

TWO CONCERTS FEATURED IN VIRGIL FOX FESTIVAL

Two concerts will figure prominently during the 10th annual observance of the death of America's beloved classical organist Virgil Fox. The festival weekend will be presented by the Virgil Fox Society. Steven Frank, President. Len Levasseur is the producer of the festival.

SPIVEY HALL

The first concert, played by Fox's former student Richard Morris, will be on Saturday, August 10, at 8:00 PM. The concert will be played on the Albert Schweitzer Memorial Organ at Spivey Hall, Clayton College and State University, Morrow (Atlanta), Georgia. Virgil Fox's close identification with the Fratelli Ruffatti organ was through his great friend Emilie Parmalee Spivey, who with her husband contributed the major gift that built Spivey Hall and endowed the organ. The three manual, 40-rank organ was named for Albert Schweitzer by agreement with his daughter, Rhena Schweitzer Miller, an Atlanta resident for many years.

In his position as organist of New York's famed Riverside Church, Fox presented Ms. Spivey in a concert during the regular church season—a rare occasion during his tenure. Ms. Spivey was an occasional student of Dr. Fox's, organist of The Temple synagogue and North Avenue Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, and Atlanta's first Woman of the Year for her musical and philanthropic work. She and her husband, a dentist, had created two lakes in Clayton County; they lived on Lake Spivey in Jonesboro. The property was developed by them into prestigious home sites near Atlanta, and they believed that the money they made should be kept in Clayton County. Spivey Hall is widely acknowledged as one of the finest concert halls in the world, featuring acoustics acclaimed by conductor Robert Shaw and other leading artists. The organ is the focal point of the elegant, 1,000-seat hall.

Richard Morris follows in the tradition of Virgil Fox as an international recitalist. He is Artist in Residence at Spivey Hall and head of the organ department at

Clayton College and State University. He studied with Dr. Fox at his home in Englewood, New Jersey over a period of several years. Mr. Morris' program on August will be made up of major works he studied with Fox.

Although Virgil Fox did not live to hear the Ruffatti organ in Spivey Hall—nor did its donor, Emilie Spivey—he championed the Italian organ builder in America and maintained a lifelong friendship with Emilie and Walter Spivey.

“FOX AT THE FOX” – VIRGIL FOX MEMORIAL CONCERT

In Virgil Fox played “Fox at the Fox” to help raise funds for the restoration of the Atlanta Fox Organ and Theatre. Joe G. Patten, Curator of the four manual, rank Möller concert organ, was his host and will participate in an entertaining and educational discussion session about the Fox “Mighty Mo” during the festival weekend. Details of the festival weekend programs can be found on the website of the Virgil Fox Society: www.virgilfox.com

ALBERT SCHWEITZER MUSIC AWARD

Virgil Fox was a devotee of the writings by Albert Schweitzer on Johann Sebastian Bach and was soloist at the first Albert Schweitzer Music Award concert in Carnegie Hall on the th anniversary of Dr. Schweitzer's birth, January. Dr. Fox met Dr. Schweitzer in New York in during Schweitzer's only visit to America.

The Albert Schweitzer Music Award was founded by Richard Torrence and Marshall Yaeger at the request of Rhena Schweitzer Miller, only child of Dr. and Mrs. Schweitzer. Ms. Schweitzer had requested that New York's Albert Schweitzer Fellowship centenary observations feature Dr. Schweitzer as a musician rather than physician or theologian, “because music was his passion.” Schweitzer was a prominent organist himself, co-authored the Widor-Schweitzer editions of the organ works of J.S. Bach, and remains the only professional musician to have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

As Marshall Yaeger wrote in the Albert Schweitzer Music Award tributes, “Some performers manifest humanitarian characteristics to an extraordinary degree.”

Albert Schweitzer was such a man. His philanthropy, so celebrated in his time, made him one of the most famous men in the world. The reason for his fame was not that he sought it, but that his sacrifice was so spectacular. Perhaps because the practice of any art requires someone prepared to make sacrifices, few recognize and fewer encourage many musicians can be found who perform acts of courage and humanity similar to Schweitzer's. It is to honor these heroes and heroines—as well as to memorialize Albert Schweitzer, a paradigm of their example—that this award is given.”

The first Schweitzer Music Award was given to violinist Isaac Stern “for a life's work dedicated to music and devoted to humanity” at the Carnegie Hall centenary concert. The all-Bach concert also featured the American Symphony Orchestra conducted by Richard Westenberg, pianist Eugene Istomin, the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the American Boychoir, and narrator Marta Casals. Leonard Bernstein was honorary chairman; Virgil Fox and Andrés Segovia were chairmen.

The second Albert Schweitzer Music Award was presented to dance and music pioneer Katherine Dunham at an archival performance by the reconstituted Dunham Dancers, under the direction of Glory Van Scott, in Carnegie Hall in 1967. The dance concert was presented by the Board of Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Ms. Dunham had become an educator in the ghettos of East St. Louis, after a brilliant career as dancer and choreographer—who always used original music. The honorary chairman of the Carnegie Hall concert was Coretta Scott King; Sir Rudolf Bing and Jane Pickens Hoving were the chairmen.

In 1968, Van Cliburn was honored in a concert at Carnegie Hall that featured soprano Leontyne Price and Van Cliburn International Piano Competition winners Ralph Votapek and Steven DeGroot, with the Northwood Orchestra conducted by Don Th. Jaeger. Greer Garson read from the writings of Dr. Schweitzer, and the concert was presented by Northwood Institute of Midland, Michigan, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. A dinner in Mr. Cliburn's honor took place in the Grand Ballroom of the Plaza Hotel, for which Mrs. Elton M. Hyder Jr. and W. Clement Stone were chairmen.

Mstislav Rostropovich was honored with the Albert Schweitzer Music Award in 1978. A concert of the National Symphony Orchestra, Maestro Rostropovich conductor and cello soloist, was presented by The Creo Society at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center. Martha Hyder and Gordon Getty were chairmen; co-chairmen were Gordon Getty, Armand Hammer, Caroline Lynch, and Judy Peabody. A dinner at the Plaza Hotel Grand Ballroom followed the concert. Eugenia and Henri Doll were specially honored as patrons of music, and proceeds from the event were given to the Mannes College of Music.

In 1979, Leonard Bernstein was the Albert Schweitzer Music Award honoree at a concert at Avery Fisher Hall. He conducted the New York Philharmonic and the Westminster College Choir in a performance of Gustav Mahler's "Resurrection Symphony" with soloist Christa Ludwig. The dinner that followed was at Avery Fisher Hall. Mrs. William F. Buckley Jr. was honorary chairman of the evening, which benefited the Felicia Monteleagre Fund at Amnesty International. Bill Blass, Oscar de la Renta, Fernanda Niven, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Petrie, and Mr. and Mrs. Steven C. Rockefeller Jr. were co-chairmen of the events, and Lauren Bacall hosted the award ceremony for The Creo Society. Irma Lazarus was the evening's special honoree for her work on behalf of the American Symphony Orchestra League.

John Denver, for his musical contributions and his environmental work, received the Albert Schweitzer Music Award in 1980 under the auspices of the Albert Schweitzer Institute for the Humanities. The award ceremonies took place at Quinnipiac College in Connecticut, where the Institute was located. Mr. Denver played a concert nearby at an outdoor facility. Proceeds benefited the Schweitzer Institute, and the award was presented to Mr. Denver by Rhena Schweitzer Miller, as at all previous award events.

In 1981, again under the Albert Schweitzer Institute for the Humanities, the Albert Schweitzer Music Award was presented to three prominent tenors: José Carreras, Plácido Domingo, and Luciano Pavarotti. A televised concert by the Three Tenors from the New Jersey Meadowlands featured a description of Dr. Schweitzer's work. The award ceremony preceded a dinner at New York's Metropolitan Club, and the three bronze awards were designed by a Russian.

jeweler Andrei Pamelnikov Elizabeth Kummerfeld was chairman of the evening

The Albert Schweitzer Music Award is now administered under the direction of its founders Richard Torrence and Marshall Yaeger by Anchor International Foundation www.anchorinternational.org The Albert Schweitzer Music Award will be presented to its th recipient soprano Anna Moffo on September at : PM during an organ concert in the Fox Theatre Atlanta Georgia The award was announced in New York at a luncheon hosted by HRH Princess Michael of Kent Chairman of Anchor International Foundation

Metropolitan Opera star Anna Moffo celebrated her th anniversary with the Met in She continues to teach voice in New York and is an active philanthropist in the arts and medicine Her second husband was Robert Sarnoff whose father founded NBC and RCA and she helps administer a fund in the name of his parents The fund has benefited National Public Television the American Cancer Society the Curtis Institute of Music and many New York cultural institutions

Ms Moffo was a favorite artist in Atlanta during the s and s when the Met still toured the United States Performances were always at the Fox Theatre A reception after the Spivey Hall concert will honor Anna Moffo Sarnoff "for a life's work dedicated to music and devoted to humanity " The award will be presented to Ms Moffo during the September concert starring organists Larry Douglas Embury Tom Hazleton Lyn Larsen and Jonas Nordwall

For additional information view the Virgil Fox Society website
www.virgilfox.com

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