

Documentary stars Eugene conductor

OPB documentary will focus national attention on conductor Marin Alsop

By Tim Neff
Emerald Associate Editor

A video documentary to be produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting will focus national attention on the woman behind the baton of the Eugene Symphony Orchestra.

Marin Alsop, conductor of the symphony for the past four seasons, has been chosen as the subject of a one-hour documentary tentatively titled *Music in Her Veins*.

The documentary, set to begin filming in November, will trace Alsop's meteoric rise from a student at the Julliard School of Music, to studying with famed conductor Leonard Bernstein, and to national prominence as an outstanding conductor in her own right.

Karen Kammerer, public relations director for the Eugene Symphony, said Alsop's brilliant young career is documentary material.

"She's phenomenal," Kammerer said. "She will probably become one of the major conductors of the 20th Century, and she will probably be the

first woman to conduct a major orchestra."

The documentary got its first financial boost from the Woodard Family Foundation of Eugene, which has pledged to contribute \$10,000 to OPB for production of the film. Final production costs are estimated at \$360,000.

Foundation Vice President Casey Woodard said the documentary will provide national exposure for Alsop and the Eugene arts community.

"We have a natural treasure in our presence here in Eugene," Woodard said. "We so rarely have an opportunity to show the country what we have here."

Alsop is a native of New York. She attended Yale University and received her Masters Degree from the Julliard School of Music. She was twice awarded the Leonard Bernstein Conducting Fellowship to the Tanglewood Music Festival, where she studied with Bernstein.

In 1990, Alsop became the first woman to conduct subscription concerts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The same year she became the first woman to conduct the Boston Pops Orchestra in its 107-year history.

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