

Cornucopia

News and articles for anyone interested in the horn

January 2008



Peter Kurau

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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**Horn New England and
Northeast Horn Workshop**
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International Horn Society
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Kevin Bacon, Herb Tarlek, & Transfers

by W. Peter Kurau

It may come as a surprise to learn that one of the initial requests to new horn students at Eastman is for them to transfer! No, not in the academic sense; rather, consider this definition from the American Heritage Medical Dictionary: "transfer: a condition in which learning in one situation influences learning in another situation."

In the trivia game "Six stages of Kevin Bacon," participants attempted to link any event back to the actor in six or fewer steps. Thus, an event, person, or location that may seem remote or entirely unrelated to the actor could, in labyrinthine ways, ultimately be traced back to him.

Consider the following examples. I think you'll agree that their message is relevant not only to the original source, but, indeed, could be "transferred" to the world of horn playing, teaching, and learning.

Example 1. A quotation from Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Chris Simms: "There's no other way to learn other than by playing. There's just something about throwing an interception in practice compared to throwing an interception in front of 70,000 people that just makes it stick in your head that much more."

This advice is easy to transfer directly to horn. While all of us have spent countless hours in solitary practice, our learning can be consummated only by demonstrating these skills in public, via a concert, recital, or audition. While a "clam" in a private practice session resembles an

immature cockle, in a public concert, it is cited in the Mitchell Report as "Bivalve Growth Hormone."

Example 2. A quotation from the late correspondent Ed Bradley: "My formula for success has three elements: the talent you've been given, the hard work you do to get better at whatever it is that you do, and a certain amount of luck. And I always found that the harder I worked, the better my luck was. I will not go into a story unprepared."

Bradley's formula for success is the formula for success in any field, including music. His mantra that he will not go into a story unprepared transfers in "horn speak" to "I will not go into a performance unprepared."

Example 3. The character Herb Tarlek in "WKRP in Cincinnati" would observe discussions with feigned interest, only to then blurt, "How does this affect me?" Too bad he had not developed the ability to "transfer"!

At Eastman, a new "transfer" example is posted every week outside the horn studio. The examples provide stimulus for creative thinking. But further, such "transfer" examples are prevalent and abundant, and thus provide a virtually limitless opportunity for learning.

Happy "transferring," and best wishes for limitless learning! ❖

Peter is professor of horn at Eastman School of Music, principal horn in the Rochester Philharmonic, and a featured artist at the 2008 NHW (see below).

Playing my Horn

by Nannette Foley



Lucky me! Playing my Horn!
A glorious task for which I was born!
Sometimes I play late into the night.
Warm-ups by David Johnson work just right.

It's hard to play the horn, most would say,
but that's the joy, the accomplishment of the day.
I can do something difficult pretty well
and often it takes me out of the worldly hell.

The horn always gives back to me.
What work I've put in, comes out sweetly.
The horn is an important extension of me
bringing me moments of joy and so much glee.

When I am upset, playing my horn is the first thing I do.
It takes me to another world and then I don't feel blue.
The breathing and focus it always commands
takes me away from what life demands.

When I play the horn it is only for me
It is truly my sweet serenity!! ❖

Nan (978-501-5624 nan_dblhorn@yahoo.com) loves Italy and recently spent time studying there, including lessons with David Johnson, a member of the American Horn Quartet, to whom the poem is dedicated. Nannette is a teaching assistant in Acton MA, free-lances throughout the area, and presents a concert called "Spread the Love through Poetry, Music, and a Chat with Nan."

Northeast Horn Workshop

March 14-16, 2008, Skidmore College
Saratoga Springs NY

Host: Patrice Malatestinic
518-587-9365 nehc08@gmail.com
Peter Kurau, Julie Landsman
Eli Epstein, David Amram
Solo competitions, master classes, recitals
mass horn choir, social events, exhibits
www.NortheastHornWorkshop.org



News and Events

Bob Ashworth (Leeds UK) writes that his new website, editiondb.com, specializes in horn-related chamber music and horn ensemble music. Bob is principal horn in Opera North.

Abby Mayer (Cornwall NY) traveled to Lincoln MA in October to play Alphon and sing in Tyrolean costume to help celebrate the 80th birthday of Joanna Hopkins, a friend of Rob Stuart-Vail.

Harlan Feinstein (Federal Way WA) telecommutes to a Boston firm, and plays musical theater. Suzanne plays in the Northwest Symphony and Bellevue Philharmonic. They have two boys, two and five years old.

Andrew Karr (Sarasota FL) has moved from second to co-principal of the Florida West Coast Symphony, is teaching at the U of FL at Tampa, and works at the Colorado Music Festival summers. "See you in Denver!"

Howard Pink (Nashville TN) delights school, library, and senior audiences with garden hose performances. He plays in the Williamson County Community Band and performed Mozart I on a garden hose with the band.

Jeb Wallace (Carlisle PA) has moved from OH to teach horn and various other subjects at Dickinson College and Susquehanna University.

Maris Toland (Brighton mktoland@gmail.com) has earned a degree in art in Kalamazoo MI and is looking for community orchestra opportunities.

Isabel Tappan-deFrees (izzyt@rcn.com) is looking for a tenor (alto) horn player for the New England Brass Band (rehearsals in Wilmington).

Jerome Ashby (NY Phil and Juilliard) died on December 26, 2007.

Yoshi Kasahara, a former student of Jamie Sommerville, timed a Boston visit to hear Jamie in the Carter concerto. **Ron George** traveled from Ontario just to hear the premiere. For more about the premiere, see the February 2008 *Horn Call*. Jamie and the BSO will repeat the Carter concerto at Tanglewood on July 24th.

International French Horn Competition takes place March 15-16, 2008 in Paris. Contact Chateau, 8 rue de Marnes, 92410 Ville d'Avray, France or see int.comp.paris.va.free.fr. Application deadline is March 1.

Dale Clevenger (Chicago Symphony) demonstrates orchestral horn excerpts online at www.orchestralconservatory.com.

Jim Decker (Long Beach CA, deckerhorn1@aol.com) is making music from the LA Horn Club available as PDF files on CDs for \$100 per edition (four or five multiple-horn works).

Dale Camara (Peacham VT) died in December after a long battle with breast cancer. She was 56. Dale was a teacher (privately and in public schools) and an active player in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Donations in her memory can be sent to Caledonia Home Health, PO Box 383, St. Johnsbury VT 05819.

If you know of any openings for horns in local (NE) ensembles, please send a message to web master Bill Muth at announcements@HornNewEngland.org. Check at HornNewEngland.org for opportunities. Cambridge Symphony (ifulton@bu.edu) is looking for regulars and extras.

New England Conservatory

Brass Bash, Sunday February 10, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Beethoven Trio with Jonathan Menkis, Daniel Katzen, Jason Snider

Horn Class, Massed Brass, etc. See newenglandconservatory.edu

Danny Katzen Farewell Concert, Sunday, March 16, 8 p.m.

Bach Cello Suite, Poulenc Elegy, mass choir, BSO colleagues.



Handel & Haydn Society

March 7 & 9, 2008, Symphony Hall

Jamie Sommerville in Mozart and Haydn Concertos



Kenneth Fuchs Concerto Premiere

April 29 & 30, 2008, 8 p.m., Bushnell Center, Hartford CT

Hartford Symphony conducted by Edward Cumming

Timothy Jones, principal horn of the London Symphony

Kenneth Fuchs is Professor of Composition, University of Connecticut

Canticle to the Sun. See www.hartfordsymphony.org



2008 IHS International Symposium

July 22-27, 2008, Denver CO USA

Host: Susan McCullough, Professor, University of Denver

40th Anniversary Celebration, www.ihs40.com



Jack Snider (Lincoln NE), **Ethel Merker** (Chicago Heights), and **Richard Hagen** (Clifton NJ) have sent contributions. Jack writes that Alan Mattingly is doing a great job at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Richard says, "Thanks for your hard work on Cornucopia."

Lost: Daniel Stein Kokin (Israel), Jahn White (Norwich VT).

New members: **David Jones**, student of Eric Ruske at BU; **Lydia Van Dreel**, faculty of University of Oregon-Eugene and editor of the Northwest Horn Society newsletter; **Ron George**, Sarinina, Ontario; **Sarah Baird**, Boosey & Hawkes, NY; and **Yuko Yamamura**, NYC, graduate of Berklee. ❖

Nordic Horn Seminar

June 18-22, 2008, Reykjavik, Iceland

Host: Joe Ognibene and Icelandic Horn Club

Featured artists: Ib Lanzky-Otto, Annamia Larsson,

Froydis Ree Wekre, Jakob Keiding, David Palmquist,

Jukka Harju, Esa Tapani, Markus Maskuniitty, and Páll Solstein.

Reykjavik Chamber Orchestra and Iceland Symphony Orchestra with Radovan Vlatkovic. Direct flights from Boston via IcelandAir.

Post-seminar tours. www.nordhornfest2008.com

