

## SPECIAL EVENTS

There are a number of special occasions that can be used to create a special chapter event.

**Anniversaries.** These can include the recognition of composers' birth or death dates, as well as those of others who have made major contributions to the profession. You may find it appropriate to present a recital featuring the composer's works, or sponsor a local festival with another community music group.

Other anniversaries to keep in mind are those of your chapter's inception (for example, a 25th or 50th year of existence), or perhaps a milestone anniversary of a particular member (again, 10, 25, or 50 years of membership in the AGO and/or the chapter). You can plan a simple party or a grand, catered dinner to celebrate. When honoring AGO anniversaries, consider inviting an AGO official to speak. Contact your district convener, regional councillor, or the Executive Director to see if they are available to visit for these special events. National officers will want to mark the occasion with a letter of congratulations if they cannot attend the actual event. Please notify them at least six weeks in advance to be sure that they are able to write and send such a letter in time for your celebration.

**Honors.** There are many individuals and institutions deserving local recognition for their contribution to the arts. The honor need not be limited to a member or a group affiliated with the AGO. For example, your community may be home to a composer with a history of publishing nationally recognized works, or perhaps there is a member of the clergy who has made major strides to communicate the importance of the place of the professional musician among fellow clergy. If you are home to a symphony orchestra, its conductor may be someone who should be welcomed into the Guild.

An honor can be a way of officially saying "thank you" to an individual or an institution. You may have a member who has for years contributed to the success of the chapter through the donation of time, talent, and energy; the chapter might want to specially recognize him or her upon retirement. The possibilities in this area are plentiful - be sure to ask the members of your program and executive committees if they know of any special occasions that the chapter should commemorate.