FROM E.B. WHITE'S Here is New York, 1949

Another hot night I stop off at the band concert in the Mall in Central Park. The people seated on the benches fanned out in front of the band shell are attentive, appreciative. In the trees the night wind sings, bringing leaves to life, endowing them with speech; the electric lights illuminate the green branches from the under side, translating them into a new language. On a bench directly in front of me, a boy sits with his arm around his girl; they are proud of each other and are swathed in music. The cornetist steps forward for a solo, begins, "Drink to me only with thine eyes. . ." In the wide, warm night the horn is startlingly pure and magical. Then from the North River another horn solo begins-the "Queen

Mary" announcing her intentions. She is not on key; she is a half tone off. The trumpeter in the bandstand never flinches. The horns quarrel savagely, but no one minds having the intimation of travel injected into the pledge of love. "I leave," sobs Mary. "And I will pledge with mine," sighs the trumpeter. Along the asphalt paths strollers pass to and fro; they behave considerately, respecting the musical atmosphere. Popsicles are moving well. In the warm grass beyond the fence, forms wriggle in the shadows, and the skirts of girls approaching on the Mall are ballooned by the breeze, and their bare shoulders catch the lamplight. "Drink to me only with thine eyes." It is a magical occasion, and it's all free.

The Naumburg Orchestral Concerts, named after their founder Elkan Naumburg, have been heard continuously each summer since 1905. Mr. Naumburg saw the need to encourage and stimulate the public's interest in symphonic and semi-classical music. The Oratorio Society of New York was founded in the family parlor, where Leopold Damrosch, Theodore Thomas and Marcella Sembrich, among others, played weekly in the later 19th century. Mr. Naumburg's wife, Bertha, gave the group its name. The family tradition of supporting classical music was further reinforced by Elkan's son, Walter, who began the Walter W. Naumburg Prize in 1926, and his grand-niece, Eleanor Naumburg Sanger, who co-founded WQXR, New York's classical music radio station. The Concert Ground's earlier Central Park Bandstand was deemed inadequate in 1912, so Elkan donated the Naumburg Bandshell to the City of New York in 1923. A nephew, William G. Tachau designed the building in 1916. In 1992, a lawsuit filed against the Central Park Conservancy and the Parks Department rescued the Bandshell from imminent demolition. A decision on July 6, 1993 by New York's highest court ended both the litigation and its planned elimination. This precluded the building's removal and confounded the biased historic perspective of the Central Park Conservancy's 'vision' for this area. After Elkan Naumburg's death in 1924, the concerts were continued by his sons, Walter W. Naumburg and George W. Naumburg. When Walter Naumburg died in 1959, his will provided for the perpetuation of these concerts. It is now the oldest continuous free outdoor concert series in the United States.

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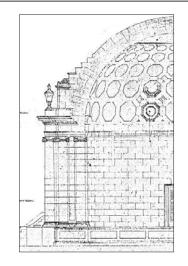
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HSIN-YUN HUANG

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NAUMBURG ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS

DEAR FRIENDS:

We hope you enjoy tonight's musical performance presented by the Naumburg Orchestral Concerts.

The Naumburg Orchestral Concerts has a 100-year tradition of providing free outdoor classical music concerts to New Yorkers. This was the vision of my great-grandfather, who founded the series in 1905, and of my great-uncle, who endowed it in 1959.

Rising costs and a stagnant endowment, however, had forced us to reduce the number of concerts from its original four to two or three each year. We hope that, with the help of our friends and devoted followers, we can remain with our four concert season.

We invite you to become a patron of the Naumburg Orchestral Concerts, a non-profit 501{c}3 located in Manhattan and managed by a board of trustees. All contributions are fully taxdeductible and will be used towards the direct costs of presenting the concerts- musicians' honoraria, park fees, chair rentals, printing and promotion.

Your gift will help to ensure that we can continue what has become a delightful musical tradition in the beautiful setting of Central Park. Please contribute what you can- all gifts, great or small, will be enormously appreciated and help us raise money from other funders.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely Yours,

Chargen R. Endo

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The Naumburg Orchestral Concerts is a non-profit corporation. To obtain a copy of its most recent financial report, please write to: N.Y. State Dept. of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, 3rd Floor, N.Y. N.Y. 10271.

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Notes

Gregory Vajda-Conductor-has fast become one of the most brilliant conductors on the international scene. Recognized for his strength and intensity in conducting nineteenth and twentieth century repertoire, Vajda is in his third and final season as Asst. Conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Prior to that, he served as; Music Director of the New Theater Budapest, Founder and Artistic Director of the Forras (Source) Chamber Music Workshop, Founder and Artistic Advisor of the Valley of the Arts Summer Festival in Hungary, Permanent Guest Conductor of the Hungarian State Opera (1998-2003), Artistic Leader of the Brass in Five Ensemble, Music Director of the Ernö von Dohnányi Symphony Orchestra of Budapest, and member of the Austro-Hungarian Haydn Orchestra. When appointed to Milwaukee, he resigned from these European posts.

Vajda is also a clarinetist and composer. He has also conducted his own composition for the silent film The Crowd at the Auditorium of the Louvre, with American pianist Jay Gottlieb. In 2000, he was honored with the Zoltán Kodály State Scholarship for composers, and in 1999 with the Annie Fischer State Scholarship for music performers.

Born in 1973 at Budapest, Hungary, the son of renowned soprano Veronika Kincses, Vajda studied clarinet and composition at Béla Bartók secondary school. He then studied conducting at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music under Professor Ervin Lukács. Recently, he completed a half-year study-session with the Parisian Ensemble Intercontemporain with Jonathan Nott, and he has been a conducting pupil of the well-known twentieth century composer and conductor, Péter Eötvös. Vajda is also a frequent guest lecturer at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music. CLARINET John Moses *Principal* Lino Gomez

> BASSOON Harry Searing *Principal* Ako Sato

HORN Jon Gustely *Principal* Peter Schoettler

> TRUMPET Arthur Murray

TROMBONE Jim Pugh

TIMPANI David Fein

Hsin-Yun Huang-Violist-has been firmly established as one of the leading violists of her generation since 1993. That year she won both the ARD International Music Competition, Munich & the highly prestigious Bunkamura Orchard Hall Award, Japan. Huang was also the youngest-ever gold medallist in the 1988 Lionel Tertis International Competition, the Isle of Man. Her success has resulted in telecast concerto appearances with the Bavarian Radio Orchestra, Munich, the Zagreb Soloists, Paris, & the Tokyo Philharmonic. Other significant appearances include live broadcast performances with the Berlin Radio Symphony, the Russian State Philharmonic and the National Symphony of Taiwan, among others. A member of the Borromeo String Quartet from 1994-2000, she participated in festivals worldwide and in such prominent venues as New York's Alice Tully Hall, London's Wigmore Hall, Berlin's Philharmonie, and Japan's Casals Hall.

A native of Taiwan, Huang currently resides in New York and is an active soloist and chamber musician in the U.S., the Far East, and Europe. Huang came to England at the age of fourteen to study at the Yehudi Menuhin School with David Takeno. She continued her studies at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia with Michael Tree, where she earned her Bachelor of Music degree, and at the Juilliard School with Samuel Rhodes, where she earned her Master of Music. She is a dedicated teacher and currently serves on the faculties of the Juilliard School and the Mannes College of Music in New York.

FOR MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION ON CONDUCTOR & SOLOISTS PLEASE CONSULT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.NAUMBURGCONCERTS.ORG

MUSIC PAVILION



In 1859 Jacob Wrey Mould, an amateur musician and the architect who designed many of the original structures in Central Park, persuaded his wealthy friends to pay for free band concerts at a temporary bandstand in the Ramble, and he arranged their musical programs. The first concert, on July 13, included the Festival March from *Tannhäuser*, Mendelssohn's song, "I would that my Love," selections from *La Traviata* and Strauss's *Sorgenbrecher Waltz*. In the summer of 1860 concerts were transferred to the Mall, and *The New York Herald* reported that the September 22 concert attracted "at least five thousand persons gathered around the performers, while outside of these were stationed an immense number of carriages... filled with the beauty and fashion of New York." The overwhelming popularity of the concerts prompted Central Park's board to finance them and to build a permanent Music Pavilion on the west side of the Mall near the Terrace. Mould designed the elaborately painted and brightly gilded Moorish-style wooden structure, completed in 1862. The Parks Department razed the Music Pavilion in 1923.

The Naumburg Bandshell, a gift of Elkan Naumburg to 'the City of New York and it's Music Lovers', replaced in purpose the former structure. Though the Naumburg Bandshell opened on September 29th 1923, the Art Commission of New York had approved of the change in 1912 and the design of the Bandshell in 1916. 'On the Mall', composed by Edwin F. Goldman in 1923, to honor Elkan Naumburg, was premiered that September afternoon, conducted by Franz Kaltenborn. Astonishingly, during that summer, 959 concerts were presented on the Concert Ground, over 400 of which were underwritten by the Parks Department. It was a popular place, providing a well-liked activity.

The Naumburg Bandshell design has historic precedents for its shape in the Pantheon of Rome, or even more closely, in the Imperial Russian pleasure park's pavilion at Gatchina Palace by Vincenzo Brenna—his 'Eagle Pavilion' of the 1790's, and also in the later work of the architect E.G.P. Poccianti, particularly his 'Cisternone' at Livorno of 1829-42. It has historic precedents for its function in the outdoor theatres and pavilions of Versailles, for example, or the temples and 'eye-catchers' found in the park-like gardens of British country houses such as Stourhead and Stowe. The use of European park architecture as a model for what to insert in Central Park was in keeping with Olmsted's design sources and methods of nearly 60 years earlier. The Naumburg Bandshell was set into the Manhattan schist hillside, which nestles it, to prevent views being blocked across the Mall and Concert Ground which caused an earlier proposal of Carrère & Hastings to be found wanting by city and park officials. The design also admirably reflects the architect William G. Tachau's own Ecole des Beaux-Arts classicist and historicist training. The result was Central Park's only Neo-Classical building.

THE MALL, CENTRAL PARK

Saturday, May 23, 1874*

The double rows of American Elms, planted fourteen years earlier, create a green tunnel. Sunlight filters through the canopy of new leaves and throws dappled patterns of light and shade on the gravel walk. It is a beautiful day, the Mall is crowded: ladies in voluminous skirts and colorful hats; Irish nurses in bonnets and white aprons, pushing baby carriages; gentlemen in frock coats and top hats; a few young clerks in stylish broadcloth suits; the children in a variety of dress, miniature versions of their parents. It is a decorous crowd; tomorrow - Sunday - is when working people have a holiday and attendance will be even larger.

At the north end of the Mall, on the west side, is the bandstand. Mould has pulled out all the stops for this design. The raised platform is covered by a Moorish-style cupola, dark blue and covered with gilt stars. It is topped by a sculpture of a lyre. The roof is supported by crimson cast-iron columns. The bandstand is unoccupiedthe Saturday - afternoon concerts start next month. The annual summer series is so popular - **up to forty-five thousand people attend** - that the park board has provided extra seating and has taken the unprecedented step of allowing listeners to sit on the grass. Not everyone admires these free concerts. "The barriers and hedges of society for the time being are let down," sniffs the *Times*, "unfortunately also a few of its decencies are forgotten."

The barriers of society are not altogether absent. Across the Mall from the bandstand is a broad concourse where the wealthy park their carriages and, separated from the lower orders by a long wisteria arbor, listen to the music in comfortable isolation. Beside the concourse stands a large one-story building with a swooping tiled roof and deep overhanging eaves. Originally the Ladies Refreshment Stand, it has recently been converted into a restaurant called the Casino.

An excerpt from Witold Rybczynski - A Clearing in the Distance, pp.317-18 in which a letter of Frederick Law Olmsted - a principal designer of Central Park is quoted.

*Please note how popular and crowded concerts were in 1874 on the Concert Ground. When will this area of the park be made available again, for use as originally intended in the Greensward Plan for Central Park?

The final determination of the landmark legal decision assuring the Naumburg Bandshell's future was made on July 6th 1993. I am most grateful to the people who have aided this effort so far, yet there are still difficulties with the building's physical condition and use of this beautiful site, the Concert Ground, for music performances.

The Parks Department has just completed repairing the roof of the Naumburg Bandshell. No other restoration of the building is planned at present. The structure lacks two graceful pairs of decorative urns at either side of the half-domed structure and a suspended cast bronze light within its ceiling. It also needs the paint removed from the coffered ceiling, its stonework repaired and the losses replaced, the doors restored, the gilded donor inscription returned and the backstage renovated and fitted with working bathrooms once again. I hope the Central Park Conservancy and the Parks Department will restore the Naumburg Bandshell and with it the Concert Ground's role, dating to the 19th century, as a place of great beauty and tranquility in which to enjoy musical concerts in Central Park.

The Naumburg Bandshell is available primarily only on Monday and Tuesday evenings throughout much of the summer due to present NYC Parks Department policies affecting its use.