

SOCIAL LIFE

Solti and a birthday prelude

● TRIUMPHAL applause from audience and critics for his superlative salute to Beethoven in Orchestra Hall Wednesday must still have been ringing in the ears of Georg Solti, Chicago Symphony Orchestra conductor, when he and his pretty wife were feted at cocktails yesterday in the Casino by the Women's Association of the orchestra. The party also marked the founding of the Symphony in 1890, tho naturally it couldn't be held in the same location where the founding fathers met because that was in the Chicago Club where women are not admitted!

● WHILE LIFE, symphonically speaking, begins at 80 for the orchestra, it continues on its busy way for Mrs. Frederick W. Upham, who at 95 still occupies the same Friday concert seats she has had since 1906 and who founded the Women's Association. She was the belle of the party yesterday and saluted Louis C. Sudler, Orchestral Association president, with a kiss after he presented her with a citation of "special honor and recognition" on behalf of the orchestra trustees. "I've known Louis since he was a boy," said Helen Hall Upham fondly. She is honorary chairman of the birthday ball to be held May 14 in Orchestra Hall and for which plans are going forward fortissimo.



TRIBUNE/Hardy Wisting

Mrs. Frederic W. Upham, who will be 96 soon, receives corsage from Mrs. John T. Moss while Mrs. Georg Solti (left) and Mrs. Paul W. Oliver look on at party the Woman's Association of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra gave yesterday.

Style

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She can remember way back when

By Kay Rutherford

Mrs. Frederic W. Upham created a stir last week at the Women's Assn. of the Chicago Symphony reception at the Casino. The date marked the 80th birthday of the orchestra which in 1890 was incorporated at a meeting in the all-male Chicago Club. Mrs. Upham, hale and happy at 95 was the center of attention.

She was 15 years old at the time the symphony started. In 1905, she took out her first subscription to the Friday afternoon concerts and has occupied the same seat in Orchestra Hall ever since. In the meantime, she founded the Symphony Women's Assn. and has now been named honorary chairman of the birthday party May 14.

Taking on the jobs of co-chairing the spring ball are Mrs. John T. Moss and Mrs. Chauncey Keep Hutchins. Innumerable committees seem to be springing into being and, as head of one, Mrs. Brooks McCormick reports she has received seven requests for boxes at the dinner dance. That gives her just 16 left to go, which isn't a bad record since the invitations won't be out until April.

8 Family Today — Chicago Today, Saturday, December 17, 1970

The social world

Quiet start to holidays

By Margaret Carroll

NEXT TUESDAY the Conrad Hilton Hotel will belong to the season's Cotillion debutantes. Early in the evening, Presentation Ball debs will rehearse for their formal bows Dec. 23, then travel across the street to the Sheraton-Blackstone for the annual Escorte Party, a black tie supper sponsored by escorts and floor committee members.

While the Presentation girls are relaxing in the Blackstone, the Passavant Cotillion debs will be having dinner and then lining up to meet their guests in the Hilton's Normandy Lounge and Grand Ballroom.

MRS. FREDERIC W. Upham admits to being old-fashioned when it comes to music. She likes Beethoven, Mozart, people like that. But when you're 95 and have been sitting in the fourth row in Orchestra Hall almost every Friday afternoon since 1904, you have a right to your opinion.

Mrs. Upham founded the women's association of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and that association honored her at a cocktail party Thursday afternoon in the Casino Club. The date of the party coincided with the actual founding of the orchestral association in 1890.

The orchestra's 80th anniversary will be officially celebrated with a gala ball May 14 in Orchestra Hall. Mrs. Upham is honorary chairman.

Sharing guest of honor billing with Mrs. Upham were Chicago Symphony Orchestra Conductor Georg Solti and his pretty blond wife, Valerie. Other guests included Mrs. Paul Oliver [She's president of the women's association], Mrs. John T. Moss and Mrs. Chauncey K. Hutchins, cochairmen of the orchestra's Birthday Ball, Louis Sudler, president of the Orchestral Association, James DeYoung, president of the Junior Governing Board, and Mrs. DeYoung, the Edward L. Ryersons, Mrs. W. Newton Burdick Jr., Mrs. B. Edward Bensinger and Mrs. Brooks McCormick.