

# Cornucopia

News and articles for anyone interested in the horn

November 2017



Alloy Horn Quartet

## Alloy Horn Quartet

by Liz Deitemyer, Anna Jacobson, Kelly Langenberg, and Dana Sherman

The Alloy Horn Quartet has created a Commissioning Consortium for a quartet to be a highlight of their recital as Featured Artist Ensemble at the 50th IHS Symposium in 2018. The composer is Thomas Bough, a faculty member at Northern Illinois University, tubist, conductor, teacher, and arranger. The commission is for an 8 to 10 minute, multi-movement work.

The Alloy Horn Quartet's members all live in the Chicago area. The quartet began as freelance musicians reading quartets for fun, but was quickly attracted to the challenges and rewards of being a serious professional horn quartet. The name Alloy fits this group, literally and figuratively. An alloy is a blend of metals combined to make a new material with more desirable qualities. The members are unique players and teachers and each brings a unique collaborative perspective to the group. They all play different instruments: Lewis (Anna), Hoyer (Kelly), Geyer (Liz), Hill (Dana).

They all agree that preparing for a career in music requires a diverse skill set. Alloy doesn't have representation or a manager, so the members do all the booking, calling, planning, as well as the playing! Preparing the music is only one part of a show. Logistics, programming, planned talking, and choreography are all a part of the rehearsal process. They rotate parts during a performance, each player having her turn on all the four parts.

In an educational settings, Alloy highlights the joy and satisfaction of playing an instrument. Master classes are a balance of cultivating enthusiasm and exercising pragmatism. The quartet's concept of straight talk with students is to stress the importance of skills that are beyond horn playing and to think realistically about how you can sustain life as a musician.

For the youngest students, Alloy hopes to inspire by showing them that playing an instrument can be fun and a cool way to get involved at school. Many of the younger students have never had the opportunity to hear a professional horn player. Their eyes light up when they hear what a horn can do. The quartet tries to show how they can make practicing fun; for example, by making games out of warm-ups.

Alloy has been sharing their love of the horn for nearly ten years through concerts, master classes, and festivals in the Midwest. The members are honored to be a part of IHS 50, presenting clinics and performing a recital including the premiere of the work commissioned from Thomas Bough. They look forward to meeting many of you next summer! ❖



See [www.alloyhornquartet.com](http://www.alloyhornquartet.com) for more about the quartet and the Commission Consortium and to contribute to the commission.

### Cornucopia

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### Cornucopia

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## A note will not stop a bullet...

by Amr Selim



Since moving to Beirut in Fall 2016, I have been searching for ways to reach out to the young and provide high-quality art education for them. The Lebanese American University, where I teach, believes in building a strong community based on knowledge and critical thinking. Public schools cut music and art budgets, art institutions train technicians, and some religions ban art education altogether. Art education in the Arab world faces all of these, but there's hope to turn this around.

*Imagine* is the name of the first Performing Arts Summer Camp in the Arab region, targeting students age 10-16 at LAU, teaching them music, acting, and dance, and we finished our first edition with great success. As an Arab musician, I struggled being "the weird kid" at school due to my artistic interest. It is hard to find friends who share such interests, and it is even harder to find programs to foster talent. What our camp accomplished was exactly what I needed 20 years ago.

Our two main inspirations were adding imagination to the art curriculum and changing the approach of teaching and learning. Most school programs require students to be inside a box; the teacher is required to cover a certain amount of material over a certain time, and the standardized test system kills creativity and requires students to stay inside the box. Our learning-centered program is based on three elements.

**Attitude:** Teachers approach teaching from a sharing viewpoint, not teaching *at* the students. Attitude directly influences: **Knowledge:** Expanding students' knowledge through a supportive and inclusive environment. This leads to the most important element: **Imagination:** Every idea and innovation starts with imagination, and in this part of the world it has become tough for young people to imagine. The violence, instability, the education system, and parents' expectations prevent students from imagining and create fear of being different. We needed to break that taboo.

The goal is to create a small community that believes in the power of attitude, knowledge, imagination, empathy, and acceptance so that they can improve their communities, which will have a direct influence on the culture of their homes and environments. We know that a note, a dance, or a play will not stop a bullet, but we believe that a good art education will equip the young generation with critical thinking, teamwork, and social skills that will have them think twice before spreading violence through a word or a bullet. ❖

*Amr, our correspondent in Beirut, is from Egypt. He earned his bachelor's degree from Cairo Conservatory and master's and doctorate from SUNY Stony Brook.*

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### 2018 Northeast Horn Workshop

We're still looking for a host. Contact Marilyn Kloss  
[mbkloss@comcast.net](mailto:mbkloss@comcast.net) or 978-369-0011



### Frank Lloyd at 2018 NEC Brass Bash

February 11, 2 p.m. master class and 7 p.m. concert  
Host: Frank Epstein [frank.epstein.42@gmail.com](mailto:frank.epstein.42@gmail.com)

### Stefan de Leval Jezierski (Berlin Philharmonic)

May 6, 2018, 2 p.m. in Jordan Hall, NEC, Boston  
Strauss Horn Concerto No. 1 with Boston Civic Orchestra  
Beethoven *Coriolan* and Strauss *Death & Transfiguration*



### 2018 International Horn Symposium

July 30-August 4, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana  
Host: Gene Berger, [geneberger@gmail.com](mailto:geneberger@gmail.com)



### News and Events

**Re: Farquharson Cousins by Tony Catterick: Barbara Chinworth** (Tucson AZ): "I have enjoyed his book *On Playing the Horn* and have quoted from it in my newsletter, *Horn on the Range*. He comments about how blest one is to not have gone on the great mouthpiece chase.... The frequency of dystonia and its mention will surely bring some answers or at least some more insightful questions. Planning on IHS 50 in Muncie." ... **Ian Wagstaff** (Oxfordshire UK) "While I knew that Farkie had reached 100, I did not know that he had died. I treasure memories of him when I was editing the BHS journal *The Horn Magazine*. I kept all the notes that he sent me and have a signed copy of *On Playing the Horn*. I thoroughly enjoyed the novel he wrote in which conductors keep getting murdered. I think we all know where he was coming from!" ... **Tom Greer** (Payson UT) "I knew Farkie well, as I succeeded him in the Cape Town Symphony in 1971. He subbed with us on several concerts, having gone over to join the South African Navy Band in Simonstown. I think he enjoyed being something of a 'big fish' in the Band. He was certainly one of the most memorable characters I ever knew and had a parcel of anecdotes we all enjoyed. Truth is, I didn't appreciate what a genius he was until I bought a copy of his unique book. In my CTSO orchestral folder I had his famous quotation inscribed: 'Sanity is the capacity to adapt oneself to the monstrous.' I never forgot this true motto for the horn player!"

**Re: Horn and Dance by Megan Small: Amy Thakurdas** (Oxford UK): "Really interesting articles. The one on horn and dance is particularly interesting to me. I have always felt music in my body while playing.... however, the British way of playing is completely still!"

**Susan McCrea Greer** (1956-2017) was born in Macon, Georgia and grew up in Norwalk, Connecticut, where Bob Brewer started her on horn and taught her through high school. "Susie was very dear to me," says Bob. "And she was adored by all who met and knew her." Susie graduated from Ithaca College, was associate principal horn in the Natal Philharmonic Orchestra in South Africa for seven years (where she met her husband, Tom Greer), then taught band in Glendale, Arizona and was principal horn for Symphony of the West Valley in Sun City, Arizona. She and her husband exhibited Moosewood mouthpieces and accessories at IHS symposiums from 1990 until recently. Tom and Susie had divorced before she died. "Having survived ovarian cancer for just over ten years is a testament to her positive attitude and determination to live, and live well," says her sister, Sally McCrea Derusha. "That, she did."

**Joshua Thompson** (Gloversville NY) teaches at University of Vermont as well as Castleton and coaches Vermont Youth Orchestras.

**Hazel Dean Davis** (Arlington) teaches at the University of New Hampshire and gave a recital at UNH in October featuring works by Verne Reynolds, Wernick, and Kuhlau.

**Peggy Allen** (Andover) is playing piano on a holiday concert at Memorial Hall in Andover, Friday, December 8th at 1 p.m.

**Phil Hooks** (Westminster MD) played his "Ode to a Tree" in September celebrating the planting of the 50th tree at Carroll Lutheran Village marking the 500th year since Martin Luther and the Reformation. Phil and his wife, Norma, are now residents of Diven House at CLV.

**Dan Heynen** (Vancouver WA) moved from Alaska. He is looking for playing opportunities in Vancouver and in Tucson (winters).

**George Sullivan** (Cuddebackville NY, Shen Yen Orchestra) died two years ago. His wife notified us recently of his death.

**Barclay Ward** (Brookline VT) has sent a contribution. "I always appreciate receiving Cornucopia." Thanks.

**Lost:** Daniel Werren (San Carlos CA); Sarah Tanner (Somerville); Adele van den Bosch (Berlin MA).

**New members:** **Thomas Bough**, Aurora IL, Northern Illinois University, tubist, composer for Alloy Quartet commission for 50th IHS symposium; Alloy Quartet members **Kelly Langenberg**, **Liz Deitemyer**, **Anna Jacobson**, and **Dana Sherman**, all from the Chicago area; **Andy Wells**, Carnforth, England, enthusiastic amateur, started at age 40; **Kirsten Martin**, Somers CT; **Hilarie Clark Moore**, Chester CT, conductor, teacher, freelance horn player; **Steve Lange**, Wayland, BSO trombonist. ❖