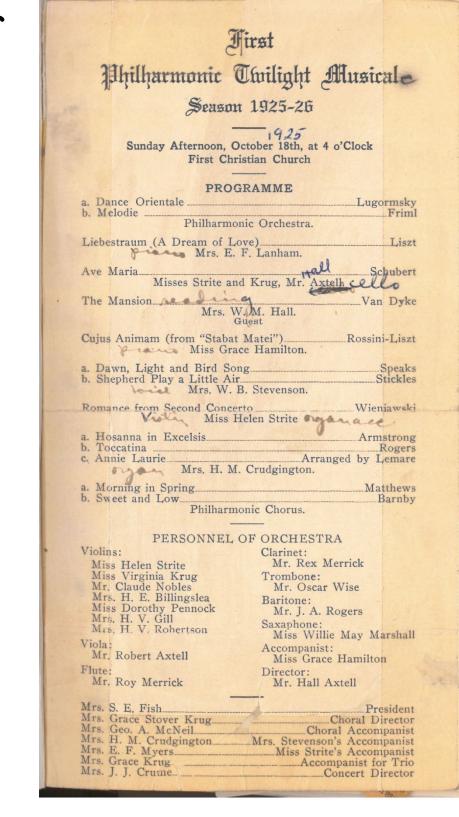
### **Opening Night** October 18, 1925

The brainchild of members of the Amarillo Philharmonic Club, one of the Panhandle's many women's music clubs, the majority of the performers for the symphony's first concert are women from the community.



#### Ellis B. Hall **Music Director from 1926-1934**

- Hall was a teacher at Amarillo College and organized the Academy of Music and Arts in Amarillo
- Programs feature Vocal Soloists or Violinists
- On Average he includes ten pieces on a program, many more than the three we usually hear on a program today.
- He includes a blend of European and American composers
- Often opens with an Overture
- Collaborated with local dancers/dance groups (The Balladettes and Balladors from Amarillo College, for example).
- Programmed portions of larger, canonic works

Dr. H.L. Robison's program from January 21, 1938

Radie Britain was a female composer from Silverton Texas who studied at Clarendon College, the American Conservatory in Chicago, and later with famous composers in Paris, Berlin, and Munich.

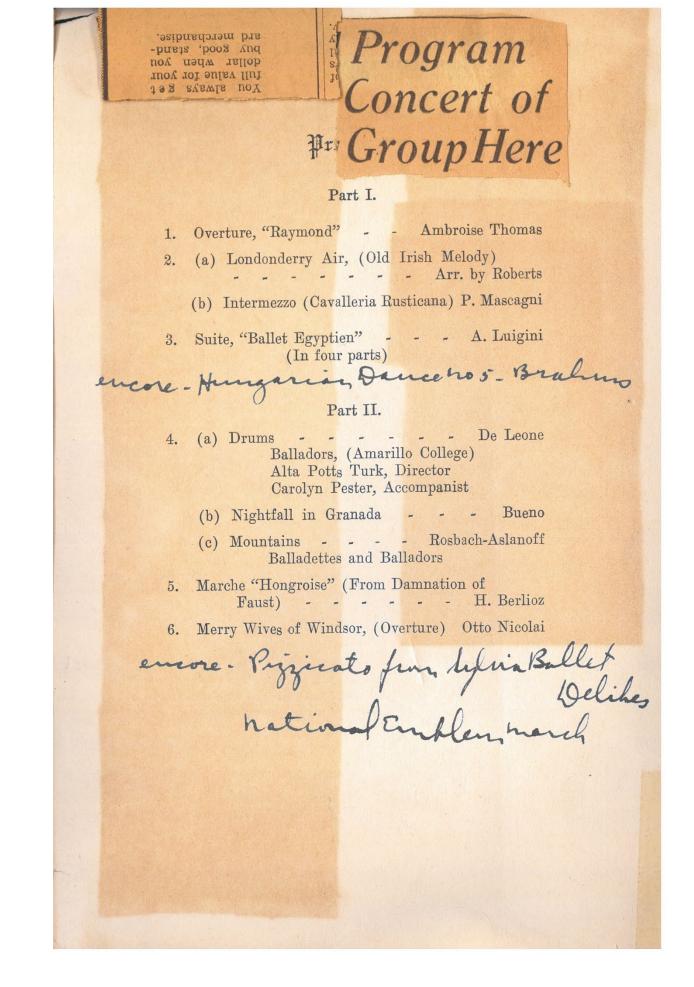
This program notes the first performance of one of her works by the Amarillo Symphony, which premiered her Cowboy Rhapsody in 1956.

This project is supported by a WT Killgore Faculty Research Grant.



# The Amarillo Symphony: The First 100 Years

It is viola player and Amarillo resident Ada Morris we can thank for our nearly comprehensive collection of Amarillo Symphony programs, some with her annotations.



Ellis B. Hall's program from November 14, 1933

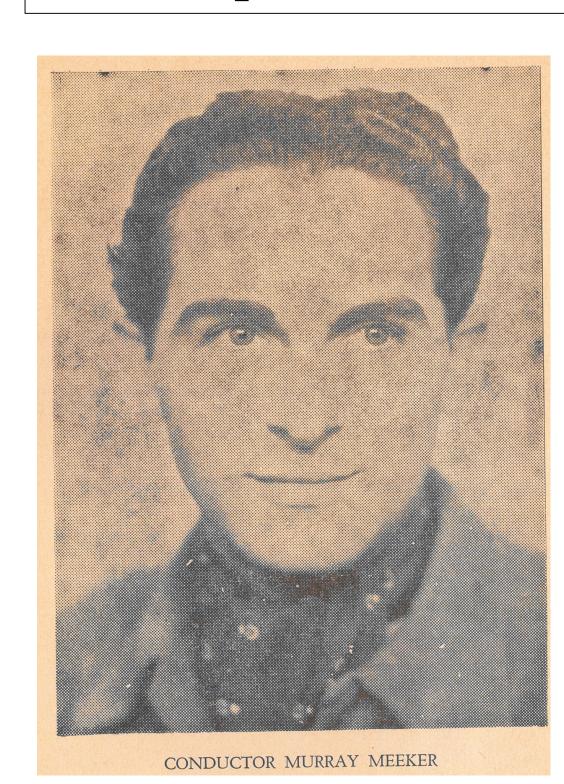
#### Dr. H.L Robinson Music Director from 1936-1938

- Followed a period of guest conductors from 1934-1936
  - Taught Clarinet and Modern Languages at Amarillo College
  - Programmed more American composers
- Blended "serious" and "popular" music on his programs

The Amarillo Philharmonic Orchestra Season 1937-38 In Concert Friday Evening January 21, 1938 HART, Soprano, Chicago Opera Company ROSAMUNDE OVERTURE (1819) - - - Franz Schubert
Schubert wrote this overture for a production of a melodrama, "The Magic Harp,"
by Hofman. A few introductory fortissimo chords followed by a pretty flowing
melody usher in an Allegro Vivace movement in which a gay theme alternates
with a lovely song-like tune, leading to a dramatic Coda. It seems almost incredible that this waltz (from a ballet of the same name), with its smooth graceful tunes and its exciting syncopated passages, could be from the pen of the gloomy composer of the "Pathetic Symphony." SECOND VIOLIN—Alf Lindbloom, John McGowan, Edna Kahlbau, Myrtle Riggs, Ned Weills, Wayne Fergus, Geraldine Warner Cleta Grace Holland, Vestal Monfort. VIOLA—Helen Strite, Ruth Thornton, Virginia Middleton, Freda Coffee. CELLO—Marian Stewart Rosenwald, Mrs. Floyd Marsh, Julia Moore, Roberta Newell, SS—Bob Gifford, Andy Forness, Jack Koesjan. HORN—C. E. Strain, Irvin Peffley, Martha Strain.
TRUMPET—Loyd Jenkins, P. A. Quarles, S. M. Bagwell.
TROMBONE—Herbert Harper, Homer Jacobs.
TYMPANI AND DRUMS—Cloyce Brooks.
PIANO—Grace E. Hamilton.

The Amarillo Symphony Orchestra, one of the Panhandle's longest standing cultural institutions, boasts a long and rich history that calls attention to Amarillo's position as a longstanding cultural center of the American Southwest.

The ASO's programming history tells us about cultural trends and musical interests during various periods in the symphony's long history.



In 1939 the ASO

welcomed guest artist

Thurlow Lieurance,

famed interpreter of

Native American music

and culture to the stage.

He was accompanied by

his wife who sang his

greatest hit, "By the

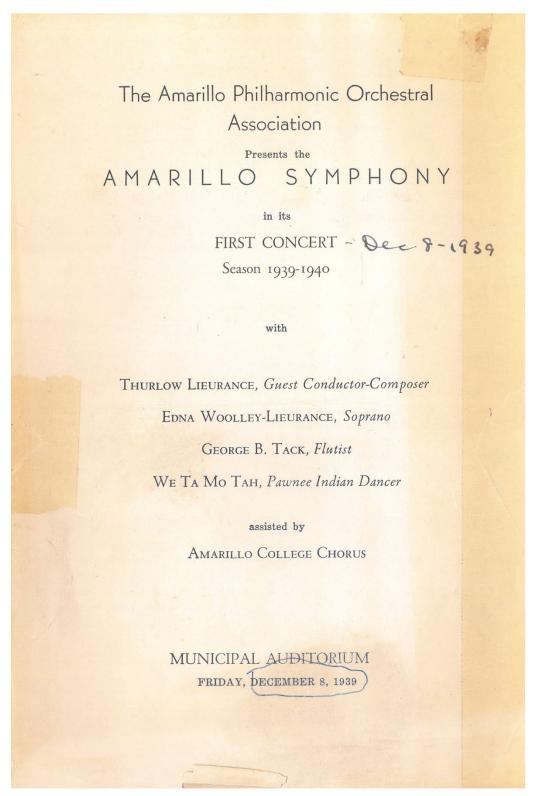
Waters of the Minnetonka"

and a Pawnee Dancer

named We Ta Mo Tah.

### Murray Meeker **Music Director for one** season: 1938-39

- Programmed 11 concerts (the greatest number of concerts offered by the ASO to date)
- Arranged a landmark performance of George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue



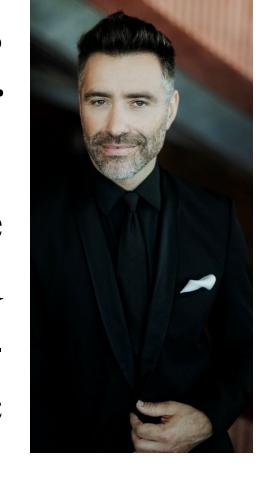
#### More Recently...

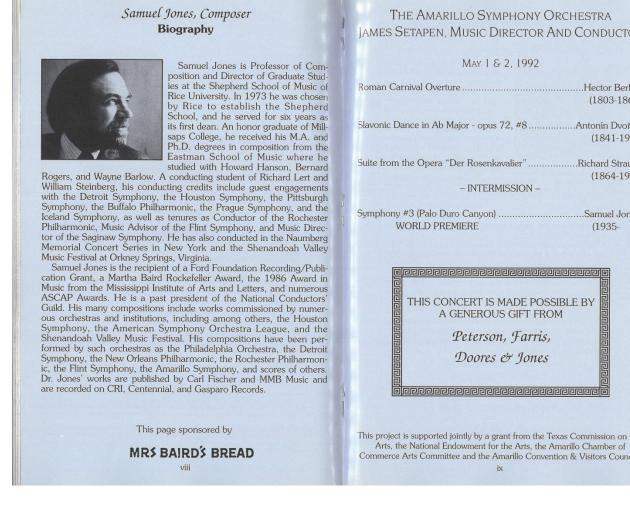


#### Kimbo Ishii-Eto Music Director from 2007-2012

- From Japan, studied in the United States and Europe
- Currently conducts concerts around the world

Jacomo Bairos **Music Director** from 2013-2021 Programmed more newly composed music and Latininspired music

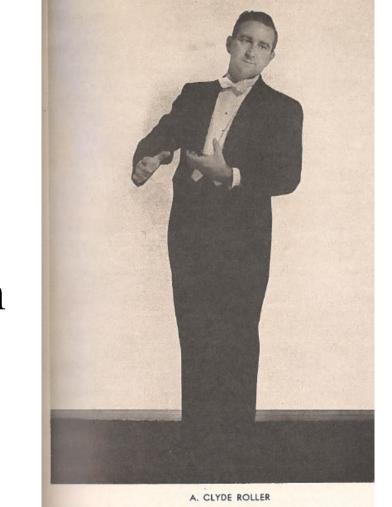


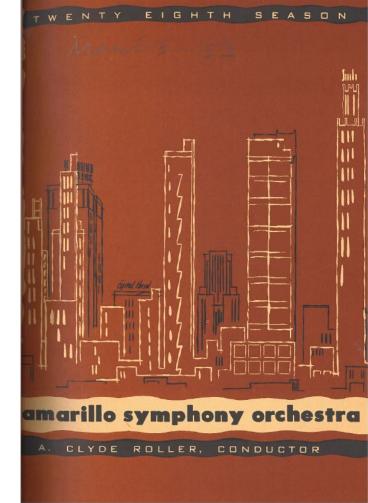


#### Robert Barron **Music Director from 1940-47**

- Consistently programmed European "masterworks"
- Attendance dwindled
- Welcomed famous guest artists including Percy Grainer and a very young Isaac Stern, who played both a concerto and a solo set following intermission.

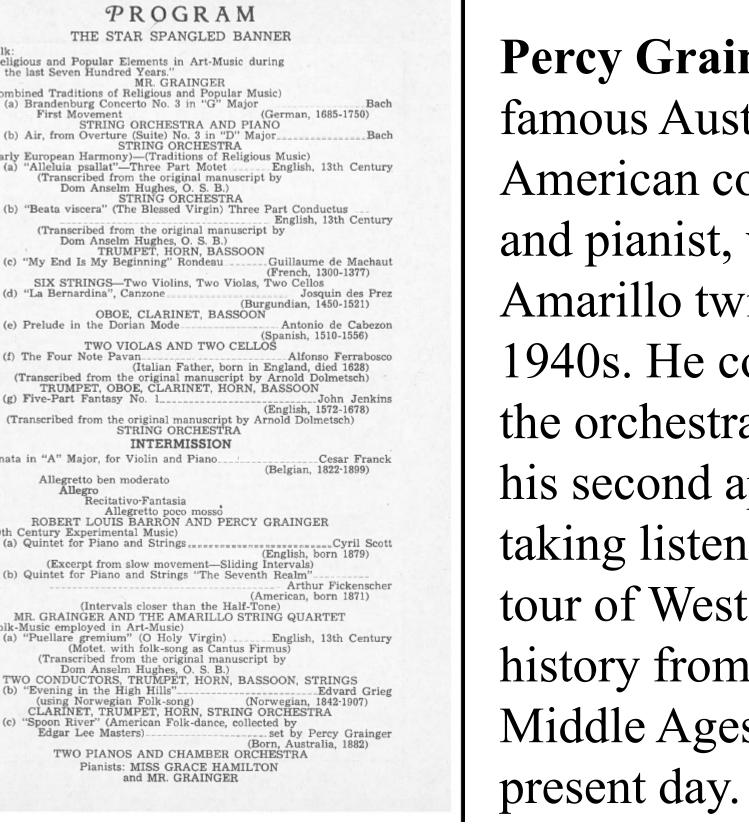


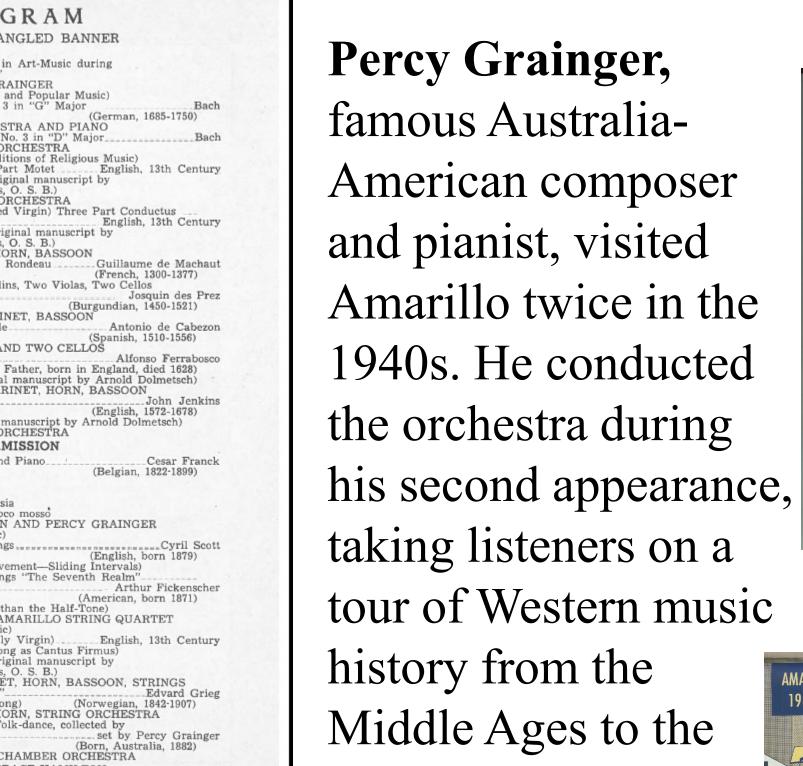


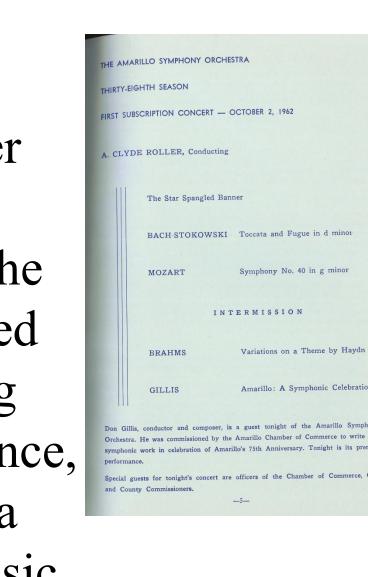


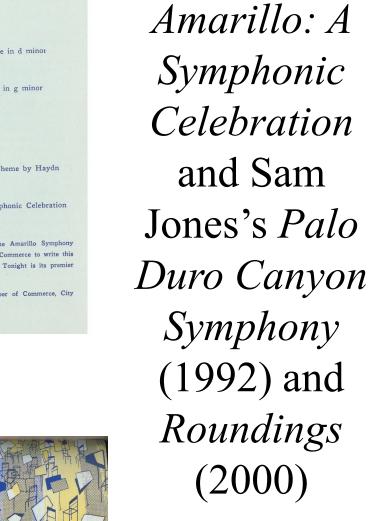
#### Clyde Roller Music Director from 1948-1962

- Dynamic personality and director
- Launched outreach and educational initiatives
- Celebrated Amarillo's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1962 with a commission by American composer Don Gillis.
- Programmed entire canonic works, challenging repertoire







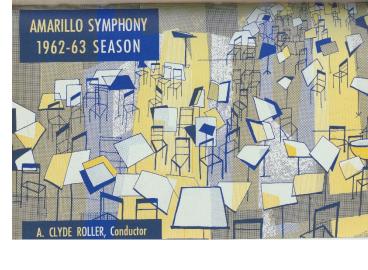


Scan the QR

Code below to

listen to Don

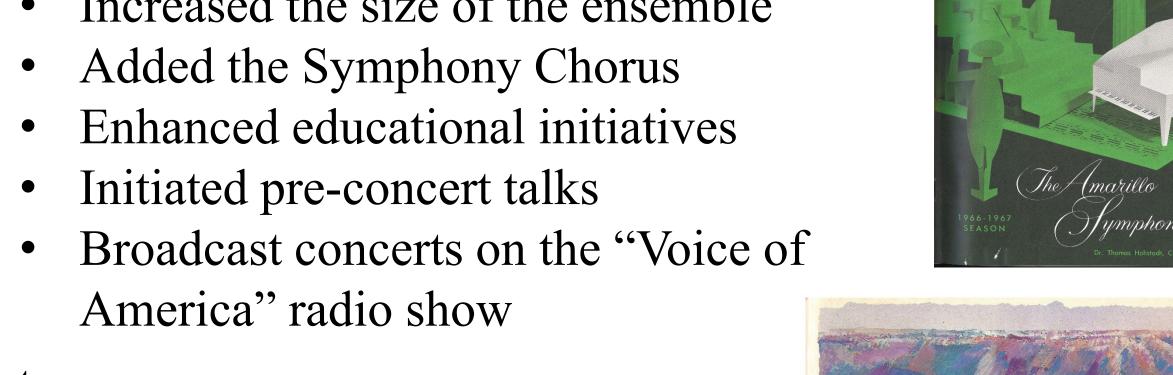
Gillis's



#### **Thomas Hohstadt** Music Director from 1963-1974

- Native of Oklahoma,
- Worked at the Eastman School of Music
- Increased the size of the ensemble

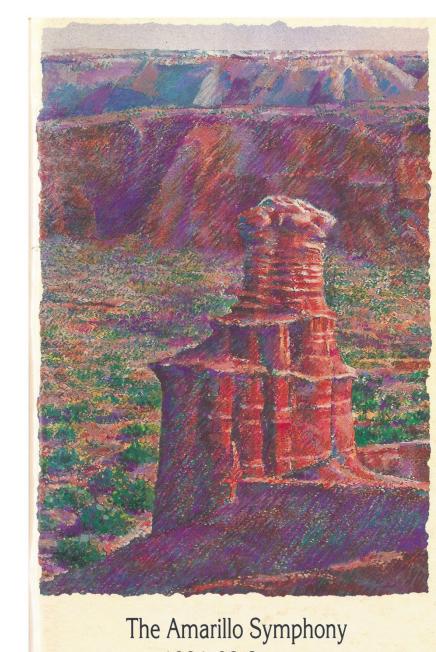
- Broadcast concerts on the "Voice of America" radio show



## Jim Setapen Music Director from 1988-2007

- Last music director to live in Amarillo
- Traditional Programming,
  - Three works/concert
- Conducted two premieres of works by Sam Jones, one in 1992 and one celebrating the ASO's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2000.





1991-92 Season