

1945

1946

1951

1955

1956

1969

1978

2005

Symphony Society Chartered 1945

RABBI SIDNEY WOLF
President.
TERRY FERRELL
Vice-president.
MRS. MELVIN OCKER
Secretary.

Other Charter Members:
WARD BRANDSTETTER
MRS. TED BUTTREY
DEAN EDWIN HARVIN
HENRY RAHN
MRS. RICHARD KING

C. BURDETTE WOLFE
1945-1952
CONDUCTOR

"All this was done on the contributions of a few optimistic souls...on nothing more tangible than hope. To the surprise of these philanthropists, and the city as a whole, the dream was realized."
- CALLER TIMES, MAY 5, 1946

CCSO Performs "Messiah"

One week after the inaugural concert, the symphony plays their first Handel's *Messiah* with the newly organized Community Chorus (Corpus Christi Chorale).

102 Members

One year after the season opening, the Symphony Society roster boasted 102 members!

Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra Debuts December 10, 1945

C. Burdette Wolfe, Corpus Christi Junior College (Del Mar) Music Department Chairman, raises the baton as the first conductor for the first performance of the symphony orchestra. With the temperature hovering at 36 degrees that evening and rain pouring from the skies, 800 patrons braved the weather to experience the inaugural concert in the auditorium of Corpus Christi High School (Miller). Buckets and wastebaskets were used to keep the 63 member orchestra dry.

Featured guest artist was the renowned, "...youthful Cleveland pianist, Miss Eunice Podis", as reported by a local newspaper columnist. Miss Podis performed Liszt's *Concerto in E flat*.

The season consisted of four concerts and after much debate, the musicians were payed \$25 per concert, including rehearsal time!

FREDRICK VAJDA
1952-1954
CONDUCTOR

Symphony Guild Organized

In 1955, thru the encouragement of new music director Jacques Singer, a support group for the orchestra was formed. For the next 49 years a woman would serve as the President of the Guild until Judge Henry Santana was elected in 2004.

For the first concert in 1945 all tickets cost \$1.50. By the early 1960's the average concert ticket price was \$5.50.

CCSO Moves To Richardson Auditorium

In October of 1951 Del Mar College's new auditorium was dedicated to the college's 6th president, Dr. Jean Richardson and became the new home of the symphony with an inaugural concert.

In 2001 the symphony opened the season by returning to Richardson in celebration of the hall's 50th Anniversary.

JACQUES SINGER
1954-1962
CONDUCTOR

Litta Kline

At the encourgament of Jacques Singer, her then next door neighbor, Litta Kline became the orchestra's General Manager in 1956. Ms. Kline would serve as the head of the staff for the next 36 years.

Symphony Orchestra Celebrates Silver Anniversary

Under the baton of Maurice Peress the Symphony Orchestra opened it's Silver Anniversary Season on October 20, 1969.

The opening concert for the season included guest pianist David Bar-Illan performing Liszt's *Malediction* and a concerto by Mendelson.

The season consisted of eight concerts including a concert lasting two nights featuring Malcom Frager playing the five Beethoven piano concertos!

MAURICE PERESS
1962-1975
CONDUCTOR

June 29, 1978, Caller Times staff writer Mike Norman reported much debate at City Hall regarding the \$300 rental fee the orchestra would pay for the state of the art Bayfront Auditorium facility. This fee included all rehearsals.

CCSO Moves To Bayfront Auditorium

Cornelius Eberhardt and the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra are the first to perform in the newly dedicated Bayfront Plaza Auditorium (Selena) on Saturday, May 20th 1978. The City Council cut the ribbon on the new Bayfront Convention Center at 5:30 pm and the symphony performed two hours later in the 2400 seat hall.

Guest soloist soprano Paulina Stark sang czardas from *Die Fledermaus*. Other opening night music included Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* and Strauss' *Thunder and Lightning Polka*.

CORNELIUS EBERHARDT
1975-2000
CONDUCTOR

RICHARD ROSENBERG
2001-2002
CONDUCTOR

Symphony Orchestra Celebrates Diamond Anniversary

Maestro John Giordano conducted the inaugural season of the symphony orchestra in their new home at the Performing Arts Center on the bayfront campus of Texas A&M university-Corpus Christi. The season opener featured pianist André Watts performing Brahms *Piano Concerto No. 2, Opus 83*.

The season featured six regular subscription concerts with a special Diamond Jubilee concert featuring the virtuostic violin talents of Itzhak Perlman.

By the opening of the 60th concert season, the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra have performed for more than 3/4 of a million music lovers.

JOHN GIORDANO
2003-Present
CONDUCTOR

