

September 9, 1957

Dr. Castetter, Vice President

Edwin E. Stein, Dean, College of Fine Arts

YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

History

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About five years ago Prof. Frederick organized a string ensemble for the high school musicians of Albuquerque and surrounding towns in order to stimulate the development of orchestras and to give these young people an opportunity to participate in such a group. The String ensemble met on the University campus each Saturday morning and Prof. Frederick donated his services. As this group expanded into a regular symphony orchestra, certain opposition appeared from one influential member of the Albuquerque Public School music staff who believed the orchestra was in conflict with certain public school music interests. A meeting of interested University and Public School music people was held to make a decision about the merits and very existence of the orchestra. A statement with no definite proposals resulted. About a year later the Supervisor of Music of the Public Schools and several colleagues, made arrangements with Prof. Frederick and Dr. Stephenson of our faculty to organize a Youth Symphony under the joint sponsorship of the Public Schools and the University of New Mexico. They received the blessing of Dr. Milne and financial support of the Superintendent of Schools and the Orchestra was placed under the Recreation Department with Mr. Renfro in charge of the budget. Also they felt it imperative to move the activity to one of the Public Schools for rehearsals. Expenses for the purchase of music, instruments, music printing needs, and an hourly wage for two or three public school music staff were paid from this budget of the Recreation Department of the Public Schools. Prof. Frederick and Dr. Stephenson continued to give their services gratis. No pay or teaching credit was recognized by the University. Through some channel, but not through Prof. Frederick or Dr. Stephenson, it was discovered that these two University men were not being compensated while all others connected with the project were. Therefore, Mr. Renfro proposed that they too be included in this years budget for their services. The Superintendent of Schools seriously questioned the soundness of this<sup>by</sup> virtue of the fact that under joint sponsorship, the University as such was not contributing materially to the support of the Symphony, yet considered itself a co-sponsor.

As of this date there is nothing in the files of the Academic Vice-President, the College of Fine Arts or the Music Department, or the Superintendent of Public Schools which validates such a joint-sponsorship, establishes authority or any definite working agreements.

The Value of the Youth Symphony to the University

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The University is larger than its own campus. The Youth Symphony is comprised of students from all schools, Public and Parochial, and from other communities such as Santa Fe and Belen. The University has the kind of leadership and experience available not common among average Public School music personnel. The Orchestra is of significant public relations value to the University as well as being an intellectual and artist enterprise which is worthy of our recognition and support. This organization is a natural liaison between many citizens of the community and state and the University.

Sponsorship of Youth Symphony's

The Youth Symphony, to function best, needs to be a community venture. Past experience has shown that sponsorship by a single agency, regardless of its wealth, is not the best kind of support. The greatest value to the student comes from the interest and support of various appropriate agencies.

Recommendations

1. That the University of New Mexico and the Albuquerque Public Schools officially recognize and co-sponsor the Youth Symphony Orchestra.
2. That the President of the University and the Superintendent of the Public Schools create a board of control made up of University and Public School personnel, with authority to determine policy and operation of this activity.
3. That the University seriously consider active and material support of the Youth Symphony.

The amount of money recommended for Prof. Frederick and Dr. Stephenson in the orchestra budget is a total of \$600.00 for the eight months period. It is this sum which the Superintendent of Schools is reluctant to approve.