

CELEBRATING 100:

# young people's concerts and YPSCA

**O**n November 24, 1911, Emil Oberhoffer led the then-Minneapolis Symphony in a Young People's (YP) Concert, launching one of the nation's earliest symphonic concert series for youth. This month we reach into old clippings as well as newer materials to review a century of bringing great music and music education to millions of eager children, not only via YP concerts, but also through the Young People's Symphony Concert Association (YPSCA), whose members founded and continue to support this innovative series.

Bundled-up schoolchildren head to the Minneapolis Auditorium for the first Young People's Concert, ▲ where two instrument families—strings and woodwinds—are the focus (1911). Along with Orchestra staff, YPSCA members have always helped prepare students for YP concerts with ► study materials and listening sessions (1942). Across



Mitropoulos And Rudolf Serkin  
Wow 3,000 St. Paul Youngsters



A fifth- and a seventh-grader are front and center as the Orchestra's fourth music director, Dimitri Mitropoulos, reviews scores with master pianist Rudolf Serkin before his YP concert performance at Northrop Auditorium (1945). Arthur Rubinstein, another legendary keyboard artist, takes time to observe a young pianist; students dressed in their best fill the hall ▲ (1946). Arriving as music director in 1949, Antal Dorati promptly

establishes an annual art program to inspire children to create their own responses to music. A ► kindergartener finger-paints her reaction to Leroy Anderson's *The Waltzing Cat* and a fourth-grader interprets Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* (1957).



YOUTHS' CONCERT SHEDS  
GLAMOR FOR ENTHUSIASM

Cat and a fourth-grader interprets Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* (1957).



I saw four kettle  
drums. I was so sur-  
prised that there  
were so many kettle  
drums. I had fun  
going to the concert.  
I enjoyed it very much.  
Mary Ellen Lynch



each decade of YP concerts, students have responded to the experience with drawings and handwritten thank-you notes—warming the hearts of Orchestra conductors, players and staff (1943).





Animals join the orchestra



Henry Charles Smith making an instrument out of a shower hose, mouthpiece and funnel



Gretchen Carlson



Gary Levinson



# Young Music Makers

By Laura Cusack, Apr. 11, and by Thomas, Apr. 11

Gary Levinson and Gretchen Carlson, two very talented musicians, have won the Young People's School Music Auditions. Gary and Gretchen are both twelve years old.

They have only been twelve years old, but they have been playing for a long time. They have been playing for a long time, and they have been playing for a long time.

Gary likes to play the violin, and Gretchen likes to play the violin. They have been playing for a long time, and they have been playing for a long time.

The school has been very successful in the past, and they have been playing for a long time. They have been playing for a long time, and they have been playing for a long time.

Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals* is programmed for YP concerts, occasioning a visit from Como Park Zoo animals—a lion cub, a turtle and a swan (1972). Among the novel approaches of Resident Conductor Henry Charles Smith, who led hundreds of YPs throughout the 1970s and '80s: showing how to make a musical instrument of a mouthpiece, funnel and shower hose (1978). Narrating Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* is Vikings great Carl Eller, one of many well-known figures to take the stage for YP concerts (1978). Twelve-year-old violinists Gretchen Carlson and Gary Levinson share top honors at the School Music Auditions, an annual competition YPSCA launched in 1955—and each wins a chance to solo with the Orchestra at a YP concert (1979).

YPs often feature performing arts groups such as James Sewell Ballet, here in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (2004). Honored at a Musical Mentor reception—for YPSCA members whose gifts bring entire classrooms to YP concerts—is Jamie Bernstein, who clearly shares her famous composer-conductor father's commitment to education: she participates in YPs and is a loyal Musical Mentor as well (2005, with Musical Mentor Chair Cynthia Tambornino). Young musicians share the stage with the Orchestra as students in area string programs perform an all-strings version of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* (2007).

YPSCA ushers Audrey Rees guides students to their seats (2009). Associate Conductor Courtney Lewis now conducts the Minnesota Orchestra's YPs, including this performance by School Music Auditions winner Bo Peng (2011).



**ypscA**  
Young People's Symphony  
Concert Association

Help YPSCA celebrate the centennial!

To join, call (763) 546-2071; for information on becoming a Musical Mentor, call (612) 929-0415.