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Symphony aids state economy

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NEWS

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SYMPHONY AIDS
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One of this region's most valuable cultural resources is the Utah Symphony, which will give its first Missoula performance Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 8:15 p.m. in the University of Montana Theater.

The forthcoming concert in Missoula points up the growing importance of regional touring organizations to serve the vast, sparsely populated Rocky Mountain region, according to Dr. Charles W. Bolen, dean of the UM School of Fine Arts.

The concert is sponsored by the UM School of Fine Arts and the Associated Students' Program Council, with the cooperation of the LDS Missoula Stake. Tickets will be available next week at Missoula music stores and at the UM Lodge and Music office.

The Utah Symphony, directed by Maurice Abrabanel, is the only fully professional, major orchestra in an area of a quarter million square miles. Last season the orchestra traveled some 8,000 miles and played to a total audience of over 300,000.

Dean Bolen commented that the Utah Symphony is performing the same service in music that the Montana Repertory Theater performs in drama for the region. The MRT, directed by Dr. Firman H. Brown of Missoula, was begun last year with support from the Montana Arts Council and the University.

(more)

The dean also mentioned the mutually beneficial alliance between business and the arts exemplified by the Utah Symphony's West Coast tour in June 1968. A recent article in Fortune magazine notes that the tour was underwritten by the state of Utah as part of an effort to attract new industry. The Fortune piece says that, more and more, local governments, out of self interest, will be contributing money to make possible a cultural climate conducive to economic and cultural growth.

Confirming Fortune's thesis, Utah Gov. Calvin L. Rampton said, "We have effectively used the Symphony to focus attention on Utah during its tours with the idea that, while industry makes its decisions to relocate based primarily on economic factors, the availability of fine arts and cultural opportunities is a very important secondary factor. Indirectly, the Utah Symphony more than pays its own way and makes a solid contribution to the state."