

The Clarinet

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*William
O. Smith
at 90*

Also in this issue...

RESEARCH COMPETITION WINNER:

The Influence of Thumbrest Position on Clarinet Playing • E-flat Tips from the Pros • Quintet Minus One

THIRD ANNUAL DELAWARE CLARINET DAY FEATURES BENJAMIN REDWINE AND JONATHAN HOLDEN

by Christopher Nichols

On Saturday, April 9, 2016, forty participants ranging in age from seventh grade to “retired” joined Dr. Christopher Nichols and the University of Delaware Clarinet Studio in the Roselle Center for the Arts at UD’s Department of Music. Benjamin Redwine, clinical assistant professor of clarinet at the Catholic University of America, and Jonathan Holden, assistant professor of clarinet at Florida State University, appeared as guest artists.

The day opened with an introduction of the vendors and exhibits, followed by a performance of the UD Clarinet Ensemble. This program included works by Ennio Morricone and Masato Tajino, as well as Matt Johnston’s arrangement of a traditional favorite, *The Clarinet Polka*. This final work featured UD graduate

student soloists Casey Wilkes, Dalton Ringey and Joanna McCoskey.

Redwine Jazz was featured in the next performance of the day, which consisted of a variety of jazz standards by composers such as George Gershwin, Hoagy Carmichael and Lil Hardin. Immediately following the performance, Benjamin Redwine presented a clinic on the basics of improvising over a 12-bar blues progression. Participants were then invited to demonstrate their new knowledge with Redwine Jazz.

After a lunch break, Holden performed a recital including works by Ireland, Gershwin, Muczynski, Roxburgh and Stanford with UD faculty collaborative pianist Julie Nishimura. Holden and Nishimura’s inspiring and artistic performance demonstrated true mastery of each work and excellent ensemble playing.

For the day’s final event, Holden presented a master class with UD undergraduate and graduate students. He addressed a variety of topics, but placed special emphasis on phrasing and sound production. His instruction resulted in immediate and significant improvements from each performer.

Attendees performed in a festival choir setting and visited exhibits by Coles Music Service, D’Addario and RJ Music Group. Delaware Clarinet Day acknowledges these sponsors as well as Conn-Selmer USA and the UD Department of Music for their generous support of the event.

The Fourth Annual Delaware Clarinet Day, scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2017, will feature guest artist clinician Michele Gingras, professor of clarinet at Miami University. For more information, contact Christopher Nichols at crnichol@udel.edu.



ERIC MANDAT TRIBUTE CONCERT: CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

by Kristine Dizon and Robert Spring

On May 24, 2016, friends and former students gathered at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois, to celebrate Eric Mandat and his 35 years of contributions to the clarinet and teaching. The celebration was organized by Kristine Dizon with assistance from Kevin Vorabout, Christie Faling and Jon Goodman. Special guest performers

included Robert Spring, Michael Norsworthy, Gregory Oakes and Jeremy Wohletz. There were also video appearances from Nathan Nix, Sean Osborn and Bojana Kragulj – all former Mandat students.

The concert began with William O. Smith’s *Greetings*, for which all of the performers scattered around the edges of the concert hall to create a literal “greeting” from one of Mandat’s most influential mentors and friends. This was

followed by more than three hours of Mandat’s music, performed by numerous friends and former students.

The concert concluded with a clarinet choir conducted by Kevin Vorabout, which included all the day’s performers as well as former and present students of Mandat. The choir performed transcriptions of Ravel’s *Pavane pour une infante défunte*, Mozart’s *Divertimento*



Eric Mandat with tribute concert performers

No. 6 and Debussy's *Petite Suite*. The final work, *Nebular Gardens*, was written by Kyle Richard Dixon, an SIU graduate in

music composition. The piece was heavily inspired by Mandat's compositional explorations on the clarinet. For a final

encore tribute, the clarinet choir did an improvisation in two tonalities, E-flat major and E-flat harmonic minor.

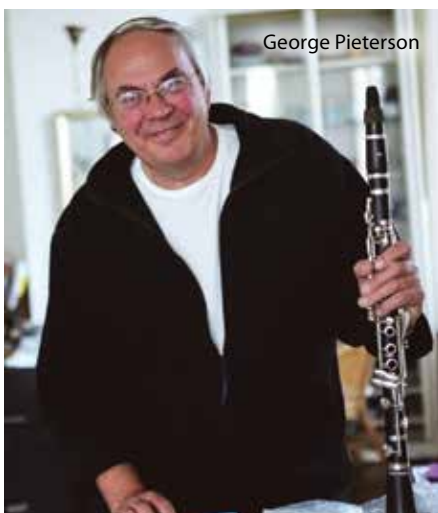
REMEMBERING GEORGE PIETERSON (1942–2016)

by Ivar Berix and Karin Vrieling

In April 2016 the Dutch clarinetist George Pieterse passed away. Famous for his position as principal clarinet of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra (1975–

2004), Pieterse was also a professor at the Amsterdam Conservatory. Many of his former students now have positions in orchestras around the world, teach at conservatories, or play in chamber music ensembles. One of them is Ivar Berix, clarinet player in the very successful Calefax Reed Quintet (www.calefax.com), a unique chamber music group which plays concerts worldwide. He studied with George Pieterse from 1988 until 1991 and remembers this as a very inspiring time. Here are his memories:

When I started studying with George Pieterse (then Sir Pieterse to me), I noticed that I was nervous during each lesson, and I decided to tell him. I was hoping that he would put me at rest and reassure me that it wasn't necessary to be nervous. But instead, he answered briefly but succinctly that he thought it was excellent that I was nervous at class. That was exactly what he expected of me if I had a piece of music (or just a scale) to play for him. Nerves or the presence of



George Pieterse

ICA ANNOUNCEMENT

ICA Election Results

The results of the ICA officer election for the 2016-2018 term are listed below:

President Elect:

Diane Barger – 558
Mitchell Estrin – 570

Treasurer:

Tod Kerstetter – 1116

Secretary:

Denise Gainey – 673
Maureen Hurd Hause – 455

Congratulations to the people who will take office on September 1, 2016. We thank all the candidates for their willingness to serve our association.

– John Cipolla, Past President