

ASO Salutes Women

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American student before enrolling the young musician from Oakland.

She returned to America and made her debut as guest conductor at the Hollywood Bowl. Critics came to see the phenomenon of a "woman conductor", but left convinced they had seen a first rate artist perform before what has come to be one of the largest crowds in the Bowl's history. Noting the historical importance of BRICO, The San Francisco Examiner wrote: "She was a phenomenon and a symbol. A phenomenon in her mastery of the orchestra - a symbol because she illustrated the emancipation of woman from the man-imposed fetters of the ages".

Antonia Brico embarked upon a four year tour-de-force of Europe's greatest concert halls, including a command performance for Queen Elizabeth in Brussels, before returning to successful U.S. touring.

But the world of serious music was not yet ready to afford a woman equal prominence and entry to the conductor's podium and when the novelty had been fully exploited, return engagements were not forthcoming even though critics were high in their praise of her musicianship.

With a determination and singleness of purpose that has characterized her career, the undaunted Antonia Brico met the challenge in an unique fashion. She created her own symphonic orchestra, the New York Women's Symphony Orchestra, comprised entirely of female musicians.

Her Women's Symphony was first cautiously accepted by concert goers of New York, but once the novelty had worn off and the excellence of the music of this first female orchestra was comprehended, Brico's orchestra became an accepted fixture in Manhattan

musical circles.

In 1938, having made her case in four years of professionally accepted work, Brico opened her orchestra to males. A program note in the performance of Verdi's Requiem noted: Antonia Brico has invited ten men to play with the New York Women's Symphony Orchestra tonight. The inception of this orchestra three years ago was the realization of a hope of Miss Brico's to attract the public attention to talented women musicians. Since then, many have taken various positions in the music field and it is their places the men will fill in this evening's program".

During the following years, Dr. Brico worked diligently at her art, accepting appearances as guest conductor with orchestras in Mexico, Norway, Japan, England, America, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Yugoslavia, Holland, Poland, and Latvia, besides teaching classes in various colleges and universities in the art of conducting and the history of opera.

In 1973, Dr. Brico was visited by her onetime piano student Judy Collins, who proposed to make a documentary film on the fantastic life and career of Dr. Brico. The resulting Academy Award nominated film, "Antonia. A Portrait of the Woman" played recently at the Dalhousie Arts Centre.

The impact of the documentary has caused a world-wide re-examination of the work of Antonia Brico and her unremitting ambition to be accepted as an artist rather than a novelty "woman conductor". Her planned International Tour for the 1975-76 season includes performances at the Lincoln Centre in New York, the Kennedy Centre in Washington, D.C., the Hollywood Bowl in California, and her own concert production of "Don Giovanni" with the Brico Symphony in Denver.

It has been an exciting career for the artist Bruno Walter called "a born orchestra conductor" and whom Arthur Rubinstein declared, "has a thorough knowledge and complete mastery of the orchestra." **LOIS MARSHALL** was born in Toronto, one of seven children of Scots-Irish parents. She loved music

at a very early age and entered the Royal Conservatory at the age of twelve. While still a young girl she won the coveted Naumberg Award competition and made her New York debut. The morning after this very special event, she woke up a star. That city's Herald-Tribune critic exclaimed: "She has to be heard to be believed! She is one of the most superb singers I have ever heard."

Following her American debut, Miss Marshall was discovered almost simultaneously by both Toscanini and Sir Thomas Beecham. The soprano was selected by the great Maestro Toscanini to sing the soprano roles in his concert and RCA Victor recording of Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis". TIME Magazine reported this of her first rehearsal with the Maestro: "Toscanini was murmuring 'Brava' before she had gone very far ... 'Bravissima' at the end". And thus Lois Marshall began a career which has made her name a household word.

Since Lois Marshall's debut, her career has expanded in all directions. It was the late Sir Thomas Beecham who introduced her to England, after having made a special trip to the United States to find the "right" soprano for his recording of Handel's "Solomon". He listened to many singers, and after hearing Lois Marshall, excused them all. "What a voice!" he bellowed to the London press on his return. "She's absolutely wonderful. She's the biggest winner in years. And, I've got her to come to London." She went on to make other recordings with Sir Thomas and made an album of oratorio arias with the London Symphony under the baton of Anthony Bernard for Angel Records; followed by appearances with the BBC Radio and Television, at the famed Eisteddfod in Wales, and with the Halle Orchestra directed by Sir John Barbirolli at the Harrogate Festival. At point the Continent beckoned and she made her German debut in Hamburg where she proved a sensation, as in London.

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Poetry

EARTH MOTHER SPEAKS ...

I am sad and sorry. You look and see what has befallen me. Its less than nothing,

but is it now?

I spend my years beneath the plough. I am rich and many things

from me will grow. A whole creation born of me

A whole creation walked on me

A whole creation returns to me

I am the soil as you may know that wonderful substance from whence things grow

They call me low, and that I am but without me all things be damned

It's God's gift to me you see, That I should give myself to thee I have to wait but little time till that part of you once more be mine

Three-score years and ten, thats all really man it is so small Six billion years its been for me, now I call that eternity!

You have so much to do with life, to settle down and find a wife You feel the soil beneath your feet, the air your lungs do breathe in deep Yet I behold you all around disdaining that with which your crowned

You attach yourself to me, you see and forget the One greater than thee The world is mine! you know that now so submit yourself to the Greater Plough.

Dec. 1973
N.J.H.

ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS...

put your thoughts into action
your words into deeds
be not left sentimental
as if struck by strange disease
the time for labour is now my

SEND \$\$\$\$

Support Gerard McNeil's fight for your rights. Contribute to his legal expenses by sending a cheque to: Censorship Fund, Box 812, Dartmouth, N.S.

friend
so ponder and reflect
but do not waste your ponderings
or like a mirror on the wall
let your reflections go unheeded
make them answer when you call
their hearts be joyous when you sing
and it is then when you will bring them forth from slumber, awake and alive
with love unbounded for you have arrived!

JUNE 1974
N.J.H.

LOOK
at the
GOODIES
we have for you!

NEW: Onion Rings - Introductory offer Sept. 29 / Oct. 3 - .55

NEW: For Breakfast: Waffles / syrup
toasted, split English muffins

NEW: For Anytime: Apple turnovers

Saga



Sean Fagan, lead vocalist for the Dublin Corporation, will be appearing in the SUB until Sept. 27.