



Memorial Day Patriotic Concert

Join the wind symphony for Sousa fun, and songs honoring our veterans and past, political movers and shakers!

Thank you to special guest narrator, Paul Lally, for generously donating his time and talents in joining us for Aaron Copland's Lincoln Portrait.

Paul's PBS screenwriting credits include a screenplay for *American Playhouse*, and episodic writing for *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. His commercial television writing credits include two screenplays for Walt Disney Productions, *Red Riding Hood* and *Hansel and Gretel*. His PBS producing credits include *Ciao Italia with Mary Ann Esposito*. He has narrated performance pieces with the Pittsburgh Symphony and the Baltimore Symphony. His broadcasting awards include three regional Emmys, two CINE Gold Eagles, two New York International Film and Television Festival Gold Medals, and a Corporation for Public Broadcasting Silver Award.

And featuring...Special Guest Conductor Carolyn "Billie" Todd

Carolyn "Billie" Todd will take the stage on May 31st at the Rochester Opera House to conduct the Wind Symphony in one of its pieces. The phrase "Music is my life" sums up our guest conductor's 95 year life span. Carolyn Fiske Todd began singing professionally as a soprano at the age of 15, and her formal musical career spanned half a century. She graduated from Boston University in 1930 at the age of 17, with a degree in Romance Languages, and went on to study voice at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Even though her primary training was in voice, she also became an accomplished pianist. She has appeared, at the Old Howard Theater, in Boston's Scollay Square (now Government Center) During the early 1940s Billie sang in the Boston area with the Lyric Trio, with Victoria Snowden (mezzo-soprano) and Dot Jackson (piano). And, she recalls, "Alf Bottomley and Ken Reeves did the scat songs." From the 1940s to the 1970s she directed choirs and performed solo works at several Boston area churches, She went from there to positions as music director and soloist at churches in Lynnfield and Stoneham. She also performed solo parts in area Gilbert & Sullivan productions.



Carolyn Fiske Todd (Billie Todd)

Even though music has been her primary vocation, she has managed to find time for many other interests and many years of community service. Today, she continues to play the piano for the enjoyment of residents and staff at the Arbors in Bedford, New Hampshire. Her family often says, "She has a song for every occasion." It is true, and we thank her for it.

Up Coming Events

Sunday, May 31, 2009

Time: 2:00 - 4:00 PM

A Memorial Day Patriotic Concert

Rochester Opera House
Rochester, NH

Tickets: \$15 General Admission, \$10 Students and Seniors, \$5 Children 12 and under

For Rochester Opera House ticket info, please [click here](#)

Saturday, July 11, 2009

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Cate Park Gazebo
Wolfeboro, NH

Admission: Free

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Salvation Army Pavilion
Old Orchard Beach, ME

Gift to Rochester Opera House

The Strafford Wind Symphony presented to the Rochester Opera House on the behalf of the pianist Arlene Kies, a Jansen Artist piano bench. Arlene performed with the Wind Symphony at our last concert, Composers of the Twentieth Century. She also joined us last year at the Rochester Opera House. In lieu of payment, Arlene requested a donation to the Opera House. She suggested a piano bench since the Opera House did not have one. This was an effortless delight.

Laura K. V. Moore - Editor