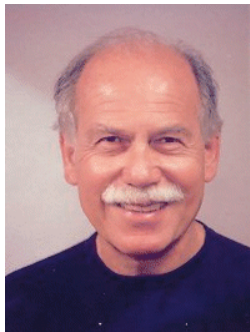


# Cornucopia

News and articles for anyone interested in the horn

September 2007



Abe Kniaz

## 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 (email or regular mail), to send a contribution, or to submit material, contact:

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www.hornsociety.org.

## Abe Kniaz (1923-2007)

Abe Kniaz was highly regarded as an orchestral horn player when he left the National Symphony to teach at Indiana University in 1961. Perhaps he has not been as well known in the US as a teacher, especially after he moved to Quebec, but many students attest to his influence on their playing and also in their lives. Abe is remembered by many as a caring and kind mentor.

Abe was born in Milwaukee, grew up in Chicago, studied at Curtis and Michigan State. He played in Pittsburgh, Houston, and Columbus. When the Columbus orchestra collapsed in 1947, Abe free-lanced in NYC and then served as principal horn in the National Symphony in Washington DC from 1950 to 1961.

After such a distinguished playing career, Abe felt ready to teach. However, years later, after decades of teaching, he regretted that he had not continued to play longer. After ten years at Indiana, he moved to Canada, playing for a year in the Quebec Symphony and then teaching at Laval University, from 1972 until 1994.

Willie Ruff crossed paths with Abe at critical points in his life. The first was early in 1948 when Abe was principal horn in Columbus and Willie had been learning horn on his own and playing in the band on the segregated

Lockbourne AFB. Willie had joined the Army at age 14 and was still only 16 at this time. Willie studied with Abe again when Abe was in NYC and Willie at Yale. Willie's duo performed at the Northeast Horn Workshop in Purchase NY in 2005. Abe attended the workshop and re-connected with Willie. Willie said, "How many 73-year-olds have their teacher in the audience?"

Regarding Abe's teaching, Bob Johnson, who played second horn to Abe in the National Symphony, says, "Abe wasn't satisfied that he had it right, that he had all the answers. In fact, I would call him the 'Great Inquirer'."

Thom Gustavson knew Abe for nearly 40 years and admired him as teacher and colleague. He recalls a joke of Abe's that Abe would probably enjoy at his own funeral. Abe said he went to the funeral of a friend, but "the only person I really wanted to see wasn't there."

Abe leaves his wife, Edith Bedard, four children, nine grandchildren, and his brother. Edith says, "Abe was a warm person, full of doubt, but who loved music and the search for perfection." Abe's gravestone will read: "The journey of the spirits and the journey of music were inseparable to him."

See an extended tribute in the October *Horn Call*. ❖

## Under the Influence

If you're going to listen to Dave Lees "Under the Influence," be prepared to be carried off into different realms. That's right: realms plural. Each of his pieces is a production unto itself, each of which transported me to a different place and a different time.

Well, what did I expect when I listen to an album that includes pieces from the likes of Pink Floyd, David Bowie, Arvo Part, Billy Strayhorn, and Eric Satie, and where the only piece of "standard repertoire" is Maxwell Davies' modern work *Sea Eagle*?

Don't expect a cohesive theme from start to end. While the pieces themselves are all exceptionally well played, they are all very different. Using an ensemble of talented brass, percussion, synthesizer, and vocals, Dave goes beyond simply playing pieces of music. Each composition is a portrait of depth and vibrancy, some evoking simple images, while others are quite complex.

Dave manages to carry these pieces off with exceptional polish regardless of the diverse styles. From jazzy numbers like "Blood Count" and "Birdland," in which he riffs playfully (and nauseatingly effortlessly!) with a soprano sax, to baroque and classical period music with Eric Satie's "Gymnopedie Number 1" played over an eerie synthesizer backdrop, he demonstrates a versatility that most of us aspire to but rarely achieve.



Review by Erik Svenson

"Shine On You Crazy Diamond" is one of my favorites on the disc. Dave's use of electronics supporting the theme and his own amplified sound captured the spirit of "Shine" that would make Pink Floyd proud.

"Suite from the film 'The Ogre'" is a sensationally creative piece that harkens back to medieval themes, showing off the hunting horn character of the instrument. The driving beat laid down by a very tight sax section gives the piece the color of the medieval period.

Dave's versatility of range and tone bring Peter Maxwell Davies' *Sea Eagle* to life.

Each of these pieces evokes different and varied emotions. "Spiegel im Spiegel," for example, a simple but elegant work for horn and piano, is delicately played.

Vocal numbers are sung by jazz singer Skye Edwards. Dave weaves counter melodies around her voice that blend and complement the vocals exceptionally well.

All these pieces are smart and not straightforward. They require that you open your mind, letting the music wash over you so that you're carried off. While it would be difficult for me to listen to the album in one sitting, I will definitely listen to all these pieces at different times, in different places, and let myself be carried away. ❖

Erik works for Microsoft and plays in community ensembles in the Boston area

## News and Events

**Loren Fields** has initiated a forum for Maine horn enthusiasts at [launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/Mainehornforum/](http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/Mainehornforum/). Loren also is a member of Downeast Brass, which performs throughout Maine.

**Andrew Pelletier** (a Maine native) and **William Purvis** participated in the Sebago-Long Lake Music Festival in Harrison ME in August. Bill also played Brahms and Schumann with the Boston Chamber Music Society.

**Scott Bacon** ([scott@siegfriedscall.com](mailto:scott@siegfriedscall.com)) is now in Beacon NY, on the Hudson off I-84, and is distributor for several brands of horns, plus repairs.

**Ellen McAllister LaBarre** ([jedco98@embarqmail.com](mailto:jedco98@embarqmail.com)) has moved (with husband and three children) from Boxborough to Tallahassee FL.

**James MacDonald** (Port Perry ON) writes, "I have played for years in the Hamilton Philharmonic, where Jamie Sommerville just got the conducting job. I can tell you that from the two concerts he already did with us last year, he is going to be a great conductor - on par with his horn playing."

**Kerin Black** (Alexandria VA) spent 8 years in London, a short time in South Africa, and now in Germany for 3 years. "I've been freelancing up till now, but will start playing full-time in a musical here in October."

**Jim Engele** (Orange) performed F. Strauss' *Nocturno* with the Orange Community Band in April. He is the section leader.

**Morris Secon** (Rochester NY) offers a program called "Conversations with Morrie" to groups of all ages for expenses only. 585-442-6315.

**Sue Termyn** (Medfield) writes that both her sons study horn with Rick Menaul. Christian is at Yale and Nicholas at Milton Academy and the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra.

**John Clark** and **Jeff Agrell** held an Improvization Workshop (both jazz and free improv) at Purchase NY in June and are planning another next summer.

**Frank Bliss** (Reno) writes that he is 93 and no longer plays horn. He noted that the principal in Philadelphia is a woman. "When I was studying with Mason Jones years ago, I believed that the horn was too difficult for a woman to hold a top position in a top symphony. How wrong I was!"

**David Denniston** (Pontiac MI) writes, "I have traveled with Broadway shows and your newsletter has helped me feel in touch with the horn scene back home. I'm excited about the Lawson operation coming to NE!"

Horn maker **Walter Lawson** died in June. See the October *Horn Call* for tributes. **John Hanna** (East Calais VT) has died.

**Kurt Snyder** (Santa Clarita CA) reports on former students: Michael Emanovsky is principal horn in Seoul, Wei-ping Chou is acting assistant principal in San Diego, and Todor Popstoyonov landed a job in Valencia, Spain before finishing at Curtis. Idyllwind Arts has openings for horn students (grades 8-12), scholarships available. [www.idyllwildarts.org](http://www.idyllwildarts.org)

**Liz Irvin** (Arlington, 781-643-2679, [eirvin@comcast.net](mailto:eirvin@comcast.net)), a convert from cello, is looking for chamber and orchestra opportunities.

**Norma Terrin** (Jamaica Plain, [nterrin@tufts-nemc.org](mailto:nterrin@tufts-nemc.org), 617-524-7028) has switched from oboe to horn after an injury and studies with Jean Rife. She's looking for someone with whom to play duets.

**Jim Phelan** (Harvard), **Trudy Sevier** (Marshfield), **Janet Harrison** (North Reading), **Sandra O'Connor** (Lexington), **Charlotte Kasprzak** (Somerville), **Norma Terrin** (Jamaica Plain), **Loren Fields** (Augusta ME), and **Fred & Bev Young** (Bradford PA) have sent contributions. Charlotte writes, "I figured I should contribute a little before I'm a starving student again...will be attending Tufts this fall." Norma writes, "It is great to feel like a part of the horn community through Cornucopia!"

*Lost:* Maria Harrold (Miami Beach).

*New members:* **Sue Sharbaugh**, Orange Community Band; **Alysse Farlow**, Milton; **Gary Breeding**, retired from Denver Symphony; **Steve Lawlis**, Pisgaw Forest NC, a former student of Abe Kniaz; **John Rynne** a former trumpet player, Oakland ME; **Martin Young**, Columbus OH; **Kitty Langmoen**, Sweden; **Stefán Jón Bernharðsson**, Iceland Symphony; **Don Phillips**, Memphis, IHS webmaster. ❖



### Delaware Horn Day

October 6, University of Delaware, Newark DE  
Host John David Smith, Featured Artist Julie Landsman  
[music.udel.edu/faculty/smithjd](http://music.udel.edu/faculty/smithjd)

### Thomas Haunton at Osmun Music

October 13, 2 p.m., Osmun Music, 5 Forest Street, Arlington  
Dartmouth College faculty, master class focusing on breathing  
Free. Reservations or to play, call 781-646-5756 [www.osmun.com](http://www.osmun.com)

### Elliott Carter Concerto Premiere

November 15, 17, 20, 2007, Jamie Sommerville, Boston Symphony  
World premiere, commissioned by BSO, [www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org)  
January 12, 2008, Concertgebouw Hall, Amsterdam  
European premiere, Jamie and Radio Filhamonish Orkest  
[www.radiofilharmonischorkest.nl](http://www.radiofilharmonischorkest.nl)



### Kenneth Fuchs Concerto Premiere

April 29, 30, 2008, Timothy Jones, Hartford Symphony



### 2008 IHS International Symposium

July 22-27, 2008, Denver CO USA  
Host: Susan McCullough, Professor, University of Denver  
40th Anniversary Celebration, [www.ihs40.com](http://www.ihs40.com)



### 2008 Northeast Horn Workshop

March 14-16, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs NY

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Mitchell - Kniaz - Ruff

