by Kelly Lyne

1500 persons, perspiring in the summer heat, shouted, "I must not be deflected from my course," repeating after an elderly-looking woman upon the stage before them.

Antonia Brico, 76-years-old, aging but regal musical conductor, is a good example of someone who has not been deflected in her efforts to perfect her craft. She spoke to this large audience at the Illinois National Women's Music Festival last June.

Brico, who studied for six years under Dr. Karl Mück in Germany, has struggled constantly with discrimination against women conductors.

She founded the New York Women's symphony in 1934 because, "there were no women in symphony orchestra in those days; they didn't think women could do it," she told the audience.

She said that she was once told that it was a disgrace for a woman to conduct "venerable orchestras" such as the New York Philharmonic.

Brico studied at the Berlin State Academy of Music and debued at the Metropolitan Opera House in 1934. Despite good reviews, famous baritone John C. Thomas refused to perform with her. That seems to be the story of her life.

But she told the audience, "I have been stubborn and that stubborness has paid off."

As an example she told how she wanted to study under Sebelius in Finland but was afraid to write to ask him for fear he would refuse.



Mary Watkins, Teresa Trull, and Holly Near.

# Musical Culture At Outdoor Festival

We see culture and especially comforting/strength music as a comforting/strengthening/enlightening force that provides the inspiration to keep struggling in the face of our oppression."

> That is how the We Want the Music Collective perceives the third annual Michigan WoMYm's Music Festival.

This outdoor womyn's music festival produced. on 200 acres of partially wooded countryland is in Hesperia, Michigan -- seven miles from the nearest town.

August 17 through 20 womyn will gather for nightly concerts by performers such as Margie Adam, Woody Simmons, Meg Christian, Teresa Trull, and Sweet Honey in the Rock.

Linda Shear will perform for a Lesbian and womyn children only audience on Friday.

During the day, workshops, both musical and non-musical are scheduled. These range from skill-sharing to political/ personal discussions to group activities in dance/music/selfdefense.

The collective provides food (of the vegetarian variety) healthcare and childcare. They express the hope that festival participants will provide cooperation, energy, and ecological consciences.

The festival will begin with workshops Thursday, August 17 at noon. Concerts start at 7 pm Thursday night. (Therese Edell).

### Maestra Exhorts Women to Persevere

Instead Brico wrote to explain her background and say that she wished to study with him. Sebelius never answered. Nor did he show up at the train station to meet her. However when she arrived at Sebelius' doorstep he welcomed her like "a lovable bear" and this was the beginning of a life-long friendship.

Brico feels the turning point in her career was a film done by a former pupil of hers, Judy Collins. The film, "Antonia: A Portrait of the Woman," chronicles her life and work.

"Did you see that 'questionable' film," she asked the audience, "It has done so much for me."

Shortly after the film was released Brico started receiving more invitations to conduct. Until then she had been doing about five performances a year. "It's like giving a starving person a piece of bread," she commented.

Since then she has performed at the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, the Denver and Seattle symphonies, the American Symphony Orchestra, concerts in Manila and Halifax, and in New York's Lincoln Center.

At the music festival which has been dedicated to Brico for the last three years, Brico conducted Mozart' G-minor symphony. Her motly-looking crew comprised of women who auditioned three days before the concert, were dressed in shorts, t-shirts and overalls. In contrast, Brico wore a two piece long black, formal outfit -with almost a Victorian aire.

She received five curtain calls before a standing ovation.

At one point she introduced the four men who performed. "See we're generous," she laughed, "We even let men play with us."

After only three days of practice, the symphony played beautifully in their one and only performance together.

"And they said women couldn't do it," smiled Brico.



Any Old Time String Band of Berkeley, California performs at the National Women's Music Festival in Illinois.

### Album Reviews

### Women Musicians Affirm Sisterhood

by Kelly Lyne

"You've got to face the music; it's The 28-year-old Cincinnati woman a tune you

Can carry For it leads you on a merry dance." -- Annie Dinerman

lace the Music," Meg Christian's latest album is an affirmation -- of love for women as sisters and lovers Faces" sounds a whole lot like Positive energy toward women makes this album a pleasure to listen to.

"And now somehow I've ended up with a cup So full and Overflowing, all the time I know that it is Nothing I can hold in my hand And it feels so good to me Just being true."

The beauty of this song, "The Road I Took to You," is in the way Meg expresses love -- not through possession, but discovery of self through another person.

Meg plays with simplicity and clarity. Her classical training is evident in the acoustical guitar playing she does so well.

Everything in the album is subtle. (Except maybe "Leaping Lesbians" -but it's fun). Beautifully under-



Meg Christian

'A good example of this underproduction is Meg's clear voice singing "Mountain Song" a capella. The Appalachian woman exemplifies woman \_ strength.

The "Mountain Song" also represents the use of music as a political song that tells women they can struggle and survive -- and win the battle.

Says Meg on the album, "For a long time my one big goal was learning to be a fine musician. Then as my commitment to feminism grew, I started to search for good ways to use the amazing power of music to communicate feelings and ideas of real value to women."

new face in the growing crowd of feminist musicians, Therese Edell, is making quite a splash.

produced her first album when she was 20. "It made me sound like a 14-year-old choir boy," she said in a recent "Paid My Dues" interview.

Her new album, "From Women's a women who has wised up to the ways of the world.



Therese Edell

She began her musically career at 5 when she started playing the accordian. Therese returns to this instrument in "Holly's Waltz" a song with a festive mediterranean aire to it.

Therese's songs are in some ways more personal and less political than Meg's. The same classical training is evident.

Therese critically examines personal relationships in her songs-with an older woman, her newborn niece, her sister, her grandmother and another musician.

A song that makes a striking contrast to the others is "Take Back the Gun," the only overtly political song on the album. It deals with gun control.

usic distributed by Olivia Records, Pleides, Wise Women, and Redwood are available only on a very small scale in Lawrence-at Sister Kettle Cafe and Kief's. The best place to go for a wide selection is New Earth Bookstore in Kansas City.

But if we are to get more of this music in Lawrence we have to demand it -- let music distributors in Lawrence know what you want!



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