

CHARITY CONCERT

2000

The Memphis Youth Symphony

presented a charity concert for the benefit of the

The Gabor Sztehlo Foundation for the Support of Children and Youth

on June 16, 2000 at 19^h

in the Lutheran Church of Deák ter

The Memphis Youth Symphony

"For close to thirty-four years, the Memphis Youth Symphony has maintained and furthered its commitment to our community's youth by providing the best musical training and educational experiences possible. Musicians in the Memphis Youth Symphony program, which consists of the Memphis String Ensemble, Memphis Youth String Orchestra, and Memphis Youth Symphony, come from all over the mid-south region of the United States. Their ages range from seven to eighteen years, and over seventy-five percent of students attend Memphis City and Shelby County Schools.

MYS programs provide a place for students to explore and strengthen their talents through discipline and organisation. What students learn in the MYS program can be applied not only to music, but to other aspects of life. We, as adults, owe all we can give and do. The 1999-2000 season marks the beginning of Vincent L. Danner's fifth season with the Memphis Youth Symphony and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Danner, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, started in the summer of 1995 as an Assistant Conductor of the MSO and the Conductor of the Memphis Youth Symphony.

Maestro Danner holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Oberlan College Conservatory of Music (1988) and a Master of Music degree in Orchestral Conducting (1994) from the University of Michigan. In 1988, Danner served as Instrumental/Vocal instructor at Cleveland Heights High School and Music Director/Conductor of the Heights Civic Orchestra. He has pursued advanced degree studies in Orchestral Conducting with Gustav Meier and Organ Performance with James Kibbie at the University of Michigan. Danner also served as the conductor of the Campus Philharmonia Orchestra at the University before accepting the position with the Memphis Symphony.

Danner has made appearances with the Youngstown All-City String Orchestra, the Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra, the Greater Bridgeport Symphony, the Allen Park Symphony and Taylor Ballet Americana, the Ann Arbor Ballet Theater Company and the Black Arts Orchestra at the University of Michigan. In addition to his numerous appearances with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Danner has led the Youth Symphony on its first International

Tour (Italy, June, 1998). After having been invited to appear in the American Celebration of Music in Austria, they will perform five concerts in Austria and Hungary during June of 2000."

The Program

Bernstein, Leonard	Overture to Candide
Copland, Aaron	Variations on a Shaker Melody
Schubert, Franz	Symphony Nr. 8 in B Minor (Unfinished)
	I. Allegro moderato
	II. Andante con moto
Grofe, Ferde	Mississippi Suite
	I. Father of the Waters
	I. Huckleberry Finn
	II. Old Creole Days
	III. Mardi Gras

Dirigent

Vincent L. Danner

Entrance is free of charge

Donations are collected for the *Gabor Sztehlo Foundation for the Support of Children and Youth*

The Recension

Oh, extend over, my Jesus,...

I think Gábor Sztehlo (1909-1974) was one of our ecclesiastics in the near past whose life-work has to be learned by the new generations. One should take every opportunity to write about him.

The present occasion was a beautiful musical event. On 16th June, Friday evening, the *Youth Symphony Orchestra of Memphis (USA)* gave a concert in the Church of Deák Square in Budapest. The orchestra of almost hundred young members, between 7 and 18, came over to Budapest from the "American Celebration of Music in Austria", as a result of our manifold

personal contacts to them. The concert was organised by the Gabor Sztéhlo Foundation for Children and Youth Aid, founded in 1991, with the traditional hospitality of Reverend *Péter Zászkaliczky*, managing pastor of the congregation of the Church of Deák Square.

It was an excellent decision to accept this orchestra of Memphis just in this church. The practised audience, used to the music by J.S. Bach, accepted the musicians, Afro-Americans, Chinese, Arabs among them, with great sympathy. The concert was conducted by the young brilliant leading conductor of the orchestra, *Vincent L. Danner*.

Among others, the Overture *Candide* by Leonard Bernstein, the Unfinished Symphony by Franz Schubert, the Suite *Mississippi* by Grofé were on the programme.

Before the concert, it was my pleasure to greet the orchestra and the audience. On this occasion, I had an opportunity to tell something about Gábor Sztéhlo who was charged by Bishop Sándor Raffay in Spring 1944 to co-operate with the Calvinist "Good Shephard Association" in assisting to save Jewish children. By the autumn of that most frightful year, he had organised 32 lesser or greater children's homes, saving finally the life of more than 1500 children. After the war, Reverend Sztéhlo established a children's empire named PAX for the remained orphans. In the fifties, he helped the political deportees then organised hospices for handicapped children and helpless aged people. His total life heralded the gospel I wanted to appeal to the audience of the concert, in memory of Gábor Sztéhlo, emphasising that we are glorifying God who called him, who fortified him, who governed his life by his gospel: no one has more love in his heart than that who sacrifices his life for his friends. The example of Gábor Sztéhlo is a guidance also for today when, though in an easier age, great many indigents need help. Undertaking their burden is an evidence of the Christian life.

Zsuzsa Merényi, the president of the Sztéhlo Foundation, expressed her thank to everybody who had played any role in creation of this concert. Among others, she admitted: "*I think we are all guests in some respect. The guests of Love and Duty. As you have heard before, Gábor Sztéhlo, the denominator of our Foundation, was a Good Shepard in the gentle sense of the word. The majority of the present audience has no direct experience about the Holocaust. I don't know, however, how many of you have met with the other forms of detestation. But I am sure that all of you are familiar with the living and enlivening love.*"

The Gábor Sztéhlo Foundation was created by his old coworkers and saved pupils, the "Sztéhlo-children". The modest funds of the Foundation have been expended to supports for about 200 children and their hospices by more than 6.5 million Hungarian Forint during the recent years.

The last encore of the concert was a revival song that we used to sing in the unforgettable evangelising evenings and this was sung in the Sztéhlo Homes for lights-out in 1944. The people in the church were humming, singing it accompanied by the Memphis orchestra:

Oh, extend over, my Jesus, Your protecting wings

Robert Frenkl