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ON THE OCCASION OF THE COUNTY OF ERIE'S BICENTENNIAL

March, 2021

We, the Amherst Symphony Orchestra, CELEBRATE Erie County's Bicentennial year with gratefulness and appreciation for that which the County leadership has given to the community through their decisions which reflect a prioritizing of the Arts in their actions and budget.

Even though, for the past 44 years, the County has given virtually uninterrupted support to the arts organizations, this current administration with Mr. Poloncarz has remained steadfast, amidst considerable resistance, in recognizing the importance of all the arts for all facets of our community.

Thankfully, the financial help has been and is available during the challenges brought on by COVID19. This shutdown has been particularly devastating to performing organizations such as ours, and since we are a volunteer symphony orchestra, it is impossible to offer much in the way of virtual productions.

The essential need to connect regularly with our musicians and community could not be met without the assistance from the County. Some of what has been accomplished is documented on page 2 of this letter. The financial allotments have enabled us to prepare for and plan for our future.

This is our exciting 75th Season which will be celebrated whenever we are able to provide and share music in rehearsals, concerts and our many outreach events.

The majority of our musicians are engaged in various occupations and become part of the ASO because of their love of music and the opportunities to perform for and to educate young and old alike.

Thank you Mr. Poloncarz, the entire legislature, especially Tom Loughran, Jeanne Vinal and Ed Rath, for your confidence in us and for enabling us to carry out our meaningful and comprehensive mission.

Sincerely,

Susan G. Arrigo
ASO Association Board President

Joan E. Fishburn
ASO General Manager





While the ASO is taking an intermission...see what's happening in the community for the celebration of the ASO's 75th Season!

• Thirty-eight lamp post pole banners are hanging along Main St., Williamsville. In regal purple and gold, Amherst Symphony Orchestra celebrates its message of 75 years as part of the Williamsville/Amherst community.

• The Summer issue of WNY Heritage magazine contains a 3,000 - word centerfold article with images about the history of the Amherst Symphony.

• The Amherst Symphony's traffic signal box in the Town of Amherst is located at MacArthur and Maple Roads, at the entrance/exit of Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital.

• The Amherst Symphony was in the spotlight on WIVB Channel 4 News along with featured articles in the Amherst Bee!



Summer concert canceled, 75th season celebrations continue

by SAMANTHA FLAVELL Associate Editor

While the Amherst Symphony Orchestra Summer Concert was canceled this year due to the pandemic, the orchestra is determined to continue celebrating its 75th season through a series of colorful, informative and community-minded promotions. The difficult decision was made in early July to cancel the summer concert, which had been scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 4 at Island Park in Williamsville. Organizers said they felt that due to the current health concerns surrounding COVID-19 it was in the best interest of the health and safety of the musicians and attendees to cancel the event. While the cancellation of the annual event was a loss, the orchestra has used this intermission from music to plan a variety of fun and engaging promotions to help celebrate the Amherst Symphony Orchestra's 75th season. "We really just want to thank

Heritage magazine will include a 3,000-word centerfold article dedicated to the history of the Amherst Symphony. The article, written by Sarah Pozzuto, places an emphasis on their outreach and connection with the community. The spread, interspersed with photos, will regale the history of the orchestra in the Amherst and Williamsville community. The cover of this special magazine issue will feature a past ASO concert program from the '30s. The magazine is just coming off the presses and will be available to the public in the next week. Issues will be available at a variety of smaller outlets, as well as area Tops, Wegmans and Barnes and Nobles. The magazine is also available for purchase by calling WNY Heritage Magazine at 855-4011 or by visiting their website at www.nyheritagemag.org and using promo code: ASO75. A special subscription promotion is being offered. Anyone who purchases a year

MacArthur Drive and Maple Road. This box, at the entrance of Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, was recently completed by graphic artist, Erica E. Clough, and depicts a 75th anniversary celebration message for the Orchestra. While the summer concert was one of many events this

year to fall prey to COVID, the Amherst Symphony Orchestra has worked to make the most of an unfortunate situation, by focusing on what is most important, the health and well-being of people. COVID has required the orchestra to get creative in ways to celebrate safely and

follow state guidelines. While there will be no concert this summer, members of the ASO are excited and planning for the time when it will be safe to host concerts again. "We continue to plan for the future," Fishburn said, "when the orchestra and community can make music together."



WIVB Channel 4 News website snippet showing an article titled 'Amherst Symphony celebrating 75 years in existence' by News 4 Staff, posted on Sep 1, 2020. The article text includes: 'AMHERST, N.Y. (WIVB)—This month marks the beginning of a very special year for the Amherst Symphony. It's the start of their 75th year in existence. 38 banners will be on display outside the Williamsville Village Hall on Main Street, bringing attention to the musicians of the Amherst Symphony Orchestra. It was started in 1946 as part of the adult education program in the Amherst schools. Joan Fishburn is the group's general manager. She's been part of the ensemble for 60 years.'