstead. She engages professional actors, singers, musicians, storytellers, and magicians to entertain the young audiences that regularly fill the barn.

Through the years, Ginia has demonstrated her appreciation for all that Pierre Monteux meant to her by her

generous donations to the School. This year, her gifts have given a big boost to the Foundation's fundraising efforts. Her personal association with Monteux and her long association with the School make her a valued addition to the Board of Trustees.

61st Season to Feature Two Special Guests



The 61st season of the Pierre Monteux School for Conductors and Orchestra Musicians will begin in just a few short weeks. This will be the second season in the newly renovated Forest Studio. Public performances include six symphony concerts on Sundays at 5:00pm (June 20, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25) and five chamber music concerts at Wednesdays at 7:30pm (June 23, 30; July 7, 14, 21). This summer's session also includes the visits of two special guests.

Violinist Jeff Thayer will serve as guest artist-in-residence for the week of July 5-11. Thayer recently left his position as assistant concertmaster of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra to become the new concertmaster of the San Diego Symphony, starting this coming fall. He formerly served as associate concertmaster of the North Carolina Symphony and concertmaster of the Canton (OH) Symphony

Orchestra. Thayer will perform the Sibelius *Violin Concerto* on the July 11 orchestra concert. In addition, he will play Paganini's *Violin Concerto No. 1* in a reading rehearsal with the orchestra, as well as perform in a chamber ensemble on the July 7 chamber music concert.

In addition, Monteux School alumnus Michael Charry will present a seminar for students on selected orchestral works of Johannes Brahms, one of Pierre Monteux's favorite composers. Charry studied with Monteux for four summers from 1952-55 and currently serves as a member of the Monteux School's Honorary Advisory Board. He formerly served as Head of Orchestral Conducting at the Mannes College of Music, has taught and conducted widely, and is a past president of the Conductors Guild. Charry has kept close ties to Maine, maintaining a summer home in Southwest Harbor.

Searching for Alumni

Of the thousands of musicians who have studied at the Monteux School since its founding in 1943, only about 300 are on the current mailing list. Thus, the search to locate others is on! In March 2004, President Nancie Monteux-Barendse sent letters to all those for whom we have address information with a list of students who studied at the School within a period of three to five years of their time. Any information will help us learn more about and connect with our valued alumni. For those of you who received such letters, please take a little time to help us with this process.



Summer 2004 Concert Schedule

Sun June 20	5:00pm	Symphony Concert
Wed June 23	7:30pm	Chamber Music Concert
Sun June 27	5:00pm	Symphony Concert
Wed June 30	7:30pm	Chamber Music Concert
Sun July 7	5:00pm	Symphony Concert
Wed July 7	7:30pm	Chamber Music Concert <i>featuring violinist Jeff Thayer</i>
Sun July 11	5:00pm	Symphony Concert <i>featuring violinist Jeff Thayer</i>
Wed July 14	7:30pm	Chamber Music Concert
Sun July 18	5:00pm	Memorial Concert <i>featuring Director Michael Jinbo</i>
Wed July 21	7:30pm	Chamber Music Concert
Sun July 25	5:00pm	Pops Concert



Pierre Monteux Memorial Foundation, Inc.

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^aIn memory of Maureen McNally Giroux

^bIn-kind contribution

^cIn memory of George Shepard

We apologize for any errors or omissions in the list above.

THE PIERRE MONTEUX SCHOOL *for Conductors and Orchestra Musicians*

Sponsored by
The Pierre Monteux Memorial Foundation, Inc.

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