Putting The

Acadiana Symphony

ON THE NATION'S Musical Map

And he wants to give the region's adults a taste of classical music, too. One way, he said, is to make his music accessible.

"We're providing romantic music, symphonic music, classical music, " he said.

Then, with a smile: "We're providing the very familiar music that people hear on television all the time."

The 1990-91 series will include works by Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Dvorak and Beethoven — works that are familiar to a wide audience, but not too familiar.

The program for the debut performance Oct. 21 includes the premiere of a New Beginning: Fantasy for Orchestra by local composer Ted McClellan.

"We want to promote beautiful music, performed by the very people — not people from New York, but from right here. ... They can be as well as the Louisiana Symphony or Baton Rouge," Li said.

If the orchestra wins recognition this year, it could well be the beginning, Li said: the ASO's ultimate goal is world recognition. "We're working to bring music to the ears of as many people as possible."

Li said ASO has stretched his budget by the fact that, in addition to the free all-Mozart concert at which he will perform, the music is free. "It's a shame," Li said, "but it requires few concerts to make ends meet.

"We have to make a decision from the box office," Li said. "We have to make a decision from the box office,"