

# 100-year-old tradition to fall

## Woman changes tune with park concert series debut

BY KELLY LEWIS  
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**W**hen Betty Glover strikes up the brass band Wednesday night at Stanbery Park in Mount Washington, she will be the first woman conductor to lead a band in the parks' concert series.

### Finneytown

Glover, Finneytown, will be breaking what Eugene Frey of the Cincinnati Musician's Association calls a "100-year-old tradition."

Not only is Glover the first woman conductor, but she will direct the first brass band in Cincinnati. Yet, the Brighton Brass Band is one of a list of firsts for the native Indiana woman.

After graduating from the "old conservatory" in Cincinnati in 1944, Glover became the first woman trombonist to play for a professional symphony orchestra.

She performed with the Kansas City Philharmonic for four years, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra for one year, taught for a few years at Otterbein College and then returned to the Queen City to play with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and teach at her alma mater.

"I like this city very much. I like the people, the parks, and there's lots of cultural activity," Glover said.

"As a woman, being the only woman bass trombonist in the world, I had proven a point. Women could hold their own in a major orchestra."

She said she chose to stay in Cincinnati because, "I wasn't looking for greener pastures."

During World War II, many musicians put down their instruments to carry weapons. Glover said the war gave women a chance for success in non-traditional roles in the symphony orchestra.

"We were in the middle of a war. Orchestras had to hire women. Either they hired inferior men or the person who played the best."

Seats were available at major symphony orchestras, but women musicians still had to perform twice as well as the men to get hired, she said.

Forty-three years have passed since Glover enhanced brass with a feminine touch, and she no longer plays professionally. Glover has been teaching at the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati since 1952. She is the adjunct professor of brass instruments and conductor for the



Betty Glover becomes the first female conductor to lead a band in the 100-year-old Cincinnati tradition of concerts in the parks. She will take the stage Wednesday evening with the Brighton Brass Band, also the first brass band to perform in the concert series.

### Park concerts start this week

A brass band will launch this summer's free concerts in the parks at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in Mount Washington's Stanbery Park.

The Brighton Brass Band, led by Betty Glover of Finneytown, is the newest music ensemble.

The Brighton Brass Band also performs at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Rapid Run Park, and 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Burnet Woods.

The five-week series, sponsored by the Cincinnati Musicians' Association and the Cincinnati Park Board, will continue through Aug. 9.

Following is a schedule of performances:

■ Earl Snapp and the traditional symphonic band, July 15-16 and 19 at Stanbery, Rapid Run and Burnet Woods parks.

■ Andrew Brady, conducting, July 26 at Burnet Woods and July 29-30 at Stanbery and Rapid Run parks.

■ Paul Zappa and the River City Pops, July 31 at Woodland Mound Park; Aug. 2 at Burnet Woods, and Aug. 5-6 at Stanbery and Rapid Run parks.

■ Buddy Roger and Big Band Radio Nostalgia, Aug. 9 at Mount Echo Park.

The concerts all begin at 7:30 p.m.

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brass choir.

Today, as in 1943, there are no female trombone players in major symphony orchestras.

"The ground has been broken," Glover said. "You have to be doubly durable and unflappable."

Very few women are directing professional symphony orchestras.

"I sat in front of conductors every day of my life for 32 years, and only two were women," she said.

Glover first conducted at Otterbein College in 1950 as part of her

job, she said.

But many times women had to go to Europe to gain experience because they were not given a chance here, she said.

"To be a conductor you have to say at one point that I want to be a conductor," Glover said.

This is difficult when women are conditioned to think they cannot become a director. Glover said getting the opportunity to try is difficult for women because of the politics involved in symphonies.