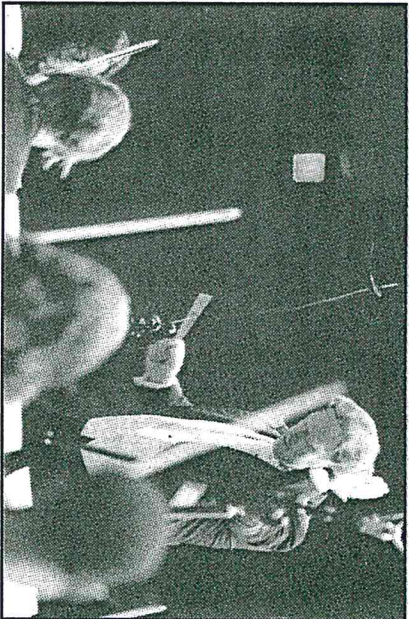


Transforming the Lives of Children Through Music

On Sunday, April 17th, the Church of St. James the Less with The Children's Aid Society, Westchester Reform Temple (WRT) and The Canadian Chamber Orchestra of New York City (CCO/NYC) will present their 9th Annual Children's Benefit Concert entitled "The American Experience". This concert unites different religious and musical groups to benefit at-risk children from Westchester Jewish Community Services' (WJCS) Amazing Afternoons Program at the Edward Williams School in Mount Vernon. The concert will be held at 6:00 p.m. in The Recital Hall of the State University of New York in Purchase.

This unique concert is a joint effort primarily of the Episcopal and Jewish congregations as well as other religious and community groups in Scarsdale. The eight previous concerts have netted over \$350,000 and have sent over 450 disadvantaged children from Edward Williams for seven weeks to the Wagon Road Camp in Chappaqua.

WJCS is Westchester's most comprehensive not-for-profit, non-sectarian human services agency. Amazing Afternoons, under the umbrella of WJCS, is an after-school program that serves approximately 125 students from first through fifth grade. The program offers a range of activities to



Justin Bischof

support academic achievement and to promote positive emotional and social development.

Justin Bischof, Artistic Director/Conductor of CCO/NYC and Co-Founder of the Benefit

Concert, will conduct such audience favorites as Bernstein's Overture to Candide, Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man, Bischof's The Last Words of David, Barber's Knoxville: Summer of 1915 and Dvorak's sublime Symphony No. 9 "New World". International soprano Sky Ingram of the Royal Opera House, London will make her CCO/NYC debut in the Barber.

Cantor Jill Abramson, Senior Cantor of WRT, will sing Zion's Wall by Aaron Copland and Avenu Malkenu by Max Janovskis.

The Children's Choir of the Edward Williams School, along with children from St. James the Less and Westchester Reform Temple will join forces (60 children) along with the audience to sing several favorites including The Battle Hymn of the Republic and This Little Light of Mine to close the concert.

"Musically, these concerts are of exceptional quality," added conductor Justin Bischof. "I am honored that we can create a collaborative classical concert while helping those in our larger community who need it so desperately. I am proud of all of the hard work and dedication of everyone

involved who make this event such a success every year."

The primary beneficiaries are the children of the WJCS' Amazing Afternoons Program in Mount Vernon attending The Children's Aid Society Wagon Road Camp in Chappaqua. During the summer months when the Afternoon Program is not in session, the camp experience provides a desperately needed safe, productive environment that the children's families cannot provide. This benefit enables them to attend this exceptional camp where they can participate in crafts programs, nature study, athletic pursuits all while building confidence and self-esteem.

The Children's Aid Society is a private, child welfare nonprofit in New York City, founded in 1853. Their mission is to help children in poverty to succeed and to thrive. To purchase tickets, visit www.artscenter.org (go to Rental Events) or call 914.251.6200. Tickets are \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$150 and \$75 and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

For more information and/or to make a donation, contact Benefit Chair Dorothy E. Yewer at 914.656.2027.