

# Cornucopia

News and articles for anyone interested in the horn

September 2005



Dick Mackey warming up on Bach backstage at Tanglewood (August 2005)

## Dick Mackey retires from the Boston Symphony

Dick Mackey retired from the Boston Symphony Orchestra at the end of the 2005 Tanglewood season after a long and distinguished career. Renowned for his virtuosity, especially in the low register, Dick had earlier been a member of the orchestras of Kansas City, San Antonio, Detroit, New Orleans, Cleveland, and the Japan Philharmonic. He was fourth horn of the BSO for 32 years, having joined the orchestra in 1973 following eight years as a freelance musician in the Los Angeles studios.

Dick was born in Philadelphia and grew up in rural Montrose PA. He played in the school band starting in 4th grade, first on trumpet, then, at the request of the band director, horn. During those years, he expanded his music education by listening to the NYC radio station WQXR.

Dick earned his diploma at NEC in three years, studying with BSO principal Willem Valkenier. He also credits solfège teacher Gaston Dufresne, a BSO bassist, with rigorous musical training. Dick is still in touch with fellow students Artie Goldstein, Wayne Barrington, Dick Gerstenberger, Abby Mayer, Gail Weimer, and Ralph Pottle.

Tanglewood provided professional orchestral experience over four seasons, and Marlboro did the same for chamber music over nine summers. Dick still visits Marlboro and feels very much at home there.

The Bach Cello Suites, played in the cello range, have been a constant for Dick over the years. As he finished his studies at NEC, Valkenier arranged for him to play for Cleveland conductor George Szell. Dick played move-

ments of the Bach. Later Szell offered him the 4th position, but the job did not materialize because the 3rd player took the position. (Later he won the 3rd audition and played in Cleveland for 8 years.) When he auditioned for the BSO years later, he again played Bach and was offered the 4th position. He still loves playing the suites.

After playing principal horn in Japan for two years, Dick sailed to the US with his family. Friends in LA convinced him to free-lance there, but it was difficult to break in. A composer he had known at Tanglewood got him his first job at Disney, and then work began to pick up. The horn he plans to keep in retirement is a Schmidt he got from Vincent deRosa on moving to Boston.

Dick has been teaching at NEC, and will continue to teach. Among his students are Han Xiao-Ming, now playing and teaching in Saarbrücken, Germany, and Bill Caballero, principal horn in Pittsburgh.

Dick has found enjoyment and satisfaction playing in the BSO. He describes the section as "gentlemen, all fine players who get along well." He'll miss playing some works. He has projects planned already. He and his wife, Wendy, will be in Salzburg, Austria for the celebration of Mozart's 250th birthday on January 27, 2006. Dick will continue to collect Mozart artifacts – books, scores, recordings, art work, and especially first editions. He plans to read Mozart's letters again and to listen to and study the Schubert lieder. And children and grandchildren will be visiting their home near Tanglewood. ❖

### Cornucopia

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

For further information, to add your name to the mailing list, to send a contribution, or to submit material, contact:

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## Piccolo horn or Corno da caccia?



Should it be called "piccolo horn" or "corno da caccia"? Doug Myers and Greg Whitaker use both terms. In Europe, corno da caccia is the term used, and many leading trumpet players have one. It is a high B-flat instrument, the same length as a standard trumpet. IHS members Doug and Greg started their careers as trumpet players, but are playing horn more as time goes on. Piccolo horn, a term suggested by natural horn pioneer Lowell Greer, describes it best, according to Doug.

However, you can't call it a "natural horn" because the modern version has valves. It comes from a tradition earlier than the hand horn and is used for Baroque and pre-Classical composers such as Bach, Handel, Telemann, and Leopold Mozart. It is played without the hand in the bell, which results in a distinctive sound, quite different from either the natural or modern horn. Their instruments are made by Thein in Bremen, Germany.

The tessitura of these horns is quite high, which allows tackling the high Baroque parts. Bells of different sizes favor different ranges – smaller bells for *primo*

(higher) parts and larger bells for *secondo* (lower) parts.

The mouthpieces are horn mouthpieces. Doug plays a Bach 10 and Greg a Schmidt from Klingental in the former East Germany. A narrow bore helps get the high notes (up to D concert above the staff!), and a bigger backbore helps keep the sound like a horn.

Doug and Greg are old friends, having played together at Emmanuel Music from its early days. Music Director Craig Smith had them play both trumpet and horn parts. In October, they play with the Boston Classical Orchestra (see page 2). The Handel concerto is particularly interesting, according to Doug. Handel wrote two horn concertos; this one is known as the "Water Music Concerto," and the second movement was found in the Yale Library, separate from the other movements.

The duo are the only piccolo horn players in the US as far as they know, and they play concerts in diverse venues, enabling audiences to hear this new instrument and music not heard before. They perform 20-30 concerts a year, and growing, and having lots of fun doing it. ❖

## News and Events

**Paola Tobon** (paitocorno@hotmail.com) is looking for a horn instructor who speaks Spanish. She plans to study in Boston for a year.

**Hazel Dean Davis** was a fellow at Marlboro this summer, and **Todd Harris Sheldrick** and **Maria Harrold** were fellows at Tanglewood.

**Jerry Darling** (Willingboro NJ) was featured in the Vitality section of the *Burlington County Times*. The accompanying article recounted his life, including many years in military bands in Europe, Asia, and the US.

**Dan Shaud** (Watertown, dshaud@hotmail.com) appeared with Know Trio (horn, violin, and percussion) in Cambridge in April and on a CD.

**Aaron Manela** (Eugene OR) writes, "I recently started playing the horn again after struggling with TMJ. Now I've been able to start over with a more solid embouchure. After leaving Boston, I lived in Charlottesville VA. Now I'm in my hometown to study composition with David Crumb and work toward an MM in composition at the University of Oregon."

**David Uber** (Tinnmouth VT) sent a program from a premiere of his *Thou Holiest of Rivers* for horn and piano at Baylor University, commissioned and performed by Jeffrey Powers. "Jeff made a CD of the work, and the music will soon be published.... Thanks for sending Cornucopia. It is great to learn what is going on in the horn world."

**Katie Mason** (katie\_mason@yahoo.com) has moved to Somerville to teach general music at a charter school.

**Rose Ruze** (Concord), **Fleur Barnes-Rowell** (Hadley), **Lin Foulk** (Kalamazoo MI), **Laura Klock** (Amherst), **Bob Borchert** (Uncasville CT), **Jerry Darling** (Willingboro NJ), **Priscilla Johnson** (Latham NY), **Mark Anderson** (Woodstock NY), **Froydis Ree Wekre** (Stabekk, Norway), and **Jerry Old** (Leawood KS) have sent contributions. Rose's son, bassoonist John Ruze, has invented a device to hold a tuner (or whatever) on a music stand ([www.ruzette.com](http://www.ruzette.com)). Mark writes, "I can't bear giving up the feel of the print edition!" Mark plays guitar and sings with his son's Christian folk music band ([www.fithfulfolk.org](http://www.fithfulfolk.org)).

**Pat Mickey** (Kirksville MO) writes, "I share the email version with my students. Cornucopia provides me a concise way of keeping up with horn news and events in the northeast."

**Lost:** Christopher Bowles (Barre VT), Devin Cohen (Silver Springs MD), Christina Wilson (Duncan SC), Chris Lux (Altadena CA), Christina Smith (Berklee), Chris Smith (Eastern Illinois).

**New members:** **Chris Kergaravat**, Stoneham; **John Kraybill**, Blue Bell PA; **Jim Everson**, Littleton CO; **Bill Robinson**, IHS Honorary Member, Winter Spring FL; **James Wilson**, Tampa FL; **Raymond Chase**, Cincinnati Horns, composer; **Mark Jones**, computer programmer in LA; **Jim Durst**, Fairbanks; **Erica Chenworth**, North Pole AK and U of Maryland; **Gail Holmes**, Fairbanks and Winston-Salem NC; and **Erik Winter**, Army band at Fort Wainwright, Fairbanks. ❖

### Northeast Horn Workshop 2006

March 25-26, 2006, University of Vermont, Burlington  
Host: Alan Parshley (802-656-3040) [maestrodicorno@aol.com](mailto:maestrodicorno@aol.com)  
Patricia Evans (Winnipeg), John Boden (Portland ME)  
Kelly Drifmeyer (Crane, Potsdam), Priscilla Douglas (Audiologist)

### Lydia Busler-Blais Recital

Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m., Grace Congregational Church, Rutland VT  
Oct. 1, 8 p.m., Bethany Congregational Church, Montpelier VT  
*Horn Calls: Past and Present* [bobblyd@sover.net](mailto:bobblyd@sover.net)



### Eric Ruske Recital at Osmun Music

October 8, 4 p.m. Reservations required 781-646-5756  
5 Forest Street, Arlington Heights MA, [www.osmun.com](http://www.osmun.com)

### Daniel Katzen with Wellesley Symphony

Oct. 9, 3 p.m. at MassBay Comm. College, [wellesleysymphony.org](http://wellesleysymphony.org)  
Mozart Concerto #4 and Leopold Mozart Sinfonia for Alphon

### Corni da Caccia at Boston Classical

October 21 & 23, Faneuil Hall, Boston  
Doug Myers & Greg Whitaker with Baroque instruments  
in music by Handel, Telemann, & Leopold Mozart  
[www.bostonclassical.org](http://www.bostonclassical.org). See page 1.



### IHS International Symposium

July 21-29, 2006, Cape Town, South Africa  
Steve Horwood, [steveh@iafrica.com](mailto:steveh@iafrica.com), [www.sahornsoc.com](http://www.sahornsoc.com)  
Tours are being organized for before and after the symposium, also Table Mountain, gardens, and winery tours mid-week.  
South African Horn Society needs horns for students; please consider donating an instrument.

### Horn New England

[www.HornNewEngland.org](http://www.HornNewEngland.org)

Home page for horn-related happenings in New England.  
Send posting information to webmaster Bill Muth at [announcements@HornNewEngland.org](mailto:announcements@HornNewEngland.org)

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