

Cornucopia

News and articles for anyone interested in the horn

May 2007



Kendall Betts

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:

New England Horn Society

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Horn New England and Northeast Horn Workshop

www.HornNewEngland.org

International Horn Society

NEHS encourages membership in IHS (\$35/year). For further information, contact:

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Lawson Horns Moves North

People hear that Walter Lawson is retiring and they wonder, "Is Lawson Horns going out of business?" Kendall Betts is able to answer a resounding "No" because he has bought the business and is moving it to northern New Hampshire to carry on.

For those who don't know Lawson Brass Instruments, the shop is located in Boonsboro MD and is renowned for its high quality horns and perhaps even more for its research into the acoustics of horns. Walter Lawson and his sons have published articles for the Acoustic Society of America and the *Horn Call*. The results have been applied to designing their mouthpieces, leadpipes, first branches, bell tapers, alloys, and annealing. Their instruments are played by numerous professionals and amateurs.

Kendall has played Lawson horns since the beginning. "They helped me play my best," he says, "helped me make a living playing for 40 years." He has known Walter since 1965 and "worked with them through the whole process." Kendall studied at Interlochen and Curtis and was principal horn in the Minnesota Orchestra for 25 years, retiring in 2004. He had spent summers in northern New Hampshire since the 1970s, performing regularly

with the North Country Chamber Players, and always planned to move there when he retired.

"I need something to do in retirement," says Kendall. "I teach part-time at UNH, which I enjoy, but I wouldn't want to teach full-time." At first, Kendall and the Lawsons thought about starting a satellite operation, but then the Lawsons decided to sell. Kendall, through contacts, found a bank to work with him and the Lawsons for a smooth transition.

"Walter is retiring, although he'll still make mouthpieces. None of his sons wanted to take over," says Kendall. He has already hired several new employees and is looking for a few more. Bruce and his brother Paul are helping with the transition and training Kendall and his employees.

Kendall assures everyone that he will maintain the Lawson tradition of acoustical innovation, quality design and manufacture, and friendly customer service, including repair and customization. He points out that the new shop will be right off I-93 in Bethlehem NH, three hours from Boston. Technicians are encouraged to contact Kendall at 603-823-7482 or KendallBetts@aol.com. ❖

New England Horn Quartet at Osmun Music

The New England Horn Quartet was formed at the New England Conservatory so that its members could have more opportunities to play chamber music. It has turned out to be more than that, as they went on to be named an Honors Ensemble, the highest honor for a chamber ensemble at NEC. They also performed the Schumann *Konzertstück* with the Boston Civic Orchestra in 2005 and received a Performance Outreach Fellowship at NEC in 2006.

The members are Kristen Dirmeier, Jennifer Frank (replacing Tiffany Rice-Bartee last year), Peter Solomon (replacing Elizabeth Lowell this year), and Lee Wadenpfohl. They grew up, respectively, in New York, Dallas, New Jersey, and Houston. Undergraduate studies were at Eastman, Southern Methodist, NEC and Tufts, and the University of Houston.

Currently Kristen is completing a Graduate Diploma with Danny Katzen (following a master's degree with Jamie Sommerville). She free-lances and is a regular member of the Hingham Symphony and Plymouth Philharmonic. Jennifer is finishing a master's degree with Jamie Sommerville. She free-lances and plays third in the Portland Symphony. Peter studied with Jean Rife and Danny Katzen as an undergraduate, and also earned an English degree at Tufts, and now is pursuing a master's degree with Jamie Sommerville. He subs regularly with

the Albany and New Hampshire symphonies and played in *The Lion King* in Germany. Lee has completed a master's degree with his cousin Jay Wadenpfohl. He free-lances and plays fourth in the Bangor Symphony.

Jean Rife coached the quartet in its first year, and Jay Wadenpfohl took over for the second year. Now the quartet is on its own. Jay has been an important influence. He was part of the reason Lee came to Boston, and he also encouraged formation of the quartet.

The quartet developed a large repertoire in past years when preparing for outreach performances and their Jordan Hall recital. It's much harder to get together this year as everyone is so busy, but the members are looking forward to performing a varied program at Osmun on May 5th (see page 2). It should be an exciting event, and an opportunity to see friends and meet other horn players. ❖



News and Events

Scott Bacon (Stormville NY) is back from Germany and is starting his own horn distribution business (www.siegfriedscall.com).

Michael Welles (Framingham) writes, "Thanks for the information in the newsletter on the Brass Bash at NEC. It was terrific."

Jed Hacker led the Columbus Horn Group at Ohio Wesleyan in March, 20 horns and the largest organ in the US, Johannes Klais with 4,522 pipes.

Jamie Sommerville becomes conductor of the Hamilton (Canada) orchestra next season in addition to his duties as principal horn of the BSO.

Jon Rudin (San Diego) writes, "I've enjoyed staying up-to-date with horn happenings in New England. I have a number of connections with horn players out your way (Tony Cecere, Danny Katzen, Jeff Lang)."

Peter Gordon (McEwen TN) has moved from the cold of NYC to a farm in TN where he and his wife, hornist Jan Paulson, raise Great Danes.

David Scarr (aon.913987288@aon.at) has moved back to Vienna from his position as professor at Rhodes University in South Africa.

Margaret Riley Dikel writes, "Neil Deland is now principal horn with Toronto." Neil was a year behind Margaret at Boston Conservatory.

Neil Favell (Queensland, Australia) plays first in the Queensland Pops and performed Mozart 4 (3rd movement) with them on New Year's Eve.

Tess Ziek (Emporia KS) writes, "Thank you so much for a wonderful publication. When it comes in the mail, it is the first thing that I open!"

James Fraser (Alexandria VA) writes, "We return to the Boston area later this year and I look forward to participating again in local events."

Jaemi Blair Loeb (Chapel Hill NC) writes, "I live away from the area, but I like to keep up with my friends back home."

David Uher (Tinnmouth VT) was commissioned by Jeffrey Powers of Baylor U (Waco TX) to write for horn and piano. *Thou Holiest of Rivers* is published by Ric Jones, Imagine Music, PO Box 15, Medina NY 14103.

Richard Dolph (Fort Collins CO) writes, "I grew up in the Boston area (Sharon) and studied with Willem Valkenier on the Cape when I was in high school. I had a terrific musical upbringing in Boston thanks to Valkenier, Philip and Phyllis Hoffman, BSO, MIT, NEC, etc."

Janise Quigley (Lakawanna NY), **Ugo Merlone** (Torino, Italy), **Chris Leuba** (Seattle), **Sharon Hallanan** (Lambertville NJ), and **Andrew Seacord** (Bowie MD) have sent contributions. Ugo writes, "Thank you for what you do for amateur horn players!" Sharon (rivertown19@earthlink.net) put together a performance of Biebl's *Ave Maria* and is now looking for Charles McDonald's arrangement of John Williams' *Olympic Fanfare*. Can anyone help? Andrew enjoyed the recent regional workshop and found the Mansfield PA area potential for retirement.

Lost: Ricardo Almeida (Cologne, Germany), David Jones (ITG Westfield), Brian Martin (South Paris ME), Eleanor Daunis (Springfield).

Esprit de Cor Annual Concert

Friday, May 4, 12 noon, First Parish Church, Lexington
Free. Multiple horns organized by Erik Svenson

New England Horn Quartet

May 5, 2 p.m., Osmun Music, 5 Forest Street, Arlington. See page 1.
Free. Reservations requested at 781-646-5756 www.osmun.com

Maine Horn Day

July 11, Lawrence High School, Fairfield ME
Loren Fields 207-623-2441 hornsmoke@gwi.net

New Jersey Horn Day

July 21, Clinton Presbyterian Church, Clinton NJ
Larry Kursar, 908-730-8941. See musicpresentations.com

2007 IHS International Symposium

July 8-14, 2007, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland
Host: Bruno Schneider, Professor in Geneva and Freiburg.
Horn sections of Berlin Philharmonic, Zurich Tonhalle,
and the Swiss Romand Orchestras in addition to soloists, etc.
Daily amateur sessions. www.ihs2007.com

New members: Mark Syslo, Coplay PA; **Samantha Spear**, Messiah College, Grantham PA; **Suzanne Gray**, Maynard, a student of Dan Schaud at Rivers Music School; **Allyson Evans**, Gaithersville MD, recently converted from percussion; **Irene Smail**, junior at Lexington High School; **Radovan Vlatkovic**, Salzburg, Austria; and **Phyllis El-dor**, Fort Mill SC. ❖

Are you moving?

If you move over the summer, or change your email address, please inform your editor (see the masthead). The postal service returns many mailings in September, which cost envelopes and postage to resend. Thanks to all who get email delivery. Another argument in favor of email is the copy that was returned but so destroyed in the postal system that we have no way of knowing to whom it was addressed. One re-sent with the postal service's own sticker was returned. And rates are going up again.

2008 Northeast Horn Workshop

March 14-16, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs NY

Patrice Malatestinic 518-587-9365 nehc08@gmail.com
www.NortheastHornWorkshop.org

