

benefit performances are presented by actors from Westfield and surrounding communities.

Since 1948, single women, young mothers and grandmothers have been singing their hearts out in three- and four-part harmony as members of the Chansonettes. The ensemble, which rehearses weekly at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, offers two concert seasons and performs for church organizations, nursing homes, senior citizens homes and women's and college groups.

Based in Westfield, the Choral Art Society of New Jersey was directed in 1963 by Evelyn Bleeke, and later by Thomas Booth,

Kathleen Healy-Wedsworth and currently by James Little.

Approximately 75 members offer three concerts filled with great choral works every year, and in December, residents are invited to participate in the popular Messiah Community Sing.

In 1972, the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, a non-profit organization, was established by Dr. Theodore Schlosberg, who set out to enrich the lives of students by providing opportunities to develop and encourage a greater appreciation of the arts through instruction and performance.

Located on East Broad Street, with an annex location at 361 South Avenue, East in Westfield, the NJWA boasts several creative programs during every season of the year, including the Little Opera Company of New Jersey, which stages widely acclaimed performances with professional and aspiring actors and musicians.

In 1975, the Westfield Fife & Drum Corps was also organized by Rev. Dieterich. The group of about 25 active members, marches in approximately 20 parades every year, and performs at various events, including the reenactment of the Battle of Monmouth.

Since 1980, The Oratorio Singers has ex-

tended its reach beyond Westfield to the greater Metropolitan area in an effort to bring a rich assortment of choral masterpieces to the town through their various concert programs.

The Reverend Philip Dieterich founded the chorus and served as its director until 1994.

Around 70 to 100 singers in all voice parts participate in this ensemble, which is led by Trent Johnson, Director of Music and Arts, and organist at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield.

In 1983, one of the town's greatest classical music ensembles was born when the Westfield Symphony Orchestra was established. While the professional musicians, led by Maestro David Wroe, offer up to six concerts per year at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield and the Union County Arts Center, over 2,000 students each year have reaped the benefits of the orchestra's educational programs.

Named the Resident Orchestra of Union County by the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the organization offers a popular Tour of Notable Homes as a fundraiser every spring.

In 1992, the Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre (WYACT), Inc. was founded by 30-year veteran of stage and screen, Cynthia Meryl, and ever since, audiences have relished Broadway-caliber pro-

ductions staged by extraordinary young actors bound for stardom.

While WYACT offers professional classes to students at Lincoln School in Westfield, the group always receives rave reviews for their summer productions offered at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and the Algonquin Arts Theater in Manasquan.

Led by Fine Arts Supervisor Dr. Linda King, students in the Westfield public school district are encouraged to explore their creative skills and demonstrate their talent through a celebration of the arts during March - Youth Art Month - and the district-wide art exhibition at Westfield High School (WHS), which is held in May.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WESTFIELD FIFE & DRUM CORPS  
**HISTORICAL PRESENCE...WHEREVER THEY PERFORM, MEMBERS OF THE WESTFIELD FIFE & DRUMS CORPS CONVEY A HISTORICAL PRESENCE AND MUSICAL PROFESSIONALISM THAT IS UNPARALLELED. PICTURED, ABOVE, MEMBERS OF THE GROUP PERFORM DURING A RECENT WESTFIELD MEMORIAL DAY PARADE. THE MUSICIANS ALSO PLAY AT EVENTS IN ROSELLE PARK, SOUTH PLAINFIELD, BELLEVILLE, RARITAN AND OTHER VENUES.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHORAL ART SOCIETY  
**RAISING THEIR VOICES...IN 1963, THE CHORAL ART SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY WAS ESTABLISHED. CURRENTLY, APPROXIMATELY 75 MEMBERS OFFER THREE CONCERTS FILLED WITH GREAT CHORAL WORKS EVERY YEAR, AND IN DECEMBER, RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POPULAR MESSIAH COMMUNITY SING. NOW IN IT'S 42ND SEASON, THE ENSEMBLE IS LED BY JAMES LITTLE. THE CHORAL ART SOCIETY WILL HOLD ITS NEXT CONCERT ON SATURDAY, MAY 14, AT 8 P.M. AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WESTFIELD.**

*Westfield Symphony Orchestra*

Conducted by  
**DAVID WROE**

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**WESTFIELD  
Symphony  
ORCHESTRA.**

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