## Orchestra Set For **Yankton Concert**

YCA Event To Celebrate 65th Anniversary



PHOTO: DAN THORSON

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The Yankton Concert Association (YCA) is set to commemorate its 65th anniversary, and it's

bringing out the big guns to do The city's oldest art organization will host the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra next weekend for a special bonus concert

for its members. "People are excited about it," said YCA President Vi Ranney. "One of my board members said to me, 'Vi, can we get all glitzy for the South Dakota Symphony?' and I thought for a moment and I said, 'Sure, why not?' So we're encouraging people to put on the glitz and come, because this is a really special event in Yankton."

The orchestra and Maestro Delta David Gier will take the stage at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Yankton High School Auditorium to perform pieces from Mozart, Ravel and Bizet. A reception for association members will follow at 3:15 p.m.

The headlining piece will be Mozart's "Jupiter" Symphony — his 41st and final, symphony. The performance will also feature five pieces from Ravel's "Mother Goose" and selections from Bizet's "Carmen."

Ranney called the selections "delightful" and believes those at-tending will not only enjoy the show, but will also be able to identify much of the music.

"With the five pieces from Ravel's 'Mother Goose,' I think we will recognize the music from the 'Enchanted Garden,' 'Beauty and the Beast' and 'Sleeping Beauty,' she said. "And with the music from 'Carmen,' a number of pieces are familiar. You may not be an opera fan, but there are pieces that you will recognize that you've heard forever that you don't realize came from 'Carmen."

Ranney noted that the symphony's performance will be slightly different from what the YCA usually offers.

"Concert organizations nowadays have a lot of lighter performances, but it doesn't hurt any of us to come and listen to some classical music," she said.

The concert is meant to help highlight the history of the YCA, the beginning of which dates back to 1946 when the Yankton Community Concert met for the first

"World War II had ended, and the economy was expanding," Ranney said. "After years of rationing, the climate was right.'

The first concert series chosen for the 1947-48 season included the well-known Columbia Bel Canto Trio, which was composed of Mario Lanza, Frances Yeend and George London.

Current YCA Vice President Betts (Weier) Pulkrabek, who attended the very first community concert in Yankton (held in the old auditorium next to what is now Walnut Village), remembers saving her money as a young girl to purchase a ticket.

There was nothing like this; it was a party atmosphere the night of the concert," Pulkrabek said. "Oh to be in the presence of a live

At the Feb. 25 symphony concert, the YCA will introduce a "surprise guest" that was also present when the association was organized, Ranney said. The individual, who is a current YCA member, will share memories from the beginning years of the organization.

As time went on, the YCA was built upon a solid foundation of board members, Ranney said. The association has had only four different treasurers in its 65 years, and three executive secretaries have served 15 years or more, she said.

"This community has been blessed with talented people who truly cared about the concert organization," she said. "To have an organization like this for 65 continuous years truly says something about Yankton's oldest arts organization."

While the YCA has been successful in the past, Ranney said the organization's future is just as

bright.
"Musicians from around the world have performed on the concert association stage. There is no reason to believe this will ever





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