

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MARK PEARSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to honor the considerable achievements of Mark Pearson. Mark recently received recognition at Wilderness 2000, a conference on wilderness issues, honoring him for his dedicated work in the wilderness field.

Mark began the work that he is now well known for when he attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he was an active member of the CU Wilderness Study Group. This group studied public lands issues in Colorado, examining particularly important areas and then forming copious data into field reports. The reports that were done under Mark's supervision were so thorough and so well done that they soon became a guide of sorts for wilderness enthusiasts. Upon graduating from CU, Mark went on to attend Colorado State University where he graduated with a masters degree in Public Land Management. His undergraduate and masters work enabled him to become the well-respected wilderness expert that he is today.

Before working with the Colorado Wilderness Network, Mark worked with a number of different environmental groups. He has been an active member of the Colorado Environmental Coalition, the Sierra Club, as well as working for the Wilderness Land Trust. His expertise in Forestry and public land management soon landed him a job with Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL as a public lands staffer. His knowledge of and leadership on wilderness issues is now being utilized by San Juan Citizens Alliance, where he is currently employed.

Mark has been a leading member of the wilderness community for over two decades. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the State of Colorado and the U.S. Congress, I would like to congratulate Mark on his well-deserved award.

HONORING CARRIE NEWTON AS THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR FAYETTE COUNTY

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2000

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize an outstanding educator in the Central Kentucky educational community. For twenty-nine years, Carrie Newton has been a tireless advocate for learning, especially in the area of literacy, who has inspired countless young students just beginning their academic careers. A fourth grade teacher at Lansdown Elementary School, Ms. Newton demonstrates all the qualities of an exceptional educator.

Ms. Newton has recently been named Elementary School Teacher of the Year for Fayette County. Carrie Newton has worked hard to ensure that elementary school students develop a first-rate academic foundation that will lead them to realize their full potential in their future endeavors.

I join our community in recognizing an outstanding teacher who has contributed years of dedicated teaching at Lansdown Elementary. Ms. Newton is the kind of teacher that every parent and child wishes for—an educator who knows how to engage her students and motivate them to learn. It is a pleasure to recognize Ms. Newton on the House floor today for her superior work in education which has earned her the Teacher of the Year Award.

TRIBUTE TO THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the remarkable Cleveland Orchestra that was recently featured in the Wall Street Journal article titled "In Cleveland, Music for Connoisseurs."

The Cleveland Orchestra was founded in 1918 under the outstanding direction of Russian-American conductor Nikolai Sokoloff. The renowned Sokoloff initiated an extensive domestic touring schedule, educational concerts, commercial recordings and radio broadcasts. This rich tradition continued under the distinguished Artur Rodzinski, who served as music director from 1933-43. His claim to fame was the presentation of 15 fully-staged operas at Severance Hall. After a short reign by Erich Leinsdorf, the orchestra went through a period of revolutionary change and growth under the incredible leadership of George Szell beginning in 1946. Both the number of Orchestra members and the length of the season increased, and the Orchestra started touring outside the United States. The famous Cleveland Orchestra Chorus was also established during this time. When Szell passed away in 1970, he was temporarily replaced by Pierre Boulez and later by Lorin Maazel during the 1972-73 season. Maazel not only lived up to the standards set by his predecessors, but he also left his own mark on the Orchestra by expanding their repertoire to include more 20th century compositions. Christoph von Dohnanyi succeeded Maazel as music director in 1982, and he continues to hold the position today. During von Dohnanyi's tenure, the Cleveland Orchestra has soared to rank among the best of the world's symphonic ensembles.

However, it is not simply the wonderful direction that makes the Cleveland Orchestra so amazing. The true power and inspiration of the Orchestra stems from its outstanding and marvelously talented collection of musicians. From the violins to the flutes to the horns to the

trombones, each section has its own magical sound but still blends modestly with the whole of the Orchestra.

A discussion of the grandeur of the Cleveland Orchestra is hardly complete without mention of its magnificent home, Severance Hall. The beautiful, ornate concert hall has just undergone a two-year, \$36 million renovation and expansion. The goal of the project was to preserve Severance Hall's grace and architectural integrity. Thus, the original detailing of the Hall has been restored, and its legendary acoustics have been retained and enhanced.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary achievements of the Cleveland Orchestra. I hope that the Orchestra continues bringing joy to the city of Cleveland and the rest of the world for many years to come, and I submit the aforementioned article into the RECORD.

IN CLEVELAND, MUSIC FOR CONNOISSEURS
WHILE ITS ARTISTIC PREEMINENCE IS UNQUESTIONED, THIS ORCHESTRA MAY FALL SHY OF FAME'S PEAK

By Greg Sandow

When Ellen dePasquale joined the Cleveland Orchestra two years ago, she'd had just two years of professional violin experience. And yet here she was, a member of the most disciplined orchestra in America, and possibly the world. Scarier still, she was leading it. She'd been hired as associate concertmaster, which made her second in command of the musicians. But the week she began, the main concertmaster, William Preucil, was playing in front of the orchestra as a soloist, leaving Ms. dePasquale in charge. I was overwhelmed," she told me.

"We tortured her!" Mr. Preucil laughed, chatting with her and me and two other Cleveland Orchestra musicians. "We broke her fingers," deadpanned Robert Vernon, the principal violist. But these were jokes. The surprising reality, as Ralph Curry, a member of the cello section, explained it, was utterly simple: "She sat down and people followed her." Leading an orchestra, Ms. dePasquale said, suddenly was "easier than it ever had been."

This is one way to start a special story, about the culture of the Cleveland Orchestra, whose musical preeminence is taken for granted by professionals. That's been true ever since the '50s, when George Szell was music director and conducted—as we can hear on his recordings, still available from Sony Classical—with clarity, forceful intellect and decisive grace.

He set a standard that's still in force. I've heard three Cleveland recordings of Beethoven's Ninth, one with Szell conducting, another with Loren Maazel, music director from 1972 to 1982, and the third with Cleveland's current music director, Christoph von Dohnanyi. Szell's performance is both the strongest and the subtlest. Mr. Maazel's the most blatant and Mr. von Dohnanyi's the simplest, despite its force, and the most understated. But in all three, no matter what approach the conductor takes (and Mr. Maazel's case, maybe in spite of it), the musicians play every note with radiant care. Robert Vernon and Ralph Curry both played under Szell; both say they were taught the tradition when they arrived and that they

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

passed it on to those who came in after them.

They haven't changed what they look for they said, when new players audition. "A beautiful sound," Robert Vernon summarizes, "not the flashiest playing." "Someone who listens," William Preucil offered. "Our character," Mr. Vernon said, "is to sacrifice our own position to be with the other person"—something I noticed

These musicians, orchestra staff members said, play their best on matter where they are. And I heard that myself when some of them gave a concert in the gym of a local elementary school. This was part of a new program called Learning Through Music, which (though Cleveland is hardly the first orchestra to do this) not only puts musicians in the schools, but makes them part of the schools' curriculum. The gym was packed with kids and their working-class parents. The program ranged from standard classical repertoire—a movement, for instance, from the Berlioz "Symphonie Fantastique," cannily arranged for 10 or so players—to rock and jazz and the sharp contemporary rhythm of Steve Reich's "Clapping Music" (played after a minute of silence, during which the kids were encouraged to hear the sounds that rustled and stirred around them). And while it's hardly a secret that orchestras don't always care about performance for children, in this one the musicians spoke to the kids with all the flair of accomplished entertainers and played with the same arresting certainty you'd hear on their records with Mr. von Dohnanyi. The audience was on its feet screaming; I've never seen an orchestra make so many friends so quickly.

But, then, the culture of the Cleveland Orchestra goes deeper than music. "There's a sense of community you don't find many other places, and a can-do spirit," said Richard Kessler, director of the American Music Center, who got to know many orchestras from the inside when he worked as a consultant on orchestral education programs (including Cleveland's). "I've never been in an institution that had less internal tension," said Patricia Wahlen, the orchestra's veteran director of development, after I'd watched her conduct a meeting. "Talent I know I can find," said Thomas W. Morris, the executive director, talking about how he hires new staff. "So I look for imagination."

"The personality is the main thing, finally," Mr. Dohnanyi told me, describing what he looks for in new musicians. I spoke to four people on the board of directors, and none of them mentioned what his day job was until I asked. All four were powers in the Cleveland business world; they'd have to be, since the board raised \$25 million toward the recent \$116 million.

"We have a passion for the music, for the musicians," said the board president, Richard J. Bogomolny (himself an accomplished violinist who plays chamber music with members of the orchestra, though, characteristically, it wasn't he who let me know that), John D. Ong, one of two co-chairmen of the board, describing the orchestra's position in the city, told me, "George Szell lived in Cleveland and was seen doing the normal things that people do." One of Mr. Von Dohnanyi's sons just graduated from Case Western Reserve University here, and many people mentioned the city itself as one reason for the orchestra's success. Philanthropically, Mr. Ong told me, Cleveland is "extraordinarily generous."

To learn more, I called Ohio Sen. George Voinovich, who'd earlier been Cleveland's mayor, and John Grabowski, assistant professor of history at Case Western Reserve and director of research at the Western Reserve Historical Society. Mr. Grabowski talked about Cleveland's "climate of serv-

ice" and how loyal Cleveland workers are to their jobs. But what struck me most was that both men had their own connection with the orchestra.

For many years, nearly every school-child in Cleveland was bused to Severance Hall; Mr. Grabowski heard concerts there, while Senator Voinovich's mother took him to performances. "I really miss that part of my life," the senator said, almost wistfully. "As the mayor of the city, one of the nice things was to go to Severance Hall and be known by some of the musicians."

The renovated hall is breathtaking—an art deco palace, red and gold with silver and faux-Egyptian highlights, more playful than you might expect, but also simpler and more serious. Inside it, the orchestra plays wonderfully serious concerts, with soloists chosen for their connoisseur's appeal ("We don't hire big names just because they're names," Edward Yim, the orchestra's artistic administrator, very quietly declared), and programs carefully constructed, with a constant presence of contemporary scores.

Are there problems? The only one I might have found was an apparent disagreement over incoming music director Franz Welser-Most, who'll succeed Mr. von Dohnanyi two years from now; the board, I think, adores him, but the musicians only said (as musicians often will).

"Let's wait and see."

I started asking everybody what difficulties there might be; Thomas Morris answered "complacency"—not now, but maybe in the future. I'll raise his bet and offer "smugness." Mr. Morris isn't smug (I was amazed to find that his institution seemed even stronger than he says it is), but it's tricky being sure that you're the best. The musicians made comparisons with other orchestras that can't easily be quoted; they're surely true, but baldly written down they might not seem plausible. And there's a curious artistic challenge, which springs from a problem of perception. The Cleveland Orchestra, as I've said, is musically preeminent, but ever since George Szell, this largely has been preeminence for connoisseurs. What's missing, at least from the orchestra's image, is the expectation of simpler musical virtues, especially direct emotional expression. Mr. von Dohnanyi ("not an obvious choice," said Mr. Ong, "but perfect for us" understands musical integrity; he allows great sonic explosions, for example, only at climactic moments.

At Carnegie Hall, at the start of Charles Ives's "The Unanswered Question," he evoked the softest orchestral sound I've ever heard, a kind of wordless aural poetry just a breath away from silence. but even though he might surprise you in romantic music—try his wrenching, limpid Tchaikovsky "Pathétique" on Telarc—he's most strikingly emotional in unpopular atonal works by Berg and Schoenberg. Mr. Welser-Most, of course, will have his own story to tell. But Mr. von Dohnanyi's version of Cleveland's impeccable tradition almost guarantees that the orchestra can't be wildly popular. It may not want to be; it's surely aiming higher. But still it's true that other orchestras remain more famous—the Vienna Philharmonic, for example, whose very name seems synonymous with classical music. Cleveland might be a better orchestra, but because it's not flashy, the final peaks of fame may so far have eluded it.

CELEBRATING THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MEXICAN AMERICANS' 30TH YEAR OF SERVICE TO THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on October 20, 2000, the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA) will be celebrating the 30th year of service to the Hispanic community. This is a tremendous achievement, and I wish them continued success.

Founded in 1970 in Houston, Texas, AAMA is the largest Hispanic nonprofit service provider in Texas. This community organization was founded to advance the needs of Hispanic families that are coping and struggling to beat back the grip of poverty, poor health and family planning, and low educational attainment. Today, AAMA provides services in Houston and across South Texas.

In my congressional district, AAMA operates the George I. Sanchez Charter High School, which provides at-risk Hispanic youth with an alternative educational environment. Today, the school is one of the largest and most successful charter schools in Texas.

In addition to these education services, AAMA also operates many social service programs, including three gang intervention programs, two HIV and AIDS counseling programs and several drug and alcohol abuse programs throughout Texas. With these programs in place, it is easy to see why AAMA is the largest social service provider in Texas.

AAMA is also involved in community development. The AAMA Community Development Corporation is dedicated to the revitalization of Houston's inner-city through the development of affordable and decent housing. The AAMA Community Development Corporation recently completed and leased a new 84-unit affordable living center in Houston's East End.

I am proud of everyone associated with AAMA. They work tirelessly on behalf of our communities. I ask every Member of the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating AAMA's 30th year of service and in wishing them continued success.

HONORING GEORGE MANZANARES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor a remarkable human being, George Manzanares. George was a recent recipient of the Daily Point of Light Award. This award is given to individuals and groups that "make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of others". The Daily Point of Light Foundation presents one award each