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CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mrs. William Cowen, President of the Artists' Advisory Council, and Jean Martinon, Music Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, have announced winners in the composition competition sponsored by the Council in cooperation with the Orchestra.

The first prize of \$1,000 will be divided by Heuwell Tircuit, 755 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, Calif., and Gordon W. Binkerd, of Urbana, Ill. Mr. Tircuit's award is for his Concerto for Orchestra No. 1, while Mr. Binkerd won with his Symphony No. 1.

Out of a total of 90 manuscripts submitted, seven were selected for Mr. Martinon to examine. The two winning compositions will be performed next season by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Heuwell Tircuit, now on the music staff of the San Francisco Chronicle, was associate music critic of Chicago's American for two years. As a result of a grant he received from the Rockefeller Foundation Critic's Project in 1965, he was assigned for one year to the University of Southern California and one year to the San Francisco Chronicle. He joined the staff the following year.

The Concerto No. 1 for Orchestra was commissioned by the Peninsula Music Festival and was completed in 1966. Mr. Tircuit is a native of Louisiana and holds a master's degree from Northwestern University.

Gordon Binkerd, who shares the first place award, has been on the faculty of the University of Illinois School of Music since 1949. He is a Nebraska native and holds advanced degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Harvard University, numbering Bernard Rogers and Walter Piston among his composition teachers.

Mr. Binkerd has been a Guggenheim Fellow and has had several works commissioned and recorded. The Symphony No. 1 was recorded by the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

Honorable mention awards in the Artists' Advisory Council contest went to R. Acrl, of Wilmette, Ill., for "Overture;" F. A. Tull, chairman of the School of Music at Sam Houston State College, Huntsville, Texas, for his Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra; Edward Apelbaum, Los Angeles, Calif., for

"Variations for Orchestra;" Lothar Klein, Austin, Texas, for "Two Orchestral Images;" and Ashley Vernon, a member of the University of Texas music faculty at Austin, for Symphony in Two Movements.

This is the fifth composition contest the Artists' Advisory Council has sponsored. Competitions are held every other year.

Judges for the contest were Irwin Hoffman, Associate Conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; Margaret Hillis, Director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus; Leon Stein, dean of the DePaul University School of Music; Leonard Meyer, chairman of the University of Chicago Music Department; Karel B. Jirak, of the Chicago Conservatory of Music, and Mr. Martinon.

Mrs. Cowen said that Mr. Martinon indicated that all seven compositions selected by the judges for his review were outstanding and good enough to be performed.

Mrs. Cowen added: "This is the only contest of its type, where all manuscripts are examined carefully by expert judges and the winning manuscripts performed by a major orchestra."