LONDON FREE PRESS Monday March 27, 2000

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chatham helps orchestra

The existence and financial stability of Orchestra London affects other communities outside London. For more than 25 years, Orchestra London has played an annual series of concerts in Chatham, presented by our branch.

On Friday March 10, Chatham-born Douglas Sanford conducted the orchestra in a concert at the Chatham Cultural Centre before a highly enthusiastic audience. Towards the end of the concert, Maestro Sanford outlined the very serious financial condition of the orchestra, similar to that of most other orchestras across Canada. He challenged each member of the audience that evening to dig in their pockets, leading the way with his own substantial gift. Contributions are continuing to come in, and more than \$2,000 has already been forwarded to the orchestra.

We will do what we can to support the orchestra and its musicians so that they can continue to visit our community.

FRANK SCOTT-PEARSE Treasurer Orchestra London Chatham-Kent Branch