

## FROM THE DESK OF JOHN SAMPEN

Twenty years at Bowling Green State University!! Time passes quickly but I'm still having fun—I love the collegiate challenges of working with new (and old) students, learning new literature, solving pedagogical problems, sharing professional concerns about the past and future of our art, and, as always, looking for the "perfect" reed.

I also have continued my love of traveling with tours throughout the states of Kentucky, South Carolina, New York, Montana, Maryland and Michigan. Besides our summer pilgrimage to Interlochen (our 8th teaching season), Marilyn and I have upcoming autumn trips to Taiwan (recitals/saxophone camp) and Spain (11th World Saxophone Congress). As usual, we will present our thirteenth annual BGSU "Super Sax Camp" which kicks off June 15th with 30 campers.

Our daughter Maria just graduated summa cum laude from the University of Michigan with a violin performance degree and will continue studies as a master's candidate at Rice while our son David is planning a year of post graduate high school work and hockey activities at Shattuck St. Mary's in Minnesota. David's high school hockey team won the state championship in Ohio! With both children away at school next year,



*President, Dr. Sidney Ribeau, bestows upon John Sampen the Distinguished Artist Professorship title.*

Marilyn and I are concerned that our lives will not be sufficiently chaotic.

Other highlights of my year include our newly released compact disc "The Electric Saxophone". This features compositions by Cage, Tower, Ussachevsky, Mobberly, Bunce, Furman and (of course) Shlude. Look for this in your favorite record store or write me for de-

tails. I am also very proud of the Distinguished Artist Professorship title which was bestowed on me in the fall by President Sidney Ribeau.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Sampen

## CURRENT EVENTS

We have celebrated the end of finals week and graduation and our talented 1996/97 saxophone class has retreated to respective homes and countries. This year featured twenty-three students (including seven graduate candidates) from Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Israel, Germany and Taiwan. Graduating members include Theresa Cogar, Lisa Fiorilli, Carrie Gilliland, John Pehlke, Jennifer Rickenberg, Chris Scinto, Bianca Sharkus and Adriene Spencer.

Claudia Schaeztle (Germany) also leaves after completing the Music Certificate Program. While these wonderful people will never be forgotten, we will welcome next fall a strong class of at least eight new students including a Fulbright Scholar, a second student from Taiwan, and perhaps a new graduate saxophonist from Russia.

We were privileged to sponsor three special guest saxophone soloists—Johannes Ernst (Berlin, Germany), Donald Sinta (University of Michi-

gan), and alumni James Umble (Youngstown State University). The college also enjoyed residencies of Eddie Daniels who presented master classes and solos with our bands and faculty jazz ensemble, and composer Karel Husa who was featured guest on our 17th Annual New Music & Art Festival.

Student saxophone ensembles flourished. The "Killians Quartet", "Convergence Quartet", "Saxophone Fantastique" and "Freshman/Sophomore Quartet" played at least twenty-



## CURRENT EVENTS *continued from page 1*

five programs for senior citizens, churches, galleries, coffee houses and schools. The "Killians" also conducted a one-week tour with seven programs in Pennsylvania and New York. In the spring, we assembled our saxophone choir for a "command" performance on Earth Day. Our concert, which was held adjacent to the university union, was informally entitled "The Garden" and featured such music as "Tulleries" (from Mussorgsky's PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION) and "Country Gardens".

Special honors were earned by Kelli Pence (Outstanding Freshman Bandswoman) and Bryan Polacek (state winner of the MTNA competition). The Killians Quartet was also named state winner of the MTNA contest and saxophonist/composer Chris Scinto won the composer division of BGSU's concerto competition.

Socially, we enjoyed frequent informal saxophone gatherings as well as an exciting fall frisbee football game, a Chinese dinner cooked by Shyen Lee and a Christmas party at the Sampen/Shrudes (with actual saxophone Christmas caroling around the neighborhood).



*Members of the BGSU saxophone studio with composer Karel Husa*



*Saxophone Christmas Caroling*

## ALUMNI QUARTETS "Continuing the Tradition"

Many alumni have found professional fulfillment through participation in saxophone quartets throughout the USA. Here are a few current groups that successfully carry on the BGSU chamber music tradition.

**Black Swamp Saxophone Quartet** (Brian Thomas, 1987 MM; Wesley Miller, 1989 BM; Jay Miglia, part-time BGSU jazz instructor) is reorganizing but carries on a distinguished tradition which includes 1st prize at the International Fischhoff Competition (1992). Based in Columbus, OH, the quartet has traveled to Switzerland (1995 and 1996) to co-sponsor a saxophone camp with Mathias Gubler (1988 MC).

**The Chromos (or Enigma) Quartet** (Susan Cook, 1992 BM) just re-

leased their new compact disc "Winds" featuring music of Luke Marcel. They also have recorded "XAS" by Xenakis (available on the Mode label No. 56).

**The Cincinnati Quartet** (Kevin Towner, 1996 BM) is a new group which actively presents jazz and classical concerts in southern Ohio.

**Sax 4th Avenue** (Stan George 1989 BM; Shannon Ford, 1995 MM; Kevin Heidbreder, 1985 MM; Jason Yost, 1993 BM) is perhaps the "premiere" quartet in northwest Ohio. This highly-active ensemble performed at the 1996 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago and the 1997 OMEA convention in Toledo. They have recorded a compact disc for release in late summer.

**The Transcontinental Quartet** (Russell Peterson, 1997 MM; Marco Albonetti, 1996 MM; Amanda Materne, 1994 BM; Yiannis Miralis, 1995 MM) continues to function in summer months, focusing on European tours including a featured 1996 concert at the famous Italian Ravenna Festival. The ensemble has recently commissioned David Maslanka for a new quartet to be premiered in 1997.

**The Vision Quartet** (Dennis Lindsay, 1989 BM) is active in the Chicago area. Last February the group released "Conicality," a compact disc which includes Rob Steel's saxophone quartet (1989 BM). In late May they presented a performance of Marilyn Shrude's "Evolution V" with soloist Susan Cook (1992 BM).



# THE MOO-SIC MAN!



**MAGICAL MUSIC MAN** Franz Braun plays his oversize saxophone to soothe farm animals with classical music

**Saxophonist makes big bucks serenading cows!**

By LISA MERAKIS

*'They give higher quality milk & more of it,' says farmer*

**German musician Franz Braun has never played his oversized sax at Carnegie Hall, but he's made a small fortune criss-crossing America — serenading cows and chickens.**

"Many of the contented cows and chickens in this country are that way because of Franz' sweet soothing pasture music," said one Wisconsin farmer with a huge dairy herd.

"My cows have given a better grade of milk and more of it since I hired Franz to play magical music with his custom-made sax six years ago."

A respected concert musician in his native Germany, Franz came to America 10 years ago to make his mark in the concert music world. But his plans took a weird twist

six years ago when he visited a dairy farmer near Madison, Wis.

"I was outside on a sunshiny day rehearsing my baritone sax when I noticed my friend's dairy herd was standing by the fence behind me. They seemed to be mesmerized by my music.

"For more than an hour, my audience was a herd of contented cows. They didn't leave until I finished playing. I learned later that the herd produced a record amount of higher quality milk in the week that followed."

Word of mouth among dairy farmers has made Franz a rich man since that day. He travels

America's heartland, soothing cows with popular ballads and classical music. Recently, he realized his music has the same relaxing effect on chickens.

"I have booked four chicken concerts a month for the next year, in addition to my dairy work," Franz told a reporter. "Poultry farmers say their hens lay more and larger eggs after listening to my music."

America's hog farmers have offered Franz big money to play pretty music for their pigs, "but I simply don't have the time," he said. ■



## THE MOO-SIC MAN!

The preceding article and photo appeared in *Weekly World News* on September 24, 1996.

Upon first glance, this is an interesting if somewhat bazaar story which suggests new careers for enterprising saxophonists. In carefully reading the article, however, certain inaccuracies become obvious. For example, "...rehearsing my baritone saxophone..." is stated when actually the photo refers to a contrabass saxophone. Or "...makes big bucks serenading cows..." seems unlikely, especially since I have never met a musician aware of this "golden op-

portunity." Most revealing, however, was the photograph itself. The picture strongly resembled my Belgian friend, Mr. Freddy Vanattenhoven. I sent him the article and he reported that the photo was indeed a picture of himself as printed in a Flemish magazine in 1975. (Freddy sent me a copy of the original story from Belgium). He writes that "The combination contrabass-sax and cows was made by the photographer as a joke for his readership, most of which were not musicians. In that period [of time] we gave lots of concerts in Belgium, Germany and France with the Bel-

gian Saxophone Septet of Francois Daneels. The contrabass-sax always was the eye-catcher on the concert, if I played it or not. In any case, if I made a lot of money blowing for the cows, I would like to see that money and I will give you part of it." Apparently the article is entirely fiction. If there is a German named Franz Braun, this photo is certainly not his picture and if anyone made money "blowing for the cows" it was not Freddy. The moral of this story—beware of the tabloids.

## ALUMNI UPDATE

**John Alpeter** (1979 BM) is Test Department Manager at ATMEL Semiconductors in Colorado Springs but he still finds time for teaching and playing saxophone. His family includes three children and their son Matthew is "threatening" take up the saxophone. **Klara Aradottir** (1995\*) received her "Premier Prix avec Felicitations" from Lausanne last June. She and her husband **Guido Baumer** (1995 CM) live in Switzerland where they have private studios. **Kim (Caris) Backus** (1982 BM) was just named Assistant Vice President at the National City Bank. Kim is also editor of "The Advocate", a newsletter for regional businesses. **Kim Bain** (1989 MM) is teaching instrumental music in the "Heart of Dixie" at Birmingham's Oak Mountain Middle School. **Amanda Blevins** (1993 BM) is now band and general music teacher at Tri-Valley High School in Newark. **Bill Bousfield** (1991 BM) was married to Carolyn last August. **Kevin Dunipace** (1978 \*) won the "1996 Photo Identification Contest" and a free Sampen compact disc! **Chris Ford** (1979 MM) has been superb as Instrumental Coordinator at the Baltimore School for the Arts. During the summer, he teaches sailing in the

Baltimore harbor. **Stan George** (1989 BM) continues teaching at St. John's High School and plays soprano with Sax 4th Avenue Quartet. Stan's sideline interests include a nearly-completed master's degree from BGSU and his service in the National Guard 555 Air Force Band where he was featured soloist on Claude Smith's "Fantasia". **Tod Huston** (1982 BM) is Minister of Music at the 1st Church of God in Sidney, OH. He continues teaching private saxophone, has two children and is expecting another soon! **Joel Gronseth** (1996 MM) is developing a large private saxophone studio in northwest Ohio. **Kathy McGrady** (1981 BM) was honored as Northwood School's 1996 "Teacher of the Year".

**Yiannis Miralis** (1995 MM) will join **Marco Albonetti** (1996 MM) at Michigan State University as they both pursue doctorates in music! Yiannis taught high school for the past two years in Cyprus. **Jeff Myers** (1983 BM) has moved to the Elementary and Junior High School music program in Elyria following the closing of Elyria West High School. **Russell Peterson** (1995MM) and **Jennifer Patterson** were married last fall. **Jennifer Rickenberg** (BM

1997) was married in the spring of 1997! **Greg Ruffer** (1987 BM) works at the Kennedy Center for the National Initiative to Preserve America's Dance. He is also music director at the College Park United Methodist Church. **Aaron Smith** (1982\*) continues his Directorship of Music for the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Loveland, OH. **Elena Solero** (1985 MM) is a "heavy duty" piano accompanist and teacher in Ft. Wayne, Battle Creek and Albion, MI. **Michael Sunkenberg** (1997\*) returned to BGSU for 1996/97 but plans to finish his undergraduate degree on the East coast. **Tami (Neuman) Watson** (1990 BA) is activity director for a Seniors Apartment Community in Westland, MI and continues collegiate studies in Gerontology. **James Umble** (1984 MM) spent the summer of 1996 teaching at Brevard Music Camp. A professor at Youngstown State University, he is currently preparing a new compact disc. **Mark Vinci's** (1977\*) newly released jazz album "Grand Slam" prompted Benny Carter to write that "Mark is one of my favorite players who has it all." **Craig Young** (1989 BM) and wife Joann have a new baby girl! Craig is completing his conducting doctorate from Ohio State University