

# Nomination for **2016** Selection

Wed Feb. 28, 2017 Application deadline: <del>Eri., Feb. 26, 2016 by</del> 5 p.m.

DELIVER TO: City Hall, 101 N. Main St., Winston-Salem, Marketing & Communications Department, Suite 336

OR MAIL TO: City of Winston-Salem Marketing & Communications Department P.O. Box 2511 Winston-Salem, NC 27102

Nominee's Stage Name: John Tuele Given Name: John Ministra
Address at Time of Death: Independence Village, 2945 Reynolda Rd. State: NC 27106
Winston-Salem Resident: Beginning: 1955 (year only) To: 1978 (year only)
Category: Music Visual Arts Dance Motion Pictures
Theater Television Writing Radio
Criteria:
<ul> <li>The nominee(s) exhibited sustained excellence in his or her field for at least five years.</li> </ul>
• The nominee(s) made distinguished contributions to the community and civic-oriented participation.
• The nominee(s) is deceased (must provide copy of death certificate).
<ul> <li>The nominee(s) was a resident of Winston-Salem for at least five years.</li> <li>The nominee(s) made a significant contribution to the arts or entertainment industry in one or more</li> </ul>
of the following areas: music, dance, theater, writing, visual arts, motion pictures, television, or radio.  A "significant" contribution would be iconic in terms of renown and the impact on the artistic disciplines or popular culture.
Application must include nominee's performance/accomplishment biography.
<ul> <li>Attach nominee's biography with dates which must include at least 5 years of accomplishments in the arts, culture, or entertainment field.</li> </ul>
Attach a list of nominee's civic/community involvement.
Attach a copy of nominee's death certificate.
Sponsor: Kathy (Kathryn) Inele Banks, his daughter
Address: 611 Staffordshire Rd
City: Winston-Salem State: NC Zip Code: 27104
Email: Kathlokid @ triad. M. com (hone); Kuthy@finiancia/paths, org. (work)
Phone: Home: (336) 127-2448 Cell: (336) 692-2612
Signature: Kathryn Banks Date: 2/27/2017

611 Staffordshire Road Winston Salem NC 27104 February 27, 2017

City Hall 101 N Main Street Winston Salem NC 27102

Attention: Marketing & Communications Department, Suite 336

Nomination for the Winston Salem Arts, Culture and Entertainment Memorial Walk of Fame

To Whom It May Concern:

I hereby submit an application to honor my father John luele who was Conductor of the Winston Salem Symphony for 26 years, 1952-1955 part-time and 1955-1978 as the Symphony's first full time conductor.

I am enclosing several newspaper articles confirming his life and work, a 60-year history of the Symphony written by Jared Lilly, my personal remembrances of growing up with such an amazing Dad in Winston Salem which was read at his memorial service, and his death certificate from 2008.

His contribution to musical education in the schools is fondly remembered among my generation. The comments I most often hear are "I remember him! He came to my school!" "I played for him and he encouraged me to continue with music!" "He was a mentor to me when I played in the youth orchestra!"

John loved Winston Salem and felt blessed to live here, do what he loved to do, and raise his family.

Thank you for your consideration of John luele for the Memorial Walk of Fame!

Sincerely,

Kathy Llule Brinks
Kathy luele Banks

**Enclosures** 

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	District No. 03113 Local DECEDENT'S NAME (First, Middle, Last)			SEX DATE	E OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year)
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# Iuele, longtime symphony conductor, dies at 91

He is credited with taking musicians to professional level

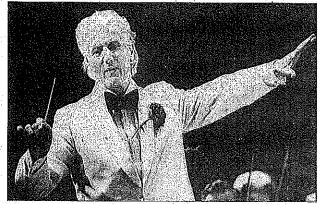
By Melissa Hall JOURNAL REPORTER

John Iuele, a longtime conductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony, died yesterday, he was 91.

Iuele, of Winston-Salem, started his career with the symphony as a part-time conductor in 1953. He came from Atlanta, where he played trumpet with the Atlanta Symphony.

He became the full-time conductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony in 1958 and stayed until 1978, when he was named conductor of the Palm Beach, Fla., symphony. He stayed there until 1981.

Peter Perret succeeded Iuele as conductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony, He remem-



JOURNAL FILE PH

John luele worked with the Winston-Salem Symphony for 25 years.

bered his predecessor as not only a fine musician, but also a great gentleman.

"He knew how to please an audience," Perret said,

Perret said that Iuele also took advantage of things occurring in the music world to improve the symphony. For example, he said that Iuele got a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to hire the members of the Clarion Wind Quintet, a local group of professional musicians, to play in the wind section of the symphony.

"That took it from being a community orchestra to a pro-

fessional orchestra," Perret said.

Itilele was born in Tessano, Italy, and came to the United States with his family when he was 12. He began playing the trumpet at the age of 8 with a band in his hometown.

Iuele studied music at Michigan State University and did graduate work at Juilliard. Early in his career, he performed with such conductors as Leonard Bernstein, Arturo Toscanini and Leopold Stokowski.

Minnie Lou Raper played violin with the symphony from 1950 to 2006. She said that when Iuele first arrived in Winston-Salem the orchestra's members quickly knew he was the right one for the job.

"We just all fell in love with him," she said. "He inspired musicians."

When Iuele first came to Winston-Salem, he also had thick dark hair that over the years turned white. It was one of his best known features and something people often wondered about, said Kathy Banks, his daughter.

"Is that his real hair?" Banks said about the questions she would hear. "It (the hair) fit the job he had."

Banks also said that, because her father worked at home, the family became involved with his job. They would listen to him play scores on the piano to prepare for concerts. Because the symphony practiced at night, "he would be leaving when most dads were coming home," she said.

Iuele's wife, Alice, died in 1987.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Salem Funeral Home.

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### **Editorials**

## John Iuele

John Iuele, referring to his time as the is generally, even in the worst of circumconductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony, once said he "gave the town the best 26 years of my life." He was exactly right, and the symphony and the city are all the better for his work.

luele, who died Sunday, helped transform the symphony into the professional group it is today, working tirelessly throughout the community to generate interest in the symphony. "If we continue to please only the privileged, we shall perish as an institution," he told the Journal in 1969.

Iuele said in 1978 that he was from working-class roots. He came here as a child with his family from Italy. They eventually settled in Niagara Falls, N.Y. At first, picked on because "when I tried to say a word (in English), it was distorted," Iuele longed to return to Italy. He soon found that he could express himself through music, starting with the trumpet. He studied at Michigan State University and Juilliard, began performing and then conducting with great conductors and great symphonies, and came to Winston-Salem in 1952 to lead the city's fledgling symphony.

With his thick mane of hair and handsome face, the young husband and father looked like a conductor straight out of central casting. And he had the talent to back the looks. Iuele got good reviews. "An overwhelmingly negative review of a luele concert is rare — not because of the critics' partiality, but because there as The City of the Arts.

stances, something good to talk about," Patrick Taggart wrote in the Winston-Salem Sentinel in 1974.

Symphony performers said that Iuele inspired them. And he introduced a generation of young people to classical music through his concerts for students, patiently explaining the intricacies of his job and the symphony. On the day of a concert, he said in 1976, "I stay away purposely from other people so when night comes my mind only includes what I'm going to do that night. Once I get up on the podium, I feel a sense of freedom from all of these things; then I'm concerned only with the music."

luele generated enthusiasm for the symphony among students and the public in general. "The traditional image of a symphony concert keeps people away," he said in 1969. "It is a stuffy image and I think it should be changed."

Juele left Winston-Salem in 1978 to lead the symphony in Palm Beach, Fla. His successor in Winston-Salem, Peter Perret, told the Journal's Melissa Hall Sunday that Iuele took the Winston-Salem Symphony "from being a community orchestra to a professional orchestra."

Iuele moved back to Winston-Salem in the mid-1990s. Just before his return, he said that Winston-Salem was his hometown. And during the best quarter century of his career, he enhanced its reputation

#### **UELE**

John Iuele, 91, of Winston-Salem died Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008, at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. John Iuele was born on Feb. 23, 1916, in Tessano, Italy, to Concetta Iaccino and Vincenzo Iuele. By the age of 8, he began playing the trumpet in a grade-school band. Interestingly, he thought that he would be learning the clarinet, but when the instruments arrived he was assigned the trumpet. This was the first step in what would take him into a lifelong career in music. In 1928, John and his family immigrated to the United States and settled in Niagara Falls, N.Y. In high school, he excelled in playing the trumpet, so much so, that his high school guidance counselor convinced him to apply to Michigan State University. He graduated from MSU with a degree in instrumental music. He studied trumpet and conducting for two summers at Tanglewood, Mass., where he met and worked with Leonard Bernstein. He was encouraged to do further study in New York City where he attended the Julliard School of Music. While at Julliard, he studied under Thor Johnson. Johnson encouraged him to pursue conducting, and he started seeking work both as a trumpet player and as a conductor. He played three seasons with the New York City Symphony, the New York City Opera, the Metropolitan Opera, a summer season with the Detroit Symphony and a special concert with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, He

penormed under the direction of the leading conductors of the time -Toscanini, Stokowski, Leinsdorf and Koussevitsky. In 1950, he moved to Atlanta, Ga., to play first trumpet with the Atlanta Symphony, and became the assistant conductor to Henry Sopkin. In 1952, with Sopkin's recommendation, he became the full-time conductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony. He commuted from Atlanta to Winston-Salem for three years before moving permanently to the area in 1955. Under Iuele's leadership, the Winston-Salem Symphony went from a modest community orchestra to a highly professional one. He started a series of in-school concerts that brought symphonic music directly to the area schools. Many Winston-Salem residents today still remember hearing these concerts from their childhood. He also started the Music at Sunset summer series to bring symphonic music to a family-friendly outdoor setting. In 1978, Iuele left the Winston-Salem Symphony to become the conductor and musical director of the Palm Beach Symphony for three years. Upon retirement from the symphony, he directed the Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Society for another two years. When his wife, Alice, passed away suddenly in 1987, he traveled and eventually moved back to North Carolina. He lived in Asheville for a brief time to be closer to his daughter, Kathy, and her family. In the early 1990s, he moved back to Winston-Salem and began renewing the many friendships that he had made during his tenure with the Winston-Salem Symphony. He enjoyed an active social life and was often seen in the company of his dear friend, Caroline Ebeid. John luele was predeceased by his wife. Alice Amsden Iuele; his parents; and brothers Ernest and Ornello luele. John is survived by a younger sister, Theresa Basta of Mission Viejo, Calif.; a younger brother, Orlando Iuele of Santa Barbara, Calif.; son Jim and daughter-in-law Joanne Iuele of Bedford, Texas; daughter Kathy and son-in-law Jay Banks of Winston-Salem; grandson John of :: Banks Brooklyn, N.Y.; granddaughter Alice and her husband, Kevin Littlewood, of Raleigh; and granddaughter Theresa Banks of Boone, Services will be held at 2 p.m. today, Jan. 30, at St Paul's Episcopal Church, Summit Street, Winston-Salem (please note the change in location of services). Burial services will be held a later date in East Lansing. Online condolences may be made at www.Salemfh.com. The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Music School of Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.; the Winston-Salem Symphony; or a charity of the donor's choice. The family wishes to thank the residents and staff of Independence Village for their wonderful support and many acts of kindness during John Iuele's stay

#### Reflection on a Life Well-Lived

John's life began in a small village in the southern region of Italy, known as Calabria. He was a first-born child in a family of five children, one of whom died in infancy. His father Vincenzo was a World War I veteran who served time in a German Prisoner of War camp, where he suffered but survived. After the war ended, he sought a better and more prosperous life for his family, and decided to seek his fortune in the United States. When John was a child of 6 or 7, his father left for the U.S., where he worked for five years to save money to bring his family across the ocean.

As the oldest child, John took on responsibility for his mother and younger brother Ernest while his father was away. He took the responsibility seriously, and throughout his life he was a mentor to his siblings, especially his sister Theresa and brother Orlando who were born in the U.S.

John talked many times about the family coming to America to start a new life. They prepared for a year, acquiring the necessary paperwork and medical examinations. Finally, with a mixture of excitement and sadness, they took the voyage over rough seas to Ellis Island, where they met up with his father and settled in Niagara Falls, NY.

John's first experiences in America were difficult. He spoke no English, and although he was 12 years old and an excellent student in Italy, he was placed in a lower grade and often suffered humiliating taunts from his peers. He

was quite athletic as a teenager and young adult, played tennis well and took up boxing too. He used to talk humorously about one particular advantage he had in boxing: His nose was somewhat flexible and could be struck in numerous ways without breaking it. He said he liked the challenge of taking on an opponent in an equal and fair fight, and I heard that he put a few fellows in their places. He always kept his boxing gloves as a reminder of his school years, and they remain in his belongings even now.

John's love for music began in his earliest of memories. In Italy at the age of 8 he was given a small trumpet to play in a neighborhood band. He had been told he would have a clarinet, but when the instruments arrived, he was one of the smallest and youngest members of the band, and took one of the last instruments to be given out. He made the best of it, and soon developed a passion for playing. His mother believed he had talent, and lined up a teacher for him in the city.

In Niagara Falls, John's skill with the trumpet opened many doors. While he struggled to learn English, he needed no translator for playing in the band. "Music is the universal language", and it brought many good things into his life, including a scholarship to Michigan State University.

It was in East Lansing that John met Alice Amsden, and their lives became intertwined. Alice was also a music student and was blessed with a beautiful singing voice. The story goes that she far outshined John in playing the violin, one of the required courses in the music curriculum. Their romance blossomed

I can remember my father searching for particular instrumentalists such as a French horn player all over the state in order to perform pieces on the program. They would often audition at the house, and receive special tutoring from him in order to prepare for the performance.

My friends and I loved it when the Winston Salem Journal would show up at the house to get a photo to promote an upcoming concert. If we knew it ahead of time, we would casually show up in hopes of getting our picture in the paper. Sometimes, to our delight, the ploy worked!

We children always attended the concerts. My favorite was Carnation

Night in May, when we dressed formally and everyone renewing their symphony
season membership was given a red carnation to wear. I always got a red
carnation and wore it with pride! It was a very special evening I looked forward
to every year.

Usually, we kids and our friends who came with us to concerts were very quiet and well behaved. On one occasion, I recall being a little silly and noisy throughout the performance. Afterward I dreaded going home because I was afraid my mother would be mad at me. When she finally got the chance to speak to me in private, my mother simply reminded me of my obligation as a family member, to maintain a proper image by behaving appropriately at all times, because others were always watching and judging the entire family based on what they saw me and my brother do. I never misbehaved at a concert ever again.

John accepted people as they are. He appreciated the diversity of humankind and found joy in nature and in life in general. He loved warm weather, fishing, good Italian food, and a good laugh. He found humor in nearly everything, and used it in a positive way. He had a huge capacity for love and for making others feel appreciated and special.

Music was the magic in his life, and he was the magic in our lives. He was "one in a million."