

# Ellison Makes 'Th

By MANLEY J. ANDERSON

A Falconer company made the new doors that swung open when New York City's famous Carnegie Hall celebrated the completion in December of its total restoration.

Ellison Bronze Co., a division of Dowercraft Corp., made five pairs of doors, the sidelights, transom, and fixed windows — all in the main entrance of the century-old concert hall.

N. Russell Ecklund, Ellison's executive vice president-general manager, said that after the end of the concert season last May the hall was shut down to permit the first renovation of the structure since it was built.

He said skeptics contended the restoration project would not be completed by the designated date, but this time they were wrong.

All of the building tradesmen and suppliers who had taken part in the restoration were invited to attend a private concert at the hall.

The invitation read, "In grateful appreciation of all you are doing to ensure a second century of music at Carnegie Hall, the Carnegie Hall Corporation wishes to invite you to a pre-opening private concert Sunday, December 7, 1986, 7:00 p.m."

The program contained a message from the hall's trustees and management. It read, "To all who have worked on the Master Plan for the restoration and renovation of Carnegie Hall.

"It is with deepest gratitude that we welcome you to this historic concert. After 28 miraculous weeks of construction, we are at last able to return together to our beloved Hall.

"We know this was not an easy building to work in. Yet, you have given us a beautifully restored concert hall, and a lobby and backstage that our patrons and musicians can be proud of.

"A lot of your work is hidden — duct work above the ceiling of the Hall, new concrete slabs under the carpet, miles of electrical conduit and much, much more. However, the total effect is clearly visible as the renewed glory of Carnegie Hall. This dream could not have become a reality were it not for your dedication, ingenuity and sweat.

"For many of you, the preservation of Carnegie Hall has been far more than just another job. It has been a labor of love to which you have given your very best. For this, we salute you. Most importantly, you should know that your work will be appreciated by your children and your children's children. They will thank you by enjoying beautiful music in this glorious room for another 100 years.

"Thank you for bringing us to this joyous day."

The musical program to which participants in the restoration were invited was performed by Empire Brass with assisting artists from the New York Philharmonic and Metropolitan Opera orchestras.

The music included selections from the works of Giovanni Gabrieli, George Frederick Handel, Johann Sebastian Bach, Richard Strauss, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein and Leroy Anderson.

The installation of the doors at Carnegie Hall was by an Ellison Bronze Co. crew assigned in New York City.

Ecklund said the Falconer firm makes "the Rolls Royce of balanced doors." Its involvement in this work goes back about 60 years to when a member of the Ellison family, who owned the business, developed and engineered the first balanced door.

The company official said the door was designed after a friend asked Ellison if he could build one that would open more easily when the wind was blowing. The original design since has been improved upon, but the basic concept remains the same, Ecklund said.

The first balanced doors were built at the Falconer plant in 1932, he said. About 1,200 of them constructed there last year, including 800 for domestic installations. The rest were joiner doors for the U.S. Navy, which Ellison Bronze has been making for about 25 years.

Ecklund said that while the company does not build a stock door, the Navy door comes closest to this description. He said the firm's commercial doors are custom built for each job to architect and owner specifications.

Ellison Bronze makes doors in bronze, aluminum, stainless steel, and steel, and guarantees the units and their hardware and accessories for a minimum of two years.

Ecklund said the company has its own foundry and does all of its own bronze castings and machining — so that the entire unit is made at the plant.

Ellison balanced doors can be built to meet the needs of the handicapped, or for installation in air-supported structures. Among those fitted with the latter are the Silverdome in Pontiac, Mich., the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, the Metrodome in Minneapolis, and the recreational facility at Riyadh University in Saudi Arabia.

Ecklund said that among locations locally where balanced doors may be found are the main entrances at Jamestown City