

Cornucopia

News and articles for anyone interested in the horn

September 2006



Erik Albertyn



Marshall Sealy

Cornucopia

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

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The 2006 Symposium at Cape Town, South Africa

"Brilliant," "fabulous," and "inspiring" were some of the adjectives heard from South Africans about the symposium; "one of the best ever" was the consensus of the IHS Advisory Council, whose members have attended many previous symposiums.

"This workshop will take a special place in IHS history," stated Bruno Schneider, host of next year's symposium. "It was truly international."

Andre Valentine, Roger Small, and Paul Wynand all agreed that it was exciting to see how horn players can play solos; they never knew how exciting the literature could be. "We can see the technical ability that can be achieved if you practice a lot," said Andre.

Cathy Kilroe-Smith and her friend Alice Thomson thought it was "great to have the symposium in South Africa." They also used the word "inspiring."

Professors Erik Albertyn and David Scarr saw many benefits for the music community in South Africa. "It will be easier to recruit with this success," said Erik. "The symposium has been simply uplifting," remarked David. They used to have regional workshops, and now the newly-formed South African Horn Society is resolved to have an annual national workshop.

Some sessions were devoted to South African traditional music, which entranced the visitors. However, many of the local young people are not interested. Erik

sees an opportunity to bring traditional music into the classical arena, to the benefit of both. He commissioned a work for horn choir through the IHS Meir Rimom Commissioning Fund, *Two for Erik* by S. Glasser, that uses kudu horns along with modern orchestral horns.

The outreach program affected many attendees. Pamela Kiernan organized a day-long tour described as "surprising, but affecting" and "fascinating." Marshall Sealy and a horn quintet played at the schools. Marshall has applied for a Fulbright grant to teach instrument repair workshops and study African traditional music.

Among the many highlights, most would agree that the Wednesday evening concert with the Cape Chamber Orchestra stood out. Frank Lloyd played the Foerster Concerto; Bruno Schneider, Mozart No. 4; Lisa Ford, Larsson's Concertino for Horn and String Orchestra; and finally, a glorious performance of the Haydn Concerto for Two Horns with Bruno and Frank. Listing the works and performers does not do justice to the impeccable, lyrical playing and joyous atmosphere of the event.

The symposium was smaller than any for many years (about a hundred registered attendees, with two or three times that number at the evening concerts), but many felt that the smaller attendance lent an intimacy that fostered greater interaction between all the participants. It was truly a symposium to remember. ❖

The Amateur Session - How to Practice

The Amateur Session at Cape Town was a panel discussion with Jeffrey Agrell, Erik Albertyn, Peter Hoefs, Shirley Hopkins-Civil, Joseph Ognibene, and Jonathan Stoneman. "Practice smarter" and "keep the embouchure in shape" seemed to be the lessons to take from the panel discussion on how to practice in limited time.

Everyone, in fact, not just amateurs, needs more practice time, whether because of "day jobs," professional playing, teaching, administrative duties, or a combination of obligations. The panelists faced all these situations.

In addition to breathing and athletic conditioning as good preparation, the panelists agreed that every horn player must spend at least 30 minutes a day, every day, with the horn. "Too many days away from the horn cannot be recovered and can lead to a crisis of confidence," said Joe. "You cannot depend on ensemble playing because it does not cover the basics."

An audience member mentioned wind bands, which usually involve lots of playing, and said that they can usually hit the first note "right-on" without any warm-up. The panelists, however, strongly recommended warming up. "You will play better," said Jonathan. "And your

embouchure will feel better the next day," added Joe.

Several panelists recommended focusing on the low register during daily practice. Many players find that if their low register is working well, the high notes take care of themselves.

Erik mentioned the feeling of isolation when practicing on your own. Jonathan recommended lessons as inspiration. Jeff suggested getting organized, knowing what you want to practice. Shirley mentioned spending some time improving weaknesses, but also playing studies that give you confidence. Joe suggested finding other people to play with, maybe the section in your ensemble. Jeff added that a playing partner could be other than a horn player. You can work on difficult scales together.

Joe recommended knowing your scales well, "which makes transposition easier," and Jeff followed up with several suggestions, some of which appear in his column on technical tips in the *Horn Call*, for practicing scales or bits of etudes or solos. Shirley added that you can improve technique by practicing fingerings without the horn.

As the participants left to attend a master class, they all agreed that it had been a worthwhile discussion. ❖

News and Events

Harry Shapiro, former hornist, player committee member, and personnel manager for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, at age 92 spends about half the year away from his Boston home coaching students at Tanglewood, the New World Symphony in Miami, and in Kobe, Japan, where they are forming an orchestra on the model of the New World Symphony.

Andrew Karr (karrhorn@yahoo.com) spent two years with the New World Symphony and two years as principal horn in Shanghai, China. Now he is in Florida deciding on his next move.

Esprit de Cor (organized by Erik Swenson) gave their annual concert in June at the First Parish Church in Lexington.

Loren Fields (hornsmoke@zwi.net) organized a Maine Horn Day at Lawrence High School in Fairfield in July.

Ab Koster (Germany) is performing with the Pottstown PA Symphony Orchestra on March 17, 2007, with master classes on March 14 & 15. Last spring he played the Mozart Quintet K407 in Houston on natural horn.

Jean Rife (Brookline) played a recital of English virginal music at First Church in Cambridge in June.

Nick Rubenstein (according to his father) is a member of the Northwestern Horn Quartet, which won the Midwest Horn Workshop quartet competition. They performed Heiden and a new piece by Charles Young.

Barry Tuckwell was at Gettysburg PA in June to lead a distinguished institute faculty. Jean Rife reports that plans are underway for next year.

Hilary Ledebuhr (Whitinsville) writes that the web site for her brass quintet Brass Venture is www.brassventure.com.

Dolores Beck-Schwartz (Putnam Valley NY) writes about two events last May: a Top Brass concert and a B3+ (Franz Hackl, trumpet, Dave Taylor, trombone, and John Clark, horn) concert.

Jeremy Ronkin (Waltham) is returning from a tour of Miss Saigon and joining the faculty of the Music School of Concord and Carlisle.

John Kessen (Boston) and three partners are opening a new restaurant and are asking friends to contribute \$5-\$25 (Village Table, c/o Rachel's Kitchen, 12 Church Street, Boston MA 02116), in return for their names on a wall in the restaurant. www.thevillagetableboston.com

Comments from email subscribers: **Robert Johnston** (Providence): "I'm not active but always enjoy catching a glimpse of the horn world."

Jennifer Sullivan (Newton) is now married to Steve Sulewski.

Steve Schaughency (Fairfield CA) had been posted to Germany, is now with the USAF Band of the Golden West.

John Mason (profmason@yahoo.com) displays photos of the Cape Town symposium at gallery2.leica-users.org/v/IHSCapeTown.

2007 Northeast Horn Workshop

February 17-18, 1007, Mansfield University, Mansfield PA

Host: Dr. Rebecca Dodson-Webster, 18 Campus Drive,
Butler Music Center, Mansfield University, Mansfield PA 16933
570-662-4713 rdodsonw@mansfield.edu

Exciting artists are confirming - more information in the next issue.
faculty.mansfield.edu/rdodsonw/nehw/

Note the early date - be sure to save it!

Jean Rife Classes

Classes in natural horn, modern horn, and for other musicians
beginning after Labor Day. See jeanrife.com

2007 IHS International Symposium

July 8-14, 2007, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland

Host: Bruno Schneider, Professor in Geneva and Feiburg
Horn sections of Berlin Philharmonic, Zurich Tonhalle,
and the Swiss Romand Orchestras in addition to soloists, etc.
www.ihs2007.com



Joeth Barlas (Carlisle), **Chuck Kavalovski** (Inver Grove Heights MN), **Stanley Light** (Springfield), **Tim Allport** (Tarrytown NY), and **Brian Coughlin** (Peterborough NH) have sent contributions. Joeth writes: "Your newsletter is amazing." Chuck writes: "Thanks for having the Lyricum review the Reicha CD. It might help counter the caveat I got when I was considering entering the music business at age 35 that 'it's all over at 55.' At 70, I seem to be able to do pretty much what I always could. The price, of course, is daily maintenance, which gets to be a pain!" Stan made his contribution in memory of his friend and colleague Doug Ward who studied at Eastman, played in the Pioneer Valley Symphony, and was a school band director. "Besides being a fine horn player and excellent music educator, he was a wonderful person." Stan was in a bad car accident and was seriously injured from airbag deployment. Tim writes: "You are performing a great service for us non-professional players. Keep up the good work!" Brian (bjhorn1@verizon.net) writes: "I am on the mend from esophageal cancer. Thanks to everyone who called and sent cards."

Lost: Christina Smith (Berklee), Kelli Kirkman (Amherst), David Amran (Putnam Valley NY), Fritz Foss (Miami Beach).

New members: **Ben Johns**, Manlius NY, a freshman at UMich; **John Mason**, Charlottesville VA; **Susan McCullough**, University of Denver; **Adam Lesnick**, Perion PA; **Peter Hoefs**, Stuttgart; **Jonathan Stoneman**, journalist from Kent, England; **Rose French**, Tempe AZ; **Cathy Kilroe-Smith**, Athens GA; **Hannale Lombard**, Somerset SA; **Alice Thomson** and **Julian Begg**, Johannesburg; and **Andre Valentine**, **Roger Small**, and **Paul Wynand** of Cape Town, South Africa. ❖

Cape of Good Hope and Cape Town



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