

Morgan Pushes for More Arts Education in Schools

▲ Assistant conductor was in town to lead local symphony

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Michael Morgan, a renowned black classical music conductor, held two performances with the Winston-Salem Symphony this week and spent several hours talking to students at various schools throughout the Triad.

Morgan, presently conductor of the Oakland East Bay Symphony, conducted Bach's *Magnificat* and *Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2* in "E" Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evening with the local orchestra.

Although Morgan came as a guest conductor of the symphony, he told students at Winston-Salem State University that an even bigger mission than conducting is to stress arts education at the earliest levels in the public-school system.

"Arts education is an important part of basic education," he said. "The arts expands your imagination and allows you to think. Thinking concrete is not good enough for a changing world."

Peter Perret, music director of the Winston-Salem Symphony,

invited Morgan as a guest conductor because of his talent and to help entice more African Americans to study classical music.

"The reason I invited him is because I want as many black role models as classical music can produce," said Perret. "Some people say classical music is not black music, but it is. It's everyone's music."

Morgan started taking piano lessons as an 8-year-old and began conducting by age 12 after watching a conductor on television. He began by conducting his symphony at McFarland Junior High School in Washington, D.C., and since then he has continued to conduct symphony orchestras.

"I always had something to conduct," Morgan said. "It's about taking what's there and making it better. That's what a conductor does."

Morgan, who was a former assistant conductor of the Chicago Symphony, admitted that there are not many black classical conductors and that racism is a factor, but it



Michael Morgan rehearses with local symphony.

shouldn't be used as an excuse.

"You know (racism) is there, but you don't always know how it affects you," he said. "It plays a part in everything you do, but it cannot be an overriding factor."

Everyone cannot express themselves through words, Perret said, and through art they have a way of expression.

"We spend so much time with words, and not everyone is good with words," he said. "Some are better with their bodies and they have

to express themselves through art."

Perret said teachers need help in the battle to keep the arts in schools and thought Morgan's appearance would increase an awareness of the arts.

"We're not trying to make musicians; the arts is a very creative way of expressing yourself," said Perret. "You can't train a 6-year old for a job 16 years from now — (the job) hasn't been invented yet. But you can teach a child to think, and art teaches that."

Halloween Concert to be Held Oct. 31

Maestro Peter Perret will conduct the Winston-Salem Piedmont Triad Symphony in the first Life-Savers Lollipops concert of the season at 3 p.m., Oct. 31.

The concert, which will have a theme of Halloween Fantasy, will be at Reynolds Auditorium.

Children are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and join in a parade across the stage.

The orchestra will perform several of the classical selections which were featured in the Walt Disney movie, "Fantasia," including "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," "A Night on Bald Mountain," "Waltz of the Flowers" and "Dance of the Hours."

The Lollipops concert series is designed for children, ages 3-10 and their parents.

The series will continue with concerts on Feb. 27 and May 1.

Each program is planned to introduce young children to classical music in an educational and entertaining way.

Series tickets, priced at \$12 for children and \$16 for adults, are available through the symphony box office, 723-7919.

Single tickets, priced at \$5 for children and \$7 for adults, may be purchased at the door on the day of the concert.

RJR Awards \$750 to WSSU
R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. has awarded a gift of \$750 to Winston-Salem State University. Funds will be used to purchase a fax machine for the Department of Computer Science.
The award was made on behalf of three Reynolds employees — Larry J. Brown, Toussaint L. Holland Jr. and Mack N. Steadman — through the company's Community Involvement Plan.

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COUPON EXPIRES OCT. 21, 1993

Community EVENTS CALENDAR
How to Schedule Your Events: Send your information, concisely and neatly printed or typed, to the Chronicle Calendar, 617 N. Liberty St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102, before 5:00 p.m., the Monday preceding the week in which your event will occur. Our FAX number is (919) 723-9173.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15
2:30 p.m. — The PTSA of R.J. Reynolds High School will sponsor an Everhart Barbecue Dinner in the school cafeteria as a primary fundraiser. Take-outs begin at 2:30; eat-ins from 5-7 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in the school office or at the door. Dinners are \$6 for adults. Children under 10 can order a deluxe hot-dog or barbecue plate for \$3.50. Vegetarian plates for advanced sale only are available for \$6. Prices include drinks and desserts.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16
10 a.m. — The St. Agnes Guild will sponsor a trunk show at St. Stephens Episcopal Church until 4 p.m., featuring a large selection of women's clothing, sizes 4-22, at 20 percent off. Major credit cards and check accepted. The public is invited.

1 p.m. — The Home Builders Association of Winston-Salem will have its 32nd Annual parade of homes. The event will be also beheld the 23-24 with homes being opened to the public. Call the Home Builders Association of Winston-Salem at 763-

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17
3 p.m. — The Triad Jazz Society presents Lakeside Jazz at SECCA II, 750 Marguerite Drive. The concert will spotlight the Galvin Crisp Quintet, the Matt Kendrick Unit featuring Steve Blake on saxophone, and with special guest vocalist Melva Houston. Tickets are \$3 for members and \$6 for the public. Children under 12 are admitted free. Tickets purchased in advance receive \$1 off. For ticket information call 723-3488.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18
3:30 p.m. — The City of Winston-Salem's Neighborhood Government Services Office, 2301 N. Patterson Ave., will sponsor the workshop, "Red Ribbon Week," presented by Ava Troxler of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Coalition on Alcohol and Drug Problems. All programs are free and open to the public. Call 727-2975.



7:30 p.m. — The Winston-Salem Symphony Chorale will sing an encore performance of Bach's "Magnificat" as a community singalong at Brendle Recital Hall at Wake Forest University. The event follows the chorale's perfor-

mances of the work with the Winston-Salem Piedmont Triad Symphony under the baton of African-American guest conductor Michael Morgan. All area singers are invited to join with the chorale, accompanist Jean Blackwood and local soloists for this performance. Free and open to the public. Call Howard Skillington at 595-3160.

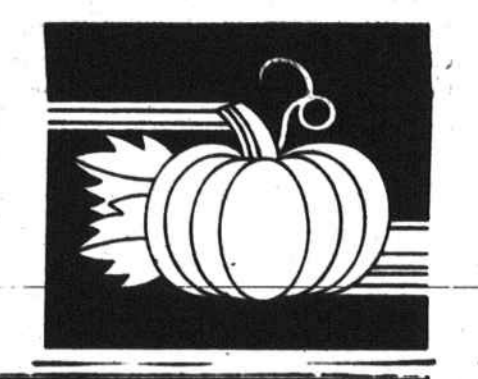
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19
7:30 p.m. — The Diggs Gallery at Winston-Salem State University will present "An Evening of African and African-American Storytelling," with Lloyd Wilson, a professional storyteller and a musician from Wilmington, in conjunction with the exhibit "African Images in American Craft." The exhibition features objects by contemporary African-American artists who live in the Southeast.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20
3 p.m. — The City of Winston-Salem's Neighborhood Government Services Office, 2301 N. Patterson Ave., will sponsor the workshop, "Hate Crimes," presented by Emery L. Rann III of the city's Human Relations Commission.

All things work together for God to them that love God... Rom 8:28
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