

Cornucopia

News and articles for anyone interested in the horn

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William Purvis

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is published five times a season. It is free, although contributions are welcome. To add your name to the mailing list (email or regular mail), send a contribution, or submit material, contact:

Cornucopia

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My Final Encounters with Gunther

by William Purvis

I first met the iconic Gunther Schuller in the 1970s. Over the years our paths crossed a number of times, and I was always inspired, educated, and entertained by our meetings.

In the fall of 2013 I had a particularly enterprising Yale student, Zach Quortrup, who wanted to include an obscure work by Alec Wilder on his recital. I was sceptical as I knew *Jazz Suite for Four Horns*, *Harpichord*, *Guitar*, *Bass and Drums* would present logistical challenges. Zach had found the music in the Yale library, then was able to dig up a recording from the early 1950s on which the horn players were Jim Buffington, John Barrows, Ray Alonge, and Gunther on fourth.

Zach put together a fantastic group, proved my reservations wrong, the piece was a success, and I took a video to show Gunther. When I called him in May of 2014 to arrange a visit, I learned that he was recently out of the hospital and in rehab. Typical for Gunther, he told me in detail about the impressive number of commissions he was working on.

When I played the video for him later that week, he became emotional, describing the process of working on the piece. When there came an expressive solo for the second horn, Gunther was almost in tears describing how John Barrows had played that solo. Soon, however, he was the familiar Gunther, pointing out all shortcomings

and misunderstandings, that certain notes should be longer, that the phrasing or inflections were wrong, etc. I always loved him in those moments.

We talked about other things, including the Schoenberg Quintet. I have always admired the recording he made with Met colleagues in the 1950s, and the New York Woodwind Quintet had recorded it several years before our conversation. Later, after sending our recording to him, he called me to tell me that he liked it, but was more excited by his revelation that the problem with the piece is that there is too much repetition.

The last time I spoke with Gunther was a couple of months before his death. He began his call by telling me that perhaps it would be the strangest call I would ever receive, but he wondered if I had ever done academic research on lichens. It turned out that Gunther was fascinated by lichens, and in his readings he came across a researcher also named William Purvis. I was honored that he might think this could be me, but very few of us achieve the polymath level of Gunther Schuller.

I continue to be inspired by Gunther, at no time more than when his etudes school me yet again. ❖

Bill teaches at Yale, is a member of the New York Woodwind Quintet, and is a featured artist at the 2017 Northeast Horn Workshop (see page 2).

Founding the Brazilian Horn Association

by Radgundis Tavares



The Brazilian Horn Association – Associação de Trompistas do Brasil (ATB) – has developed only recently, in a round-about way, organized by Brazilian professors and professional players and supported by the International Horn Society and others inside and outside of Brazil. The organization's current success is a testament to the foresight and perseverance of its members.

Brazil is a large country – the fifth largest in the world – and the first attempt at a national association, in the late 1990s, was unable to sustain itself. The next attempt, in 2013, was for a regional rather than a national association – The Northeastern Horn Association.

I, along with Rinaldo Fonseca (Federal University of Pernambuco), Cisneiro Soares de Andrade (Federal University of Paraíba), Celso Benedito (Federal University of Bahia), João Batista (Paraíba Symphony Orchestra), and Robson Gomes (João Pessoa Symphony Orchestra) planned a regional meeting featuring Brazilian hornist Adalto Soares. However, Adalto contacted his friend Marcus Bonna, Brazilian maker of horn cases and IHS Advisory Council member. Marcus suggested expanding into a national association with a national meeting instead of a regional one.

Annual national workshops took place over the next three years. The Brazilian Horn Association was officially created during the first national workshop, on

September 14, 2013. Featured artists included 2013 IHS Symposium Host Dan Phillips and IHS International Symposium Coordinator Nancy Joy, paving the way for hosting this year's international symposium.

The association is grateful for support from many people, including Will Sanders (University of Karlsruhe, Germany), Eric Borninkhof (Rimsky-Horns, The Netherlands), Philip Doyle (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro), Ricardo Lepre (Federal University of Espírito Santo), and Waleska Beltrami (National Symphony Orchestra of the Federal University of Fluminense). My former students André Rodrigues and Eliaquim Farias are helping me host the symposium.

The national association, the annual national workshops, and this year's International Symposium are inspiring to horn players and teachers throughout Brazil. In four years we have developed a vibrant and successful organization leading to a bright future for horn playing in Latin America. The 2017 symposium in Natal will bring Brazil's horn community securely into the international horn community. ❖

Radgundis is professor of horn at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN). He obtained his BA, Master's, and Doctorate from the Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB).

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TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2017 Northeast Horn Workshop

March 24-26, Hartt School Community Division
200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford CT
Featured artists: BSO principal Jamie Sommerville
Philadelphia Orchestra principal Jennifer Montone
Bill Purvis (Yale), US Coast Guard Band horn section
Host: Barbara Hill bahill@hartford.edu 860-768-4451
<http://www.hartford.edu/hcd/music/workshops-master-classes/northeast-horn-workshop-2017.aspx>

2017 International Horn Symposium

June 26-30, Natal, Brazil
Federal University of Rio Grande de Norte
Host: Rade Gundis Tavares Feitosa, rade GundisTavares@gmail.com
Artists: Abel Pereira, Adalto Soares, Frank Lloyd
Ignatio Garcia, Jeff Nelson, Kristina Mascher-Turner
Philip Doyle, Luiz Garcia, Marie-Luise Neunecker
Miklós Nagy, Nobuaki Fukukawa, Waleska Beltrami
ihs2017natal.wordpress.com



News and Events

Re: From Behind the Iron Curtain by Cristian Codeanu: Paul Staicu to the editor: "My God ! Children, children, ending the pupils, who are so delicate, so attentive! I am impressed by the attention of Cristi! What delicacy!" ... From **Lee Bracegirdle** (Sydney) to Cristian: "I am a great friend of a number of Romanian horn players, all having studied with your teacher, I presume. I spent the summers of 1973 and 1977 playing in the Bayreuth Youth Festival Orchestra in Germany. There I became great friends with Ioan Ratiu, Vasile Oprea, Ion Olteanu, and Nicolae Dosa. ... All of my Romanian friends used to talk about Mr. Staicu, and without knowing him I was sure he was a great teacher, judging by the way my friends played." ... From **Paul Staicu** to Cristian (translated from Romanian by Cristian): "I am impressed by certain profound ties that have been created between us, ties I wished for, but I could not feel during the time we worked together, because I had to be the one to ask from each student, to give the best you could, and that to stay with you forever.... There is no better joy in life than what I am experiencing right now."

Re: A Hornist in the American Wild by Lauren Becker. David Evan Thomas (Minneapolis) sent the January issue to his former student in Billings MT, **Jane Van Dyk**, because Jane has a house on a lake in Montana and enjoys playing the horn outdoors. Jane loved the article and contacted me to sign up for the newsletter. I mentioned that I had friends in Billings, and it turned out that they are also friends of Jane's. It's a small world with surprising connections!

Karen Schneider (Cincinnati): "I have a special interest in things going on in your area because I presently have two students at NEC and one auditioning this year. Also, Jaelyn Rainey, my former student and now third horn with the Atlanta Symphony, is also a NEC graduate. I am also hoping to visit NEC in the spring to attend a recital."

Sudbury Valley New Horizons Music provides a band and a string ensemble for adults who haven't played their instruments in years or decades, or who never had the opportunity to play. We have between 80-90 members, who range in age from 30-something to 80-something. Membership is open at any time for returnees and our beginner classes start up in the fall of each year. Our groups rehearse at Wayland MA Middle School on Wednesday evenings. www.svnhm.org or contact **Diane Muffitt** at Muffitt@bandnotes.info or 987-261-5065.

Lost: Karl Overby (Bozeman MT); Michelle Allee (San Diego).

New members: **Paul Staicu**, Exicourt, France (see January 2017 article and February 2017 *Horn Call*); **Bob Brown**, Concord MA, retired math professor, playing again after a long hiatus; **Brad Tatum**, Crofton MD, teacher, natural horn; **Jane Van Dyk**, Billings MT Community Band, retired college administrator at Rocky Mountain College, former student of hornist/composer David Evan Thomas; and **Dominic Hayes**, student of Lin Foulk at Western Michigan University. ❖



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