

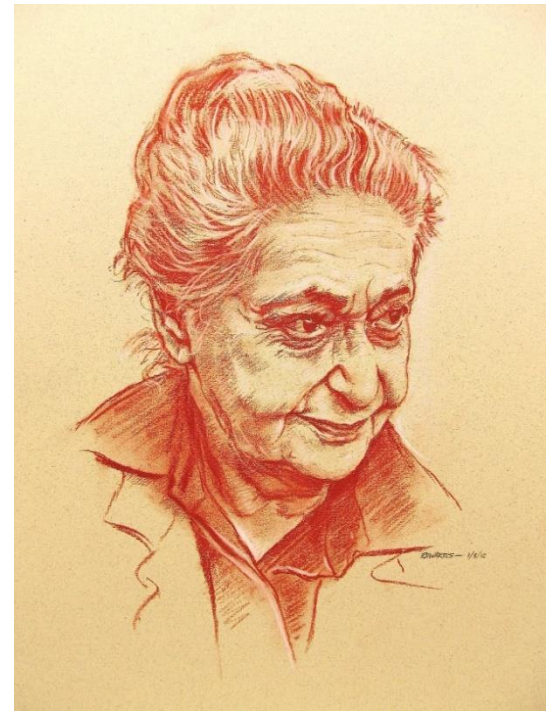
PYSO Membership Dues Scholarship Fund

Made possible in part by contributions in memory of:

MARIE MAAZEL

Born in 1894 in New York to Russian immigrant parents who moved to California when she was only a child, Marion "Marie" Shulman graduated from the University of Southern California in pharmaceutical chemistry and set out to follow the footsteps of her pharmacist father. Her first husband, a physician, passed away at an early age. They had one son who much later passed on from polio.

Her second marriage was to Lincoln Maazel and in the late 1930's the Maazel family – Marie, husband Lincoln, and young son Lorin – moved from California to Pittsburgh so that Lorin could continue his studies with Vladimir Bakaleinikof who was appointed as PSO Music Director Fritz Reiner's assistant. Lincoln was an actor who also taught piano and voice, while Marie taught piano.



Artwork by Robert Monroe Edwards

Then in 1946, the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestras had its "first" beginning. It was an outgrowth of the Pittsburgh City Schools, when graduating students who played in the school orchestras wanted to continue playing together even after graduation. Stanley Levin was the Music Director and E. F. W. Salisbury was the President. Mrs. Maazel was a Director on its Board, and Mrs. Clifford (Vira) Heinz was its Honorary President. The fledgling orchestra lasted only three seasons.

After a brief hiatus, Mrs. Maazel, Mrs. Heinz, Mrs. Cecilia Moreell, and Mrs. P. Knox Motheral along with more than 30 other persons began pumping interest into the stalemated organization. The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra was reactivated in 1954 (the "second" beginning) and Mrs. Maazel started the process of recruiting members by calling music teachers and members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. On February 17, 1955 the new orchestra gave its first concert at Schenley High School in Oakland under the direction of Karl Kritz, associate conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony. They started rehearsing in the basement of Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland, later moving to Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and then Heinz Hall.

During her leadership, the Youth Symphony gained national and international recognition and its players have gone on to perform in leading orchestras around the world, including Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Minnesota, New Orleans, St. Louis, Metropolitan Opera, Denver, Munich, Jerusalem, Zurich Opera, Mexico, Sweden, Iceland, and Australia, and many others too numerous to list.

Under her watch the Orchestra performed in Europe, New York World's Fair, Montreal's Expo '67, the National Youth Orchestra Festival, and on a Bicentennial Barge Tour on American Rivers.

Mrs. Maazel served on the boards of the National Youth Orchestra Association and the American Symphony Orchestra League (now the League of American Orchestras). She was recognized as a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania by Governor Richard L Thornburg in 1980.

After 32 years at the helm as PYSO Managing Director (1954 to 1986) Mrs. Maazel stepped down from her position as PYSO's Managing Director in April of 1986.

Marie Maazel passed away on December 14, 1992.