

# Cornucopia

News and articles for anyone interested in the horn

February 2005



Northeast Horn Workshop  
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## Cornucopia

is published four or five times a season. It is free, although contributions are welcome.

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## Philadelphia Orchestra Horn Section at NHW

The Philadelphia Orchestra horn section is among the featured artists at the Northeast Horn Workshop.

Nolan Miller, Principal, is from Hamburg PA, a child prodigy in piano and solfège. He studied horn with Gail Weimer, James Thurmond at Lebanon Valley College, and Mason Jones at Curtis. Nolan was appointed by Ormandy as Co-Principal in 1965, sharing responsibilities with his teacher and assuming Principal on Mason's retirement in 1978. Nolan retires at the end of this season, and the orchestra will miss his trademark sound quality, remarkable ear, musical sensitivity, and quiet wit.

David Wetherill, Co-Principal, a Philadelphian and graduate of Curtis, studied with Mason Jones and Nolan Miller. Prior to joining the orchestra in 1978, he was principal of the Teatro all Scala in Milan and Ensemble Inter-Contemporain of Paris.

Daniel Williams, Second, a Philadelphian, joined the orchestra in 1975 as Assistant Principal upon graduation from Curtis, and moved to Second in 1997. Dan studied with John Simonelli and Mason Jones and is on the faculty of Temple.

Jeffrey Kirschen, Third, also a Philadelphian who graduated from Curtis, studied with Mason Jones, Nolan Mil-

ler, Kendall Betts, and David Wetherill. Prior to joining the orchestra in 1989, he held positions in Dallas, Seattle, and Utah. Jeff is on the faculties of Temple and Rowan, wrote "Accompanied Orchestral Excerpts," and runs his own horn-related business at [jk3horn.com](http://jk3horn.com).

Adam Unsworth, Fourth, is from Potsdam NY and a graduate of Northwestern and Wisconsin-Madison. His teachers were Gail Williams, Douglas Hill, Norman Schweikert, and Roy Schaberg. Prior to joining the orchestra in 1998, Adam played in the Detroit Symphony. He is on the faculty of Temple.

Shelley Showers, Assistant/Utility, is from Lancaster PA and a graduate of Curtis. Her teachers include Mason Jones, Myron Bloom, Nolan Miller, Randy Gardner, and Stephanie Fauber. Before joining the orchestra in 1998, she was a member of the New Jersey, Cincinnati, Utah, and Cleveland orchestras. Shelley teaches at Temple and has published Clara Schumann song transcriptions.

Jeffrey Lang and Randy Gardner will join the section for octets. Jeff, a NY hornist and faculty member of Vassar and Bard, has served occasionally in Philly as Acting Co-Principal. Randy Gardner, Prof. of Horn at University of Cincinnati, was Second in Philly from 1975-97.

## Playing (less) Hurt

Review by Jean Rife

Janet Horvath, associate principal cellist in the Minnesota Orchestra, was a student of Janos Starker at Indiana University thirty years ago. A serious student, her long hours of practice created such pain she had to stop. Since Starker was away, Horvath sought medical help; the most concrete suggestion was to find a different career. Fortunately, on Starker's return, he helped rebuild her technique and guide her recovery.

The seed for Horvath's interest in musicians' injuries was planted. In Minneapolis, she helped colleagues and students, and now speaks and teaches across the US, including an appearance at Longy in 2004.

More injuries among musicians have surfaced since 1974. Despite attention, the problem has not abated. At NEC, an informal poll of an ensemble revealed that four of the six students playing Poulenc's Sextet had been injured playing, and over half of a class of 30 high school students admitted to hurting while playing.

In *Playing (less) Hurt*, Horvath outlines problems and risks musicians face – having others in control, starting too young, pushing too hard, bad posture and physical relationships with instruments, overuse, stress, and anxiety. She includes charts on danger signals, tips to prevent overuse, factors contributing to overuse, and don'ts for injury prevention. She discusses modifications to instruments and changes in technique to increase comfort.

Horvath recommends stretches that can be used by all musicians to keep the body alert and in better condition. This could be deepened; next to dancers, musicians are some of the most physically aware people, and we sense our bodies on a more subtle level than Horvath describes.

While she writes at length about string playing, her gestures towards problems of singers and wind players (and their solutions) are often cursory, and seem as if she is trying to increase the appeal of her book. Admitting her focus on string playing would be more honest, and since we fill our shelves with books on acting, dance, running, playing tennis, and maintaining motorcycles, she would probably retain her audience.

Two complaints: the index, organized by instrument, is inadequate. An index of problems and solutions (focal dystonia, upper body stretches, chair problems) would help more. She also mentions sources and people by last name without appropriate reference – no index, no bibliography, and no reference on the previous page.

Still, I applaud Horvath for advancing her knowledge and entering the dialogue on physical challenges musicians face. If you suffer discomfort, this book could help.

*Jean, a free-lancer on modern and natural horn based in Boston, teaches at MIT, NEC, and Longy. See [www.jeanrife.com](http://www.jeanrife.com) for horn classes and yoga tips.*

## News and Events

**Hilary Ledebuhr** (Whitinsville MA) and Brass Venture played works by Hojnacki, Bettencourt, Mussorgsky, and Bach in Jan. in Milford MA.

**Willie Ruff** (www.keplerlabel.com) celebrates 50th Anniversary of Mitchell/Ruff Duo with a re-issue of its historic Billy Strayhorn recording. The master tape was rediscovered last year by Willie in his own Alabama library. The Duo is performing at the Northeast Horn Workshop.

**Lin Foulk** (Kalamazoo, www.linfoulk.org) writes that her new CD "Four Elements: Works for Horn and Piano by Female Composers" is now available and includes a number of premiere recordings.

**Anthony Morris** (Germany) reports that Ifor James died in December. Anthony had known Prof. James for many years. See *The Horn Call*.

**Mark Louttit** (Fitchburg) writes: "Those of us who have been involved in wind ensembles owe much to Frederick Fennell, who died in Dec."

**Michael Weinstein** (Concord) reports that his Serenade (companion to the Dvorak) is available from Hal Leonard (HL 48007754).

**Daniel Katzen** (BSO 2nd horn, dkatzen@bu.edu) writes: "I have begun two LA-area teaching studios, at California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) and University of California at Irvine (UCI) each with a different approach. See music.calarts.edu and www.uci.edu."

**Dan Dick** (Natick, dandick@comcast.net) plays folk instruments in a group called Woodwork in addition to community orchestra gigs.

**Lee Wadenpfohl** (leew1386@hotmail.com) reports that the New England Horn Quartet (Beth Lowell, Kristen Dirmeier, and Tiffany Rice-Barteet), coached by Jean Rife, has attained Honors status, has a web site (www.newenglandhornquartet.com), and will play at the IHS in June.

**Penny Ward Marcus** (Clinton NY) studied clarinet at NEC, later tried horn, went back to clarinet, and now is back playing horn again.

**Myra Fishburn** is now Supply Supervisor (S4) at the U.S. Military band at West Point (a promotion to a permanent post). Congratulations!

**Miriam Chong** (Tacoma), **Jack Snider** (Lincoln NE), **Margot Rowland** (Longmeadow), and **Don Barnett** (Asheville NC) have sent contributions. Thank you.

**Lost:** Leigh Alexander (Dover NH), Metod Tomac (Ljubljana, Slovenia), Timothy Henshaw (Haslett MI), Charles Turner (Columbia MO), Susan Hurley Glowa (Lancaster PA), Peter MacDonald (Hamilton ON).

Selected comments from members requesting e-mail delivery (many want to help save money - thanks). **Tim Buschert** (Roseburg OR): I was in MA recently. What a beautiful state! **Ralph Mazza** (Sudbury): Let's spare the trees! And in return - color! **Jean Rife** (Brookline): It's easy to forward to my students. **Burt Rubenstein** (Carlisle): [Son]Nick is having a great time studying with Gail Williams at Northwestern. **Matt Pollack** (Topsham ME): It's easier to save them, and always fun to read! **Ed Deskur** (Zurich): I got married in February in Rome and my wife, Joanna, is

### Northeast Horn Workshop 2005

April 15-17, 2005 at Conservatory of Music, Purchase College NY

Host: John Clark 914-251-6711 workshop@hmmusic.com

Updates at www.hmmusic/NortheastWorkshop2005.htm

### Lydia Busler-Blais Recital

March 12, Montpelier VT. Works of Weinstein, Hindemith, Poulenc, Britten, and others. boblyd@solver.net 888-826-2593.

### Ligetti Horn Trio

May 6, Tsai Performance Center, Boston Musica Viva concert, Eric Ruske, Bayla Keyes, and Geoffrey Burleson. www.bmv.org

### Bay Colony Brass looking for horns

Rehearsals on Mondays in Watertown, regular concerts, occasionally paid, contact Roger Hecht 617-923-2708 rihecht@earthlink.net.

### IHS International Symposium

June 5-10, 2005, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa AL USA

Host: Skip Snead, ssnead@bama.ua.edu, web: http://ihs2005.com.

### Chamber Music Institute, July 10-17

Wind/Brass Quintets, U. Nebraska-Lincoln, www.unl.edu

now pregnant. **Stephen Stirling** (Kent UK): Yup, add me to the forest-saving list! It is still the only publication of any sort that I actually read from cover to cover. I'm expecting a baby boy any day now. Our first, very exciting times! **Sally Plante Watson** (North Smithfield RI): Been married two years, still trying to get the name changed on bills. **Peter Head** (Sloatsburg NY): I've always felt guilty that you spend money on me so I can stay in touch with the horn world. Phil Myers is soloist with the Ridgewood NJ Band on May 15. **Jessica Kuhlman** (Saratoga Springs NY): I'm moving on a fairly regular basis, so email should help. **Jef Jepsen** (Woodbridge VA): The newsletter always has more than just New England news. **David McClellan** (Toledo): Even though I have no direct connection with the Boston area, I enjoy reading about the players whose names I recognize. **Catherine Roche-Wallace** (Lafayette LA): I am premiering my Meir Rimmon Commissioning Grant work at the IHS. **Susan Antolini** (Billerica): Attending the Kendall Betts Horn Camp was the most incredible experience! And thanks to my amazing teacher, Jean Rife. She was able to explain things to me that no one else could. Coming to New England is the best thing I have ever done! ❖

### Cornucopia by e-mail

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