On the trail of our 35th president

With the inauguration of President Barack Obama, Bostonians may feel a jolt of excitement. It is a moment that reminds us of which we were a major part presented at the John F. Kennedy Library. If you are not familiar with JFK, then you will also enjoy visiting the birthplace of hisprotein childhood in Brookline.

The John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library, designed by I.M. Pei and located on Columbia Road near the Fernald site, contains the National Archives materials shown in the exhibit to the left. JFK's presidency, the presidency itself, and the nature of the American political system is located on the first floor.

Before entering these exhibits, you can see an introductory film entitled John F. Kennedy's Presidency, 1917-1963. It is a wonderfully produced and narrated documentary about the life of the President. Additionally, on Saturdays at 2:30 pm JFK Remembered, a mini-documentary about the late Senator, can be seen. Even if you weren't born until after the president's death, you can pay a visit to the late Senator, a place to visit.

The museum follows a timeline around a better displayed which contains the President's desk. The exhibits begin by tracing his heritage in Ireland and Boston and continue on his presidency. The last two parts deal with the life of Robert Kennedy, U.S.S. Monitor, and John Kennedy's younger brother.

One of the displays features a video tape compiled from JFK's White House tapes. It was refreshing to hear a president saying funny things intentionally. Another display was equally refreshing as it contained JFK's Harvard transcript. Did you know that our 35th president got a C's and D's in college?

A visit to the John F. Kennedy library offers you a chance to trace the history of the country for a while and to enter a different world.

The museum is open every day from 9 am to 5 pm, except holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's). Admission is $5.50 for people over 16, free for people under 16. MBTA: Red Line to Government Center Station. The museum is called "U. Mass and JFK Library." There's a whistle bus which runs every half-hour from the Toss. This shuttle bus is available also, in the long (approximately 30 min) walk. For driving instructions or further information call the Library at 929-0422.

For a shorter getaway, you can enjoy a trip into Brookline, where JFK's birthplace is only 524 and the house is open 10 am to 4 pm every day.

Two concerts remain for this season's Jordan Hall series concerts by the Civic Symphony Orchestra of Boston, on March 1 and April 28. Phone: 326-4465. Keep away from the Boston Classical Orchestra, an ensemble with presenters rather than results. Their concerts are simply mediocre and plain boring. Phone: 426-2387.

Sinfonietta has a five-concert season in Jordan Hall. One remains On March 15 Anthony of Bonaventura will play Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9. Phone: 938-6282. The Beattle String Quartet is a group of Boston Symphony Orchestra musicians who give periodic Sunday afternoon concerts at the Jordan Hall. Phone: 876-4235. Composers in Red Sneakers is for those inclined towards the avant-garde. To get free you need to be wearing red sneakers. Otherwise you have to pay the discount fees. Phone: 661-9776 or 466-9491.

Along similar lines you would find enlightenment at the Dinorah Annex Music Ensemble. The March 27 concert will include a work by and introduction from Peter Maxwell Davies while May will bring works with titles such as "Holographic Dance" and "A Little Comic" music to town. Concerts happen at the First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston, Phone: 262-0465.

Pro Musicians sponsors concerts by promising young musicians: On March 24 you'll be able to hear harpsichordist Joyce Lin- donoff and on May 23 Nancy Allen will give a harp recital, both in Jordan Hall. Phone: 536-2412.

The Wagner Society provides a breathtaking season of concerts by major musicians. The Tokyo, Guatemalan and Berg String Quartets, Peter Serkin, Isaac Stern, Heintz Hoffiger and the Rotterdam and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will all be performing during the remainder of the season. Phone: 482-2499. John Parker-Murdock runs a wonderful series under the banner International Artists Series. Unfortunately, most of it happens in Worcester, somewhat far away. But Murdock brought The English Concert to Boston and will be performing The Academy of Ancient Music on March 8. The concert will be held in Symphony Hall promises to be a highlight of the Boston musical year. Phone: 712-1250.

Meanwhile, Charles River Concerts will be wrapping up their season with a recital by Venezuelan harpsichordist Abraham Albrué on March 5 in the First and Second Church, Boston, with a performance by the American Brass Quintet on April 9 in the South Street Meeting House, Waltham. Apparently your last chance to see the Boston recital debut by the new BSO music director, Alan Louie, in Jordan Hall on April 19. Phone: 202-0652.

The Opera Company of Boston may only perform a few operas a year, but last year Sarah Caldwell inspiration makes for a unique survey. Caldwell's seriousness makes for an unusual and exciting production of great originality and high quality. Unfortunately, the current season has been cancelled due to Caldwell's serious illness. We wish her well and urge you to look for her unusual and exciting productions next year.

The Metropolitan Opera gives an annual visit to Boston, and the Metropolitan Opera performs the opera at the Oriental. John Williams holds the highest position in the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Phone: 876-4465. The Symphony Hall is open from 9 am to 5 pm, and all tickets are available by calling 342-0020.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra performs Handel's Messiah at 8 pm, Symphony Hall, April 18-21. Phone: 342-0020. To order tickets, phone 202-0652. MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.