

FROM THE DESK OF JOHN SAMPEN

The daffodils are in full bloom and spring has again appeared in Bowling Green, although the temperatures have been cool and we have not seen much sun bathing on the fraternity/sorority rows of the campus. All is well in the hallowed halls of the Moore Musical Arts Center where we have enjoyed a highly successful season.

Changes marking my eighteenth year at BGSU include upcoming retirements of faculty members Paul Makara and Kenley Inglefield. University president Paul Olscamp will retire in July and we have just hired our ninth university president—Dr. Sidney Ribeau from California State Polytechnic University! We are also searching for a new jazz teacher (either a saxophonist or pianist) who will help coordinate the jazz studies major.

My own professional activities have been rewarding although somewhat exhausting. Last season I performed Dr. Shrude's new saxophone concerto at Northwestern University and at BGSU and I soloed with wind orchestra at the North American Saxophone Alliance Convention in Morgantown, WV. My family enjoyed its 5th summer of teaching and performing at Interlochen Arts Camp during July and August (Marilyn was chairperson of the theory/composition area, Maria was a string teacher in the All-State Program and David sang in the high school chorus and operetta). We will return to Interlochen again next summer for another non-stop round of activities but it is a refreshing change from the climate and terrain of northwest Ohio. We also continue our 11th season of the BGSU Super Sax Camp (please send us your students). In November I spent an exciting two weeks judging an international saxophone competition in Dinant, Belgium. Other events include a recital at Michigan State, two concert trips to California, the premiere of a William Albright chamber work, and plans for a new compact disc with New Worlds Records (slated for completion in 1996).



Recent political and community events remind us of the precarious situation for the arts. The continuing attacks on the National Endowment and National Public Radio, the difficulties in funding public education (e.g., levy problems with the Bowling Green Public Schools), and the uncertain future of our professional and community orchestras (e.g., the Louisville Symphony's recent reorganization) suggest that we all need to be vocal advocates. Please make your voices heard in every possible way by writing letters to congressmen, by talking to your friends and neighbors, by supporting artistic events with your attendance, and by giving generously of your time and money.

Speaking of giving generously,

it occurs to me that BGSU does not have a special alumni scholarship dedicated to the saxophone area. If any of you would consider such a gift, I would be delighted to pursue the possibility. I am also accepting donations of old, "never-to-be-used-again" marching band saxophones which will (hopefully) be welded into a sculpture by one of our BGSU art faculty.

Thanks for your cards and letters. I love to hear about your activities and personal lives. Please stay in touch.

Sincerely,

John Sampen
Dr. John Sampen

ANNÉE ADOLPHE SAX COMPETITION

Dr. John Sampen was one of eleven jury members for the first Concours International de Saxophone held in Dinant, Belgium last November. The competition was organized as part of the "Year of Adolphe Sax 1994", a five-month celebration honoring the 100th anniversary of the death of the saxophone's inventor. In addition to the concours, the tribute included a series of classical and jazz concerts, art exhibitions, films, the creation of a sculpture, and the commissioning of a concerto (composer Henri Pousseur).

The activities were conducted in picturesque Dinant, the birthplace of Adolphe in the 1814. The celebration inspired all types of tourist memorabilia, including Adolphe Sax watches, coins, clothing, jewelry, and even Adolphe Sax beer and champagne. Dinant is famous for its copper and for its special cookies and one could find commemorative copper pictures of Adolphe as well as cookies baked in the shape of a full-sized saxophone.

The competition hosted 105 contestants from all over the world. Sampen was one of only two American judges on the 11-member panel; other jury members included Jean-Marie Londeix, Claude Delangle, Francois Daneels, Federico Mondelci, Ken Fischer and Ken-

ichiro Muto. Each contestant was responsible for preparing seven works, including the required first-round selection of the Ibert *Concertino Da Camera* (which meant the judges heard 105 Iberts!). Although there were no American finalists, BGSU was well-represented with current students Marco Albonetti and Russell Peterson and with alumni Craig Young. The three top winners hailed from the countries of France and Italy.

While the judges spent many hours listening to performances (at least 42 hours over nine days), there was time for side trip visits to a famous cave in Roquefort and the Luxembourg Music Conservatory

and a nearby monastery which featured a beautiful choir singing an All-Saints Mass. Lodging was provided in the modern Castle "Les Sorbiers" (just outside Dinant) and most of the meals were taken at a local gourmet restaurant. There were many highlights for Dr. Sampen, but perhaps the most memorable occurred immediately before the final competition when 1700 saxophonists (armed with soprano through contrabass saxophones) gathered in the square outside an ancient church in Dinant for a thirty-minute concert. Certainly the world has never enjoyed such strong and beautiful sounds!



"Members of the Jury" (L-R) Jean-Marc Lisens, Claude Delangle, John Sampen, Kenneth Fischer, Jean-Marie Londeix, Federico Mondelci

HARBISON COMMISSION

A non-profit organization based in Boston has undertaken an exciting commissioning project open to all interested saxophonists. World-Wide Concurrent Premieres and Commissioning Fund, Incorporated (headed by New England saxophonist Kenneth Radnofsky) has commissioned Pulitzer-prize winner John Harbison to compose a sonata for alto saxophone and piano. The music will be completed in June and subsequently premiered in December of 1995.

Of particular and unique interest is the involvement of one hundred saxophonists who will each contribute \$250 to the project and who will have the opportunity to "share" in the world

premiere of the Harbison on the same date (December 3, 1995) in various locations all over the world! We expect significant press coverage and anticipate that the unusual aspect of this first performance will generate important recital opportunities and a large audience attendance.

BGSU students, faculty and alumni will be well represented in the premiere. Participants and their performance locations include John Sampen (Bowling Green), Guido Baeumer (Weimar, Germany), James Umble (Youngstown State University), Joel Gronseth (St. Johns' University, MN), Bryan Polacek (Atlanta, GA), Kevin Towner (Dayton, OH), Joe

Murphy (Weill Hall of Carnegie Hall, NY), Marco Albonetti (Faenza, Italy), Russell Peterson (Cleveland, OH), Craig Young (Columbus, OH), Susan Cook (DePaul University), and Yiannis Miralis (Nicosia, Cyprus). Chris Ford and Dennis Lindsay are also considering the project.

There are still a few places left within the ranks of the one hundred—if interested, please call Dr. Sampen for details. If not performing the sonata, we do hope you can attend one of the December 3rd performances featuring our illustrious BGSU performers.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Richard Will (1987 BM) and wife **Jean** are expecting their 2nd child in August. Richard has been teaching at Bryan HS for the past 8 years. **Chris Vollstadt** (1993 BM) is playing dixieland sax/clarinet at the Thunderbird Theatre in Branson, Missouri. **Matthias Gubler** (1988) was married last fall to **Beatris**. **Kirk O'Riordan** (1994 MM) has moved to Colorado where he is composing, performing and working in a bookstore. **Greg Ruffer** (1987 BM) continues choral teaching at Gonzaga College HS and has also undertaken directorship of the Georgetown Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Last summer he was music director for the University of Findlay's production of **Guys and Dolls**. **Linda Hartley** (1979 BM) has a new baby girl! **Harry Simon Shepherd** (1992 MM) is working for consumer rights with Citizen Action in Sacramento and Toledo. **Kathy McGrady** (1981 BM) is the new president-elect of the

Ohio Music Education Association District I! **Kathy** continues her teaching duties at Northwood High School. **James Umble** (1984 MM) and wife **Kathryn** have a new baby son! **David Rice** ((1993 BM) and **Beth** are expecting a baby in November. **Roberta Winemiller** (1978 BM), former associate band director at Temple University, has recently been pursuing a Counseling Psychology degree and is now working for the Wallingford-Swarthmore school district. **Matthew Ballensuela** (1985 MM) is a faculty member in the Musicology Department at DePauw University. Besides his duties as music teacher in the Xenia Schools, **Zavaan Johnson** (1983 BM) is principal organist and youth choir director at Middle Run Baptist Church. **Kelly Coffman Lewis** (1989 BM) and her husband were caught in the midst of Georgia's "Great Flood of 1994" and have spent many months recovering from the 6 feet of flood waters that surrounded

their house last summer. **Kelly** reports that their was "no end to the chore of cleaning the mud off belongings." **Kelly** and **Clay** are expecting their first child in August. **Susan Cook** (1992 BM) has moved to Chicago where she is the saxophone teacher at De Paul University. **Susan** is engaged and is planning a summer wedding in Canada. **Shannan Ford** (1995 MM we hope) is now teaching at Muskegem College and continues her private studio in Toledo. **Craig Young** (1989 BM) was married last summer to microbiologist **Joann**. **Craig** continues his graduate work at Ohio State. **William Bousfield** (1991 BM) is working in a music store in Kent and performing jazz gigs throughout the Cleveland area. **David Laub** (1994 BM) is a ski instructor in Colorado and **Kristy Weyand** (1994 BM) is a new band director in the Leipsic School District.



"1992 Saxophone Class and Alumni" 1st row: **Wes Miller**, **Michael Patlan**. 2nd row: **Susan Cook**, **Chris Vollstadt**, **David Rice**, **Kirk O'Riordan**. 3rd row: **Kristy Weyand**, **David Laub**, **Kevin Towner**, **Sarai Hedges**, **John Sampen**. 4th row: **Amanda Blevins**, **Chris Corde**, **Demmy Steinmetz**, **Amanda Materne**, **Brian Thomas**.

TRANSCONTINENTAL SAXOPHONE QUARTET



Members from left to right: Russell Peterson, Marco Albonetti, M. Amanda Materne, Yiannis Miralis.

Organized in the fall of 1993, the Transcontinental Saxophone Quartet has enjoyed an extraordinary history of nearly 100 concerts and has already established an international reputation. Besides an impressive list of community and local performances, the ensemble has given collegiate concerts all over the USA (e.g., Lawrence University, University of New Mexico, Oberlin Conservatory, Northwestern, etc.) and during the summer of 1994 they completed a critically acclaimed ten-concert tour of Italy and Cyprus. While the quartet plays all styles of music (including their successful jazz arrangements of "Georgia" and "Foxy Lady"), they are recognized as "champions" of contemporary music with their performances and commissioning of new music (e.g. a recent TSQ concert of student compositions). Perhaps most exciting has been the competition activities with their 1994 semi-finalist berth in the National Fischhoff Competition, a prize-winning performance in the 1995 National Fischhoff Competition and their 1995 national 1st place finish in the MTNA Collegiate Chamber Music Competition!

Ensemble personnel include so-

prano saxophonist Russell Peterson, a graduating master's candidate who holds a BM degree from Youngstown State University (studying with alumni James Umble) and first prize from the Bordeaux Conservatory with Jean-Marie Londeix. An accomplished jazz and classical saxophonist as well as bassoonist with the Youngstown Symphony, Peterson was winner of the BGSU concerto competition in 1994 and was just recently named national winner of the MTNA woodwind competition. He has taught for one year at Youngstown State and has served as graduate assistant for Dr. Sampen.

On alto saxophone is Marco Albonetti, a current master of music student who will return to BGSU in 1995 as saxophone graduate assistant. Albonetti completed his conservatory studies at the G. Rossini Conservatory in Pesaro, Italy and has won many Italian and international competitions. He will be the first Italian saxophonist to complete an advanced degree in the United States.

M. Amanda Materne is the quartet's tenor specialist. In December of 1994, she completed a double major in both saxophone performance and English (with a creative writing minor) and

has published her poetry and short stories in several journals. Amanda was winner of the BGSU concerto competition in 1993.

Yiannis Miralis, baritone saxophonist, hails from Nicosia, Cyprus where he holds degrees from the Pedagogical Academy and the Greek Conservatory. Recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship, he completed a bachelor's degree from Lawrence Conservatory and expects to finish his masters at BGSU in the fall of 1995. Besides serving as saxophonist and violinist in the National Guard of Cyprus, Miralis has presented performances in Germany and England.

Before the TSQ splits up geographically this summer (Materne to New Mexico for graduate studies, Miralis back to Cyprus for a teaching position and Peterson on to doctoral work), they will do another European tour with eight concerts confirmed in Cyprus and Italy. There is even talk of an annual summer reunion tour. Whatever the future holds, the Transcontinental Saxophone Quartet hopes to remain together despite the oceans, keeping the saxophone and its music alive. Congratulations to an ensemble of "champions".

CURRENT EVENTS

The 1994/95 saxophone class consists of twenty-three students, including four graduate candidates from Cyprus, Italy, Germany and Iceland (see photo top right). Graduating students include David Laub, Amanda Materne, Yiannis Miralis, Russell Peterson, William Budai, and Shannon Ford. The incoming class for 1995/96 promises to be extraordinary—Dr. Sampen has auditioned a record number of talented prospective students (over fifty candidates) from twelve states and Canada!

While the saxophone choir was in full swing this season with tremendous support from our new Selmer bass saxophone, much of the saxophone chamber music activities centered on the SATB ensembles. Since its formation in 1993, the Transcontinental Quartet has seen extraordinary action with nearly 100 concert presentations including tours to Cyprus and Italy, school concerts, recitals in the midwest and southwest, and weekly appearances at the Cosmos Coffee House. The Kalamos Quartet (another graduate ensemble) has also been busy with various community presentations, gallery concerts and a 16-concert tour in Minnesota and Michigan. Sax 4th Avenue and the Black Swamp Quartet continue their exciting concert and educational activities. (Black Swamp is touring Switzerland this summer.)

Special guest saxophone artists visiting our campus featured James Umble (BGSU alumni now teaching at Youngstown State), William Street (professor of saxophone at the University of Alberta), Paul Bro (professor at Indiana State), Paul Cohen (saxophone instructor at Oberlin), the Oberlin Saxophone Quartet, and John Dankworth (with Cleo Lane).

This season marked another banner year for prize winners in the saxophone studio. There were again two BGSU concerto winners (out of a total of three for the entire college)—graduate student Russell Peterson (Villa Lobos *Fantasia*) and junior Bryan Polacek (Husa *Elegie et Rondeau*). Russell Peterson also won the State, Regional and National 1st

prize in the woodwind division of the MTNA Wurlitzer Collegiate Artist Competition (\$2000). The Transcontinental Saxophone Quartet was the 1st prize winner of the State, Regional and National MTNA Collegiate Chamber Music Competition (\$3000) and were prize winners in the 1995 National Fiscoff Competition (\$500). Yiannis Miralis (graduate student) was winner of the Greek Women's University Club Competition in Chicago (\$1000) and Phil Wells (junior) won the Three Arts Club of Lakewood (\$500). Chris Ross was named the Outstanding Freshman Marcher.

For our enrichment and social activities, members of the studio enjoyed visits to Fred Hemke's studio at Northwestern and to the Selmer Plant in Elkhart, Indiana. We continued to encourage Tuesday morning basketball games with other "athletic" students from the College of Musical Arts, but only Peterson, Towner and Sampen were "dedicated" enough to make the 8:00 AM roll call. Besides our occasional studio parties, we especially enjoyed our 1st annual "Bowling in Bowling Green" at Colonial Lanes. Sophomore John Pehlke took honors with a top bowling score of 147!



"International Saxophone Students" (L-R) V. Klara Aradottir, Guido Baeumer, Marco Albonetti, Yiannis Miralis



"Saxophone Bowling In Bowling Green"

ALUMNI ADDRESSES

ALEXANDER, SUE	116 Skyland Dr. Marietta, SC 29661 803/836-3135	1984 MM	Band Director at Traveler's Rest High School
ALPETER, JOHN	3178 Squaw Valley Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80918	1979 BM	
ANDERSON, ANDREA	19706 RRI Fort Jennings, OH 45844 419/286-2721	1988 BM	Teacher at Fort Jennings Schools
ARADOTTIR, VIGDIS KLARA		1994-1995*	
AUGELLO, TOM			
BACUS (CARIS), KIM (husband Scott and two boys)	4342 Appomattox Sylvania, OH 43560 419/893-9759 (w)	1982 BM	Representative for Mass Mutual Life Insurance; former music teacher in public schools
BAEUMER, GUIDO		1995 M. Cert.	
BAIN, KIM	407 Elder Oaks Way Birmingham, AL 35209	1986-1988*	Public School Teacher in Birmingham
BAIR, BRIAN	3101 Eastbrook Dr. Toledo, OH 43613	1982* -	
BAIR, JEFFEREY	6348 Belmont Dallas, TX 75214	1984 BM	Freelance performer
BALENSUELA, MATT (married)	(Greencastle, IN)	1985 MM	Professor of Musicology at DePauw University
BERG, PHIL	1327 Parkside Blvd. Toledo, OH 43607 419/531-3839	1982 - 1984*	Freelance performing artist
BLEVINS, AMANDA	764 Crofton Circle Reynoldsberg, OH 43068 614/759-4985	1993 BM	Working at Coyle Music and private studio in Columbus
BOUSFIELD, BETH (husband Jon Droscha)	436 Portage St. Grass Lake, MI 49240 517/522-3621	1989 BM	Teaching at Willow Run Jr. High & Elem; sax teacher at Albion College
BOUSFIELD, WILLIAM	526 Towson Dr. NW Warren, OH 44483	1991 BM	Working in Music store in Kent; performing in jazz clubs in Cleveland
BOWMAN, SANDY	410 Townline Rd. 12 N. Fairfield OH 44855 419/663-1109	1987 BM	Band director at Norwalk Middle Schools
BOYLE, JOHN	4624 North Kenton Chicago, IL 60630	1984 MM	Teacher at Triton College/Interlochen Arts Camp
BROKAW, DOUGLAS (wife Valeri and 2 Children)	243 Coe Street Tiffin, OH 44883 419/447-5987	1985 MM	Teaching at Hopewell/Loudon High School
BROKAW (CONLEY), VALERI	see above	1986 MM	Teaching public school in Tiffin
BUDAI, WILLIAM		1995 MM	
CARPENTER, RUSS	10740 Devils Hole Rd. BG, OH 43402 419/833-3038	1979 BM	Nurse and freelance musician in the Toledo area
CARROLL, ELIZABETH	U.S. Navy Yard Washington, D.C.	1986 MM	Clarinetist in the Navy Band
CEJDA, BRENT	Highland Community College Box 68-Highland, KS 66035 913/442-3236 ext. 245	1987 MM	Special Programs Coordinator
CHERNEY, JACKIE	4986 Leavitt Rd Lorain, OH 44053	1984 BM	
COMPTON, MEGAN		1993-94*	Pursuing BM—Florida State U.
CONN, BETSY		1977 - 1981*	
CONN, MELANIE		1979 - 1981*	
CONRY, DON	1016 Carr St. Sandusky, OH 44870 419/626-9863	1991 MM	Teaching public school in California; pursuing priesthood