

Blog by Bruce Richards, Liege, Belgium

<http://living-the-dream.posterous.com/cornucopia-the-book-by-marilyn-bone-kloss>

To those familiar with the International Horn Society Marilyn Bone Kloss is a well-known figure. She has been championing the amateur horn player in the IHS for over 20 years. She has been the area representative for Massachusetts for as long as I can remember, and unofficially for probably all of New England.

I have heard complaints by some IHS members that there is too much amateur-oriented programming at workshops and that the Horn Call has too much amateur content. I couldn't disagree more. It is a society dedicated to horn playing and horn players and I don't believe the word "professional" is located anywhere in its "raison d'être". Marilyn has shown through numerous workshops, talks, and through her newsletter that the amateur horn player is the bedrock upon which the IHS continues to thrive (especially in the US). This amazing energy which is felt when you speak to her and read her articles seems to feed off of this desire to make information about the horn accessible to everyone.

I am a member of the "Horn People" group on Facebook and it is filled with both amateurs and professionals. This group highlights the changing face of professional networking, enthusiastic amateurs, private teachers and horn lovers in general, and Marilyn has changed with the times.

The Cornucopia newsletter started in 1992 as a traditional form of communication for horn players in the Northeast and in particular the New England Horn Choir. It was, and is, sent by mail 5 times a year, and communicates upcoming events, concerts and includes short articles on a variety of subjects. At some stage Marilyn opened up the newsletter to anyone interested in receiving it. I know because I received it by post in Belgium but I must add one amazing fact.

It is completely free.

No advertising and no postage. She accepts donations to help pay for the venture, but more than anything else it must be her love of the horn which pays for this work. As her readership has become more international and the world has moved more and more away from snail-mail the newsletter has moved to email delivery and pdf form. This is great because it saves everyone money. Is this the future for the Horn Call, who knows.

To commemorate 20 years of "Cornucopia" Marilyn has published a book, appropriately titled "Cornucopia: The Book," with 20 years' worth of articles. This is great for those who have never heard of Cornucopia, or for those who want a permanent record of this resource. The book is broken down into 13 parts (lucky for us). They range from "People", "Recording Reviews" and "Poetry" to technical questions and serious debate (triple horn: Frøydis vs. Phil Myers).

The book is a 168 page softcover book self-published by Marilyn. It costs \$30, but for IHS members it is \$20. (plus postage)

What I love most about the book is that it and the newsletter that spawned it are its quality writing, well presented and accessible. The articles are short and concise. Now some might ask why this newsletter hasn't moved online, or become a blog. I don't know the answer to that, but it doesn't matter. If you want to partake of this newsletter, contact Marilyn Bone Kloss and I am sure she would be happy to add your email address to her list. It will cost you around 3 minutes of your time, and in exchange you will receive 20 minutes of pleasure 5 times a year for free and have a permanent digital copy of this great resource for future reference.

The book is a something in which any serious lover of the horn should consider purchasing. Marilyn's contact details are available on the [IHS web site](#). Look for her name under Massachusetts Area Rep.

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