

Regional Youth Orchestra In Bowdoin Presentation

By VERDI L. TRIPP
District Correspondent

BRUNSWICK — The Regional Youth Orchestra, formed late last year and consisting of 30 junior high and high school students in this region, presented its first spring concert at Bowdoin College Thursday evening.

The concert featured works of Haydn, Beethoven, Purcell and Bizet.

The concert was the result of efforts by three area women who comprise the board of directors for the regional orchestra.

They are Mrs. James A. Burbank II and Mrs. R. Wells Johnson, both of Brunswick, and Mrs. Charles E. Huntington of Harpswell.

"THE ORCHESTRA idea originated three years ago when we became concerned with the lack of orchestral opportunities in area schools," Mrs. Burbank explained.

With the assistance of Bowdoin College music instructor

Prof. Robert Beckwith, a grant for \$1,120 was obtained from the Maine State Commission on the Arts and Humanities in Augusta.

The Brunswick college offered a matching amount of in-kind services such as a practice hall, music stands and seats to accommodate the musicians.

The regional youth orchestra serves a 30-mile radius around Brunswick.

It exists to provide orchestral opportunities for junior high and high school age players, to provide a stimulus for young people to study stringed instruments, and to benefit the area musically by making the public aware of the accomplishments of young musicians given a serious outlet for their endeavors, Mrs. Burbank said.

AFTER SOME initial delay, the orchestra finally was born last November.

It rehearses weekly at Bowdoin College under the baton of Robert Hudson of Hallowell, a member of the music faculty at

the University of Maine in Augusta.

Hudson is the permanent instructor for the youth orchestra and will conduct the second concert performed by the young group. The first was in February.

"There are several reasons why we felt it necessary to form the orchestra," Mrs. Burbank said.

The first was to provide an opportunity for those who study stringed instruments to play in a properly balanced orchestra. Any school programs in the area served are band oriented. Little, and in most instances, no opportunity is available for orchestral playing, she explained.

Second, it provides an opportunity for those who study wind and percussion instruments to play in an orchestral environment where their use is very different from a band situation, she said.

It also allows the players to learn to play in tune with each other, follow a conductor and move to more challenging music as the group's ability grows.

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SHE SAID it is a stimulus for the study of stringed instruments privately and in school music programs. Students will be inspired to study these instruments because they see and hear them played in the orchestra and will be motivated to do well in their musical studies so that they can play in the orchestra themselves.

Another goal, the director said, will be to enhance the region culturally by the existence of a well coordinated youth symphony which periodically offers to the public programs of musical interest and excitement.

The orchestra is currently comprised of 30 players from the sixth through 12th grade. They come from Brunswick, Bath, Wiscasset, Topsham, Auburn, Yarmouth, Woolwich, New Gloucester, Freeport, Lewiston, Pownal and Harpswell.

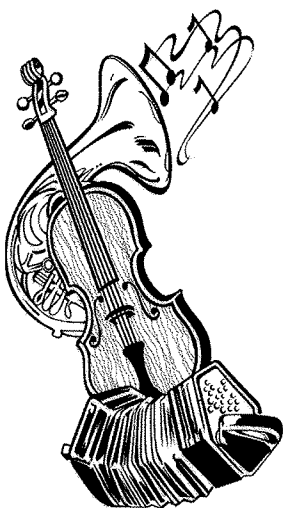
The selection process to the orchestra is by audition only — many youngsters are waiting in line.

Because of its balance, however, addition of an instrument is dependent on the number of strings present. Currently there are 17 string players, supplemented by two each of flutes, clarinets, trombones, french horns, trumpets and percussionists. It would take the addition of many more string players to add one more wind, brass or percussion instrument.

THE CURRENT grant money pays for the conductor's time, purchases music and prints the programs.

"We have applied for a second year supplemental grant", Mrs. Burbank explained. "The following year we will probably approach some community service organizations in the communities where the youngsters come to gain financial support.

This is the third regional youth orchestra in the state. The others are in Portland and Bangor.



Brunswick, Bath

Arts grants awarded

AUGUSTA — Brunswick Regional Youth Orchestra, the Bath Marine Museum, Young People's Theater of Brunswick and the Theater at Monmouth are among a number of groups in the state awarded new and supplementary art grants for 1973-74.

The Maine Legislature approved an expanded matching grants program for the Maine State Commission on the Arts and Humanities. The state funds will match funds from the National Endowment for the Arts. A total of over \$120,000 has been awarded to Maine groups.

Included under new grants were the Brunswick Regional Youth Orchestra with \$1,000 for concert programs; \$1,600 to the Marine Research Society of Bath for a curator of shipyard and small craft; and \$400 to Young People's Theater of Brunswick for school workshops.

Theater at Monmouth received a total of \$10,000 for the 1973 summer season, including \$1,000 from a supplementary grant.

New grants were also allocated to: Bangor Symphony Orchestra, Fiedler concert, \$2,500; Bangor Symphony Orchestra, family concert, \$3,000; Bangor Symphony Concert in Greenville, \$1,300; Bangor Symphony Concert in Mt. Desert, \$1,300; University of Maine, Orono, artist-in-residence, \$3,500; Central Maine Youth Orchestra, concerts in Bangor and on tour, \$1,000; Friends of Bridgton, Sebago-Long Lakes Region Chamber Music Festival, \$500; Friends of the Arts, Farmington, initial promotion costs of a regional arts council, \$250; Bay Chamber Concerts, Rockport Town Hall, \$1,000; Youth Arts, Camden, Cultural Programs, \$450; Camden Public Library, Graphics Workshop, \$1,000; Portland Museum of Art, establishment of an accessions system, \$1,000; Portland Symphony Orchestra, performances of "Amahl and the Night Visitors," \$2,500; Foster Films, Augusta, production of a Maine film, \$500; Kents Hill School, performances by Alpha Omega Players, \$300; Nason Little Theatre Company, Springvale, touring program, \$400; Kittery Recreation Department, cultural series, \$500; University of Maine at Fort Kent, arts program, \$800; University of Maine at Fort Kent, French cross culture study between Maine, New Brunswick and Quebec, \$2,000; Ricker College, Houlton, arts program, \$950; University of Maine at Presque Isle, arts program, \$1,100.

Due to extremely limited funds available, organizations received radically reduced grants in May. With news of increased funding by the State Legislature, many of those groups now receive supplementary grants. They are as follows: Community Crafts Workshop, Lewiston, \$1,500 for a total grant of \$4,500; Bangor Symphony Orchestra, for personnel development, \$500 for a total grant of \$3,000; Maine State Ballet, Bangor, introduction of dance, \$1,000 for a total grant of \$4,000; Cultural Affairs Council, University of Maine at Machias, \$500 for a total grant of \$2,500; Portland School of Art, Portland, outdoor sculpture exhibition series, \$2,300 for a total grant of \$4,300.

Other grants still to be awarded for 1973-74 will go: special touring programs, historic restoration and preservation, mini-grants involving all the arts, artists-in-schools programs and other special projects to be announced. arts to be announced.

