

# AMATEUR CHAMBER MUSIC PLAYERS, INC.

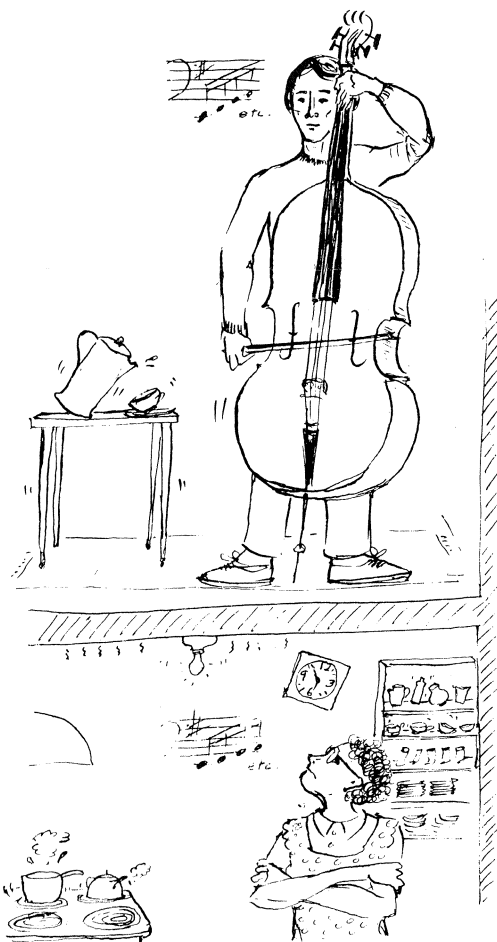
P.O. BOX 547, VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22180

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER, 1978

Dear Fellow Members,

We are pleased to announce that we are busily engaged at this moment in preparing a new Overseas Directory, our most recent one having been issued in 1975. This Overseas Directory will come out in the spring of 1979, to be followed by a new North and Central American Directory in 1980. We will thus resume the sequence that we hope to maintain in the future. As in the past, each directory is mailed to those members who are listed in it, and will be mailed to other members on request.

May we remind our North American Members that our expenses continue, and that we hope they will support us as generously this year of the Overseas Directory as they have in the past.



### MUSIC LISTS

Between the years 1952 and 1967 the ACMP published seven music lists consisting primarily of contemporary chamber music within the technical capabilities of the amateur. The last four of these lists had also a section devoted to unusual classical music and formerly out of print music that had become available. Some of these lists are still on hand and while they last will be sent to anyone requesting them.

Please write to: Helen Rice, Secretary  
15 West 67th Street  
New York, NY 10023

The Board thought that the number of requests received would be an indication of how much interest there would be in continuing this service with new lists in the future.

*We are again indebted to Susan McIntosh Lloyd for the drawing that we have the pleasure of reproducing.*

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report submitted by the Treasurer, August 1, 1978

## INCOME 1977-1978

Regular Contributions Aug. 1, 1977 to Aug. 1, 1978 .....	\$28,777.75
Overseas Postal Coupons .....	33.60
Dividends (3M stock donated by a member) .....	37.00
Interest on Savings Account .....	101.42
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$28,949.77</b>

## EXPENDITURES 1977-1978

American Symphony Orchestra League .....	\$8,232.50
(for services*) .....	
Printing .....	9,565.02
Postage .....	1,753.81
National Music Council Membership .....	100.00
Room rent for storing files .....	100.00
L'Association des Musiciens Amateurs .....	41.50
Accountant (preparing tax returns) .....	20.00
State Board tax fee (NY) .....	10.00
Registration of copyright .....	10.00
Telephone .....	81.31
Supplies and Miscellaneous .....	149.48
	<u>\$20,063.62</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES Aug. 1, 1977 to Aug. 1, 1978 .....	\$20,063.62
SURPLUS .....	8,886.15
BALANCE as reported in 1977 Newsletter .....	4,440.54
BALANCE as of August 1, 1978 .....	\$13,326.69

\* The American Symphony Orchestra League's services to us include the following: secretarial work, preparation of directories, proof-reading, keeping files up to date, sending out newsletters and directories, handling correspondence, listing contributors, and sending periodic statements to the Secretary and Treasurer.

We remind our members again that all U.S.A. contributions are tax deductible.

As this Newsletter goes to press, our balance is \$12,856.57 (Oct. 15, 1978)

---

## RUSSIA: WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO THERE?

The officers of the ACMP have been in close touch with Citizen Exchange Corps for several years and have talked over the question of whether if ACMP Members went to Russia, carrying instruments along, there would be any likelihood that they would be able to play with Russian amateurs. The ACMP Board discussed this possibility at length at their recent meeting, and were divided as to the advisability of mentioning such a trip in this newsletter. Some Board Members and two Russian experts, whom we consulted recently, were convinced that the chances of any amateurs from other countries playing with Russians, except in public buildings, were very slim. In fact, one of the Russian experts, who lived in Russia for several years, even urged us to prepare our members to be frustrated and disappointed as far as playing informally with Russians was concerned. However, he conceded that the trip would undoubtedly be very enjoyable and rewarding in all other respects. After careful consideration, the Board found the whole project so interesting that they asked our Chairman, Samuel P. Hayes, to prepare a statement which follows.

Would ACMP members be interested in a people-to-people visit to the Soviet Union, where they would meet Soviet citizens who also play chamber music as amateurs? This question was put to the ACMP Board by the Citizen Exchange Corps (CEC), a non-profit, non-political, cultural exchange organization with 16 years experience offering people-to-people visits to the Soviet Union.

CEC believes a 22-day trip could be organized, with four to six days each in Moscow, Leningrad, Tallinn and Odessa. A Russian-speaking American CEC staff leader, himself an amateur violinist, would accompany the group. Based on present prices, the all-inclusive cost for a tour departing in May or June, 1979, would probably range from \$1500 to \$1650.

While the USSR has no ACMP linking its country's amateur players, the CEC would work with centers of amateur musical life in each city—Houses of Culture, professional clubs and other groups—to arrange meetings with amateur musicians. Tour participants should take their instruments, since the ultimate goal of the tour would be informal chamber music sessions with Soviet hosts. As this tour would be a first in music, it is not known how much actual playing together would take place, but CEC's experience with other groups gives them confidence that this goal could be achieved. Recent CEC tours have included bird-watchers, rugby players, and various successful cultural groups.

The ACMP Board did not consider it appropriate to "sponsor" a tour, but did feel that our members should be informed about this possibility. If you are interested in learning more, even though you may not wish to make a commitment right away, write to:

David Pesetsky, Coordinator, Citizen Exchange Corps,  
New England Regional Office  
145 Hanover Street, Boston, MA 02108

---

## PUBLICITY — U.S.A.

Several years ago Dan Carlinsky, a writer for the New York Times, expressed an interest in doing an article about the ACMP. Before putting pen to paper, he went abroad and met a number of our members in Europe including Monsieur Hervieux, the Secretary of the French Association des Musiciens Amateurs. Finally, last winter things came to a head and Mr. Carlinsky asked to be present when American members of the ACMP met and played with a foreigner for the first time. Your secretary invited a young Englishman by the name of Roger Burton who had come over to the U.S.A. to work with computers. The occasion took place on the evening after the biggest snow storm of the winter, but everyone turned up on time. There was even an added bonus in the form of a professional flautist from Princeton who found herself snowbound in New York.

Mr. Carlinsky's delightful article appeared in the New York Times Sunday Travel Section on May 21st, 1978, under the title, The Amateur Chamber Music Network. His article has reappeared in the following papers, always with a change of personnel. In other words, a description of local players at a local gathering takes the place of the original group in Manhattan.

Chicago Sun Times  
Indianapolis Star  
San Jose Mercury News  
Diversion Magazine (Sent to doctors throughout the U.S.)

San Francisco Chronicle  
Inquirer Magazine (Cincinnati)  
Florida Accent (Tampa)

We have reason to think that there may be more variations on the article still to come.

*Through the courtesy of Dan Carlinsky and with the permission of the New York Times, we have reproduced the original article and will be glad to send it to anyone wishing it.*

---

## PUBLICITY — DUBLIN, EIRE

In the Sunday Press, Burgh Quay, Dublin, on June 25th, 1978, there appeared a very interesting article by Sarah Hamilton, with the title: The Truth About The Amateur. Ms. Hamilton is indeed a champion of amateurs, and we take pleasure in sharing some of her thoughts with our members.

In referring to some scathing remarks made by a professional about amateur playing, she writes: "One can only feel sorry for such people that they do not see that amateur musicians *are the salt of the earth* (Italics are ours). . . They provide the audiences, . . . but they play for themselves, too, because they must, because music matters to them, because it refreshes, sustains and enriches their lives. . ."

"Their ability and skill varies from barely adequate to better than many scoffing professionals. The word 'amateur' does not mean bad, as the supercilious professional would like to imply: it means a lover, making music for pleasure, for the joy of it. . ."

She goes on to describe a trip that a Dublin amateur orchestra made to England, and the pleasure experienced both by the visitors and their English hosts. The article ends with information about the ACMP, and she mentions in particular a visiting nuclear physicist from Denver, "who can manage Beethoven but not Bartok." She sums it all up with; "Almost always something can be arranged, and almost always an entertaining evening results with a stranger from another country. . ."

## THE MISSING VIOLA — RETURNED!

Those of you who saw the 1977 newsletter will remember the sad story of "The Missing Viola" which Erika Bach left behind in a taxi in Berlin and which turned up many years later in the Musikinstrumenten-Museum. The museum, having bought the beautiful Mathias Thir, 1795 in good faith from a dealer, was unwilling to give it back to Erika Bach, even though she had proved beyond any doubt that the instrument was rightfully hers. However, after extensive negotiations, the museum agreed to let her have the viola for her lifetime with the understanding that it ultimately be returned to the museum by her heirs.

By the time this letter is printed, Erika Bach will again be playing her Mathias Thir, because when we last heard from her she wrote that one of the officials of the museum was about to make a special trip to England for the sole purpose of delivering the instrument in person. We hoped last year that the story of The Missing Viola would have a happy ending, and so, it does—almost!

## A CASTLE IN GERMANY

There is a castle, not in the air nor in Spain, but in Germany, whose owner, Dr. Friedrich Speiser, turns it over to chamber music players the first Sunday of every month. Mr. Helmuth Westphal is the master of musical ceremonies and arranges the different combinations of instruments, even suggesting what each should play. Sometimes there are as many as fifty players filling the rooms of the castle with a variety of sextets, quintets, quartets, etc. This has been going on for twenty or more years and includes not only local players, but also those amateurs who are to be found each year among the foreign students who come to Heidelberg for graduate study.

Last year Joan and Robin Esch and their two children came from Lincoln, Massachusetts to spend Robin's sabbatical in Germany. Shortly after their arrival in Frankfurt, they were invited by Mr. Westphal to participate in one of these Sunday gatherings at the castle. Not only were Joan (Vc) and Robin (VI) given red carpet treatment, but a delightful German family, also with young children, entertained the Esch boys while the music went on. The Eschs joined these monthly gatherings several times during their stay in Germany, and they also played often at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. Westphal. These evenings went on well into the small hours of the night, and were referred to by a local newspaper as Eine Grosse Nachtmusik!

The Eschs kept repeating how wonderfully kind and hospitable the Westphals had been, and how friendly they had found all their hosts and hostesses. One of Joan's letters in writing about Mr. Westphal ended with:

"He really believes that if everyone played chamber music, the world would be at peace."

## OUR SPREADING MEMBERSHIP

We welcome our first member in Bulgaria, Mr. Assen Enev, who describes himself as both a lawyer and a musician. In addition to his orchestral experience in the violin sections of the Radio Sofia Symphonic Orchestra and the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr. Enev has played a wide variety of chamber music, and is now conducting the amateur orchestra of the Bulgarian Attorneys at Law. Last year he visited the United States where he joined some American players in Colorado, and he hopes, in turn, to be of help to players visiting his country.

We welcome also our first member in Micronesia, Mr. Don Schulkind. He writes us that he lives on an island only three miles square, but that he had found two excellent pianists to play with him. In order to give us a general idea of his location in the wide Pacific, he drew an outline of the Kwajalein Atoll, at the southern tip of which lies his little island. His letter ended with: "You are my one and only link to musical civilization."

## INTRODUCING A NEW MEMBER OF THE BOARD

We were delighted to receive Sibyl Totah Belmont's letter accepting our invitation to join the Board of the ACMP. She is a pianist, and although she plays frequently in chamber music concerts and has a busy teaching schedule, she does not list herself as a professional in our directory. She is presently working towards a Master's Degree culminating in a recital at Jordan Hall two years hence.

Sibyl lives in Lexington, Massachusetts, with her husband (Vc-A) and their young son.

It is with regret that we have accepted the resignation of Richard Gibian from the Board. He has been a member of our Association ever since its inception, and a member of the Board since the ACMP became incorporated. He is now generously stepping aside to make room for a younger member. We have greatly appreciated his loyal support and wise counsel, and we will continue to turn to him for his opinions on matters of policy.

Before his retirement, Richard's business took him to many countries where he invariably looked up local players. At the end of each session it was his habit to produce a postcard for everyone to sign, and this he mailed to the secretary of the ACMP with the greeting which read: "From your Children!"