



Charles Schneider was born on September 16, 1938, in Freeborn County, one of two children to Albert E. and Marie (Stephenson) Schneider. After elementary and junior high, his 1956 senior Tiger Yearbook shows that he was a very busy young man. His activities included Junior Classical League, Drama Club, Thespians, Masquers, Tigers Roar, Football, Basketball, Track, Intramural Football, Chorus, Madrigal, Orchestra, Swing Band, Ahlahasa, Tiger, Quill and Scroll, National Honor Society, Rotary Representative, and Hi-Y.

After graduating from high school, Schneider attended Cornell College in Iowa from 1957-1960 where he received his B.M. and his B.M.E. Then in 1960-1961 he studied piano at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. Later, while working, he was also able to study in 1970-1971 in Master Conducting Classes with Igor Markevitch in Monte Carlo and with Herbert Blomstedt from Copenhagen Radio Orchestra in Dresden, East Germany. In 1971-1972 he took Master Conducting Classes with Franco Ferrara in Siena and Rome, Italy.

His conducting career began on Broadway in the 1960's as conductor of the New York revival of Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*. As a result, Bernstein tapped him to conduct *Westside Story* at Lincoln Center. In 1965-67 Schneider was the Music Director of the *Ice Capades*; *Jimmy Durante NBC Television Special* with The Supremes and Jimmy Dean; and Music Director for *Westside Story's* six-month tour with Anna Maria Alberghetti. In the 1970's he moved into symphonic music as Associate Music Director of the Kansas City Philharmonic.

(Continued on next page)

He was the Music Director for *Your Own Thing*, which was the first Off-Broadway musical to win the Drama Desk Critics' Award. During the 1960s, he conducted for Juliet Prowse, John Raitt, Christopher Walken, Dorothy Loudon, Carole Shelley, George Grizzard, Andy Williams, Howard Keel, Van Johnson, Ray Milland, and Jane Powell.

Among his opera credits was the American premiere of *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* with the San Francisco Opera. From 1976-1979 Schneider was Music Director of the Greater Utica Opera Guild in Utica. In 1978 he conducted the Colgate University Orchestra, in Hamilton, New York. In 1982 he was Musical Director of the Chamber Orchestra of San Diego State University, San Diego, California.

From 1973 to the present Schneider has been the Music Director of the Catskill Symphony Orchestra in Oneonta, New York, and in 1980 added the role of Music Director for the Utica Symphony Orchestra in Utica, New York, and in 1983 he was appointed the Music Director of the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra. In 1986, he became Conductor and Instructor at the Hartwick College Music Camp in Oneonta, New York, associations which continues today as the New York Summer Music Festival.

As Music Director, he has had the pleasure of conducting Robert Merrill, Roberta Peters, Wynton Marsalis, Ella Fitzgerald, Doc Severinsen, Frederica von Stade, Dwayne Croft, the Kingston Trio, Jon Fredric West, Mark O'Connor, Dinah Shore, Joan Kennedy, Charles Kuralt, Sarah Chang, Ida Kavafian, Peter Wiley, Andrew Russo, Anthony Molinaro, Toby Appel, and Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg.

In the 1990's Schneider was the Opera Conductor for the Chautauqua Institute in Chautauqua, New York; Conductor of the Glasnost Ballet Tour in El Paso, Texas, Newark New Jersey, and Utica, New York and then became the Music Director of the Portland Chamber Orchestra in Portland, Oregon.

The music faculties of Hamilton College, Colgate University, Hartwick College, Skidmore College, SUNY- Oneonta and Mohawk Valley Community College have also had the pleasure of Mr. Schneider's musical acumen. He was the founding music director for the Glimmerglass Opera, a position he held for 12 years. He was also co-founder of the Catskill Conservatory of Music in Oneonta, New York.

(Continued on next page)

Maestro Schneider is a four-time recipient of the ASCAP Award for Creative Programming and Performance Excellence. In 2000, he received the Governor's Award for Musical Excellence and a citation of musical excellence from the United States Congress. He served a three-year term as a panelist on the New York State Council of the Arts. He received a New York State Music Award through the Rockefeller Foundation to arrange and orchestrate The Bosnian Dances.

Schneider and his wife Rayna reside in Frankfort, New York. They have three children, Paul Baker, Dana Schneider and Megan Schneider-Ajakh.