



## FROM THE DESK OF JOHN SAMPEN

Reflections on the past academic year bring back a variety of emotional highs and lows for my immediate and extended "saxophone" family. Marilyn and I loved our concert and teaching trip to Taiwan last summer (and we were fascinated by the visits to "the National Concert Hall", "Snake Alley" and "Sun Moon Lake"), but we are sad to be taking leave of our summer home at Interlochen Arts Camp after eight wonderful years of teaching in the northern pines. We enjoyed a spirited trip to Spain and the XI World Saxophone Congress in September but we struggled with the convention's organizational problems and especially with the inconvenience of Marilyn's broken foot (a stairway accident in the music school occurring the day our daughter left for graduate school in Texas). We loved our son's extended hockey season (prep school in Minnesota), but we suffered with him as he recently separated his shoulder during practice. And we saw wonderful BGSU concert presentations, but we were saddened by the early retirements of many long-time music faculty who have elected to step down this spring. We will all miss Jerry Rose, Anna Belle Bognar, Donald Wilson, Wallace DePue, Walter Baker, Elizabeth Cobb, Virginia Starr, David Rogers, and Edward Marks. The College of Musical Arts will certainly have a different face in the years to come. While we look forward to new talents of our incoming teaching faculty, these familiar and wonderful people will be missed.

Other personal highlights from the past season include our Sampen/Shrude concert tour in Minnesota, our numerous BGSU student and faculty performances at the North American Saxophone Alliance convention (Northwestern University), and the many, many student awards accumulated by our talented 1997/98 saxophone class (see "Current Events").

Plans for my summer and new



*John Sampen and Marilyn Shrude in Taiwan*

year include our 14th annual "Super Sax Camp", a teaching invitation for master classes at the Paris Conservatory, and possible trips to Taiwan, Italy and Australia. For the moment, however, my schedule is relaxed and I am even enjoying my current "student role" as a French 101 student.

As Robert Schumann says, "The musician's art is to send light into

the depths of men's hearts." I hope you are musically happy and fulfilled and continue to share your love of the art with others.

Best wishes,

Dr. John Sampen

## INTERNATIONAL FIRSTS

Three international students and alumni are setting records as they finish collegiate degrees at Bowling Green State University. To the best of our knowledge, these individuals represent the very first concert saxophonists from their respective countries to complete musical studies at an American university!

Alumni Marco Albonetti (Faenza, Italy) completed the Music Certificate Program (1995) and graduated from BGSU with a master's degree in saxophone performance (1997). A founding member of the Transcontinental Saxophone Quartet, Marco is continuing his performing and education as a doctoral candidate at Michigan State University (another first for an Italian saxophonist). He was recently awarded a teaching position at the Bari Conservatory in Italy.

Graduate student Shyen Lee (Taipai, Taiwan) will conclude his BGSU graduate performance studies in August of this year. Shyen holds an undergraduate degree from the

New England Conservatory. He has been active as a soloist and chamber musician in commissioning and performing new music. Shyen has recently been invited to interview for important teaching positions at several conservatories in Taiwan.

Undergraduate saxophonist Oz Koren (Ariel, Israel) will finish his

performance degree in December of 1998. An honors student and winner of an American/Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarship, Oz is also pursuing a conducting degree and has won a conducting fellowship for summer studies in South Carolina. After graduation, he plans to pursue a master's degree in the USA.



"International Baseball" with the 1998 Saxophone class. (Shyen Lee, 2nd from left/ Oz Koren, 2nd from from right.)

## CURRENT EVENTS

It was a stellar year for honors and awards in the BGSU Saxophone Studio! Our 1997/98 class consisted of twenty-three students (including 7 graduate students and one certificate student) from Georgia, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Washington, Israel, and Taiwan. As if our BGSU saxophone alumni had not already put us "on the map," we are proud to celebrate the many accomplishments of this 1997/98 saxophone class, including:

### Preston Duncan

(Performance graduate from Muncie, IN):

- 1st Prize in the MTNA National Solo Competition (Nashville, TN)
- 1st Prize in the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs (Columbus, OH)
- 3rd Prize winner in the NASA

National Saxophone Competition (Evanston, IL)

- Winner of the BGSU Concerto Competition (Graduate Division)
- Finalist in the "Search for a Star Competition" (Indianapolis, IN)

### Scotty Stepp

(Performance graduate student from Columbus, IN):

- 1st Prize in the NASA National Saxophone Competition (Evanston, IL),
- 2nd Prize in the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs (Columbus, OH)

### Shannon Williams

(Music education graduate student from Seattle, WA):

- 1st Prize in the Richardson Young Arts Competition

- 2nd Prize in the Lansing Matinee Musicale Competition (Lansing, MI).

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John Sampen with Preston Duncan

## BGSU "BERNARD RANDS" SAXOPHONE COMMISSIONING PROJECT

We are proud to announce a special saxophone commissioning project offered exclusively for BGSU saxophone students and alumni. Pulitzer Prize winner Bernard Rands has agreed to compose a solo saxophone work especially for us! His new virtuosic music will be entitled MEMO 6 and represents an addition to his current MEMO series of solo compositions. Its completion in 1999 will coincide with the composer's 65th birthday.

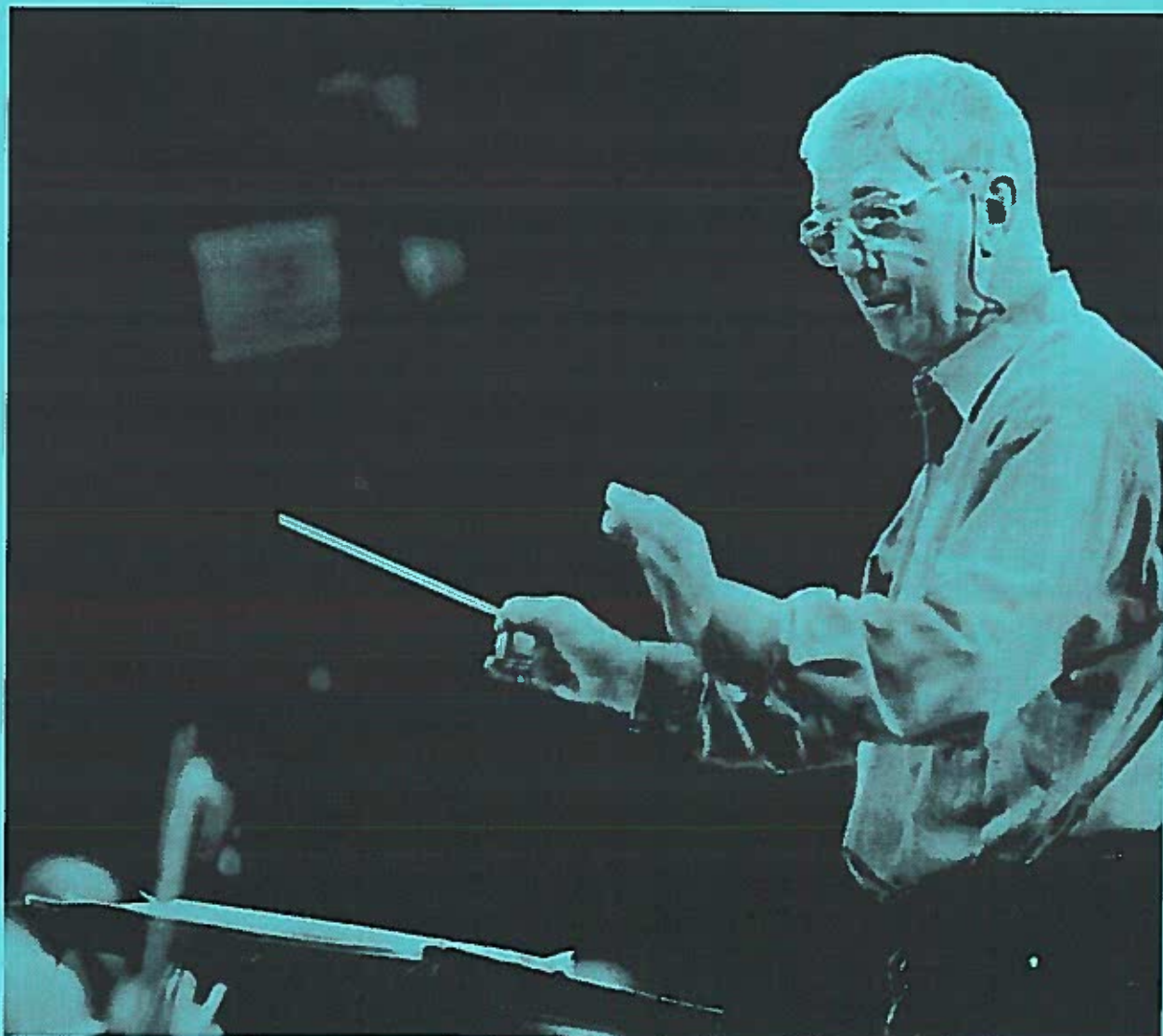
All current and former BGSU saxophone students are invited to participate but enrollment is limited. Cost will be \$125 per saxophonist. As a member of this consortium, each participant will receive a signed

performance score, will have his/her name inscribed on the score as part of the consortium and will have the opportunity to "premiere" the composition on November 7, 1999. We will hopefully present multiple premiere performances all over the world at the same time!

Bernard Rands is considered one of the world's most renowned composers. He is acclaimed as a major figure in contemporary music with more than 90 works, including large choral and symphonic compositions, chamber music, music theatre and instrumental solos. Among Rands' recent commissions are works for the New York Philharmonic's 100th anniversary; the centenary of

Carnegie Hall; and a cello concerto for the Boston Symphony and cellist Mstislav Rostropovich. In addition to the 1984 Pulitzer Prize, he has been honored with a Friedheim award; major prizes from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; awards from the Guggenheim, Fromm and Koussevitzky Foundations and many others. He is a former student of Dallapiccola, Bruno Maderna and Luciano Berio.

If interested, please fill out the attached application and send to Dr. Sampen as soon as possible. Thanks for your interest in this exciting project.



*Pulitzer Prize winner Bernard Rands*

# PERFORMER AGREEMENT

This agreement is made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 199\_\_\_\_.

by John Sampen (Coordinator of the BGSU "Bernard Rands" Saxophone Commissioning Project)

and \_\_\_\_\_, performer.

The commissioning performer agrees to pay \$125 as a one-time fee to cover the commission, printing, performance score and rights to give one of the World Premieres of MEMO 6 by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Bernard Rands. The commissioning performer further agrees not to perform the work for any audience of any kind prior to the scheduled World Premiere on November 7, 1999. The commissioning performer also agrees to notify John Sampen as to the location of the performance no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled World Premiere. Each performer will receive a performance score no later than 60 days prior to November 7, 1999; however, BGSU and John Sampen will be held harmless for any and all damages due to composer, publisher or printer delays. In the case of delays, Dr. Sampen will establish an alternative date for the World Premiere. In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this agreement to be effective on the date first written above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Sampen (for the BGSU Saxophone Studio)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioning Performer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

- Please sign and return two copies—a fully executed copy will be returned to you
- Enclose \$125 check payable to: BGSU Saxophone Studio, c/o Dr. John Sampen
- Send to Dr. J. Sampen, College of Musical Arts, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403

## CURRENT EVENTS

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### **Bryan Polacek**

(Senior performance major from Stone Mountain, GA):

- 1st Place in the MTNA State Chamber Music Division
- Semi-finalist in the Fischhoff International Competition (South Bend, IN)

### **Steven Leffue**

(Junior music education major from Cincinnati, OH):

- Winner of the BGSU Concerto Competition (undergraduate division)

### **Oz Koren**

(Junior performance major from Israel):

- Winner of the Cultural Foundation Scholarship
- Winner of the BGSU Alumni Book Scholarship

### **Dan Rider**

(Graduate performance major from Toney, Alabama):

- Finalist for a position with the US Coast Guard Band

### **Allison Burt**

(Graduate music education major from Canonsburg, Pennsylvania):

- Elected to membership in Pi Kappa Lambda

### **Kollister Williams II**

(Freshman performance major from Columbus, GA):

- Outstanding Freshman Marcher Award (BGSU)

### **Christopher McFann**

(Sophomore performance major from Bellefontaine, OH)

- 2nd Place Award in the UKS Martial Arts Tournament (BGSU)

We will miss our 1998 graduates-Dan Rider, Shyen Lee, Bryan Polacek and (after fall semester) Chris Ross, Allison Burt and Shannon Williams. However, we will welcome an exciting incoming class next fall with new graduate students from Arizona and Taiwan and NINE new freshman from Ohio, Illinois, West Virginia, and Tennessee.

Among the 1997/98 highlights

from last year was our participation at the North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference at Northwestern University (March 25-28). At least twelve BGSU saxophone students attended and participated as performers or competition contestants. Legendary artist teachers Fred Hemke, Eugene Rousseau and several hundred saxophonists were in attendance.

Our five student saxophone quartets were active with concerts and presentations throughout northwest Ohio. We enjoyed various "saxophone" social gatherings, including the annual Sampen Christmas party (with carols provided by the Mad Clown Quartet). And finally, with the graduation of Bryan Polacek this summer (after an "impressive" number of years in undergraduate coursework), we anticipate a great loss of the frequent "Polacek parties" which always featured seasonal sports activities (e.g., whiffle ball or frisbie football), great cooking and musical entertainment from his fabulous collection of compact discs.



*1998 Saxophone class at the Northwestern University NASA Convention. (March 1998)*

## ALUMNI UPDATE

For the past five years, **Robert Esterle** (1988 BM) has been teaching at Pleasant View School (an arts magnet school in Canton). **Marco Albonetti** (1996 MM) was recently named saxophone professor at Bari Conservatory in Italy. Marco and **Yiannis Miralis** (1995 MM) are also pursuing doctoral degrees at Michigan State University. **Tod Huston** (1980 BM) and his wife Wendy had their third child last year. **Beth Bousfield** (1989 BM) continues teaching at the Grass Lake Schools and she reports her new musical interest—playing the bagpipes! **Klara Aradottir** (1995) and **Guido Baumer** (1995 MC) have formed a new saxophone quartet called “Mit Links” or The Left Handed Quartet. They continue teaching in Luzern, Switzerland.

In March, **Dennis Lindsay** (1989 BM) toured with his Lake Forest High School Wind Ensemble in Austria, Budapest and the Czech Republic. **Claudia Schaeztle** (1997 MC) is teaching 27 saxophone students in Tuttlingen, Germany. She also is active as a concert and jazz performer. **John Pehlke** (1997 BM) is currently working as a banker and is pursuing studies in law. **David Laub** (1994 BM) reports that he has a “real” job now—music director at Battle Mountain HS in Colorado. He also is director of the Vail Valley Theater Company and river manager for his summer white water rafting company.

**Jeffery Bair** (1984 BM) has been named the saxophone professor at East Carolina University! He has also been working on a doctorate at the University of Texas (Arlington) and is very successful as a freelance jazz artist. His brother **Brian Bair** (1982) is the Western Region Service Manager for Solid State Logic in southern California. **Jennifer (Rickenberg) Mentz** is teaching 4th and 5th grade music in Sumter, South Carolina. The Sax 4th Avenue Saxophone Quartet with **Shannon Ford** (1995 MM), **Stanley George** (1989 BM), **Kevin Heidbreder** 1985 MM,

and **Jason Yost** (1993 BM) has just released its first compact disc entitled “Delusions de Grandeur”! Incidentally, Jason is expecting his second child in

mid-June. And finally, **Kevin Towner** (1996 BM) has been selected for an internship with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra!



*“Infamous” Senior class of 1989 - (Top, left-right) Craig Young, Beth Bousfield, John Sampen, Rob Steel, Kelly Coffman; (Bottom left-right) Dennis Lindsay, Wesley Miller, Stanley George*



*NASA National Saxophone Competition - Scotty Stepp (left)- 1st Prize Winner for 1998; and Alumnus Kevin Towner (right) -1st Prize Winner for 1996*