

# Arts

## Nippert Fund donates \$85 million to Cincinnati arts



Burt Saidel

"Tis the Season to be Jolly." It is also the season of gift-giving that expresses our love and caring for friends and family. I receive shirts and socks from family, fruit from former patients, cards and even flowers from all sorts of sources, but I have never received \$85 million!

I do know someone—actually many someones—who did! Last week, just in time for Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanzaa, one of the leading citizens of Cincinnati showed her love of classical music as a necessity of a well-rounded life with exactly that gift.

Mrs. Louise Nippert, longtime philanthropist and major league sports figure as an owner of the Reds, has insured the vitality of great music in Cincinnati by creating the Louise Dieterle Nippert Musical Arts Fund. The magnitude of her gift is undoubtedly a record in the Queen City and it is the third largest gift to an arts organization by an individual in the U.S. More important will be the result of her passion for the intrinsic value of the

arts in a society.

I have long stated that if I was in the position to give \$5,000 to every underprivileged person in Dayton, Cincinnati, or elsewhere, the long-term positive effect would be felt in only a few cases. In most instances, the money would be spent, often for necessities, but there would be few lasting results.

On the other hand, my unproven thesis continues, if that same money would be spent on the amenities of the beauties of life, education, motivation, art, music, and the collective appreciation of them, the long-term positive effect would be most significant.

I have never had the opportunity or means to prove my hypothesis. Mrs. Nippert has! In doing so, she has singled out the intrinsic beauty of music. Music, in all its forms, transcends boundaries, ethnicity, age, gender, and even education.

It is felt spiritually and also physically. Music has the power to have "a little go a long way." Once music enters the psyche, little becomes a great deal. You learn about music. You can make music. You can spread its joys to others.

Mrs. Nippert's gift instantly gladdened many hearts. The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra is the primary beneficiary. Executive Director Trey Devey and Maestro Paavo

Järvi assert, with understandable pride, that the gift will help sustain the CSO as one of the world's great orchestras. The approximately \$3 million annual distribution from the Nippert Musical Arts Fund insures that their concert schedule and outreach programs will continue to serve current and future generations of music lovers.

Cincinnati Opera is another landmark arts organization sharing Music Hall with the CSO. My readers are well acquainted with the delights of the summer opera schedule. General Director and CEO Patricia Beggs and Evans Mirageas, The Harry T. Wilks Artistic Director, lead one of the most successful companies in the country.

Attendance is strong and, for 20 consecutive years, the company's finances have stayed in the black. Artistically, Cincinnati Opera stages innovative and contemporary works as well as standard repertoire. Next season, the company's 90th, features a star-studded gala anniversary concert guaranteed to "knock the socks off every opera lover." The rest of the season will include Wagner's Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Verdi's Otello, and Puccini's La Bohème.

The funds allocated to Cincinnati Opera from the Nippert Musical Arts Fund will be used to support the company's operations. See **Nippert** on page 13

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