



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Fellow Saxophonists,

The Biennial is nearly here, and we anticipate the upcoming NASA conference in Athens with mixed emotions. With the recent passing of host and past NASA President Kenneth Fischer, the conference will be a poignant reminder of the legacy that Dr. Fischer leaves behind through his students, colleagues, and fellow saxophonists. Dr. Fischer was a wonderful man, teacher, and saxophonist, and he will be greatly missed by many, many people. A tribute to Dr. Fischer will appear in the NASA March/April *Update*.

The Program Committee received over 500 applications, and the conference promises to be filled with outstanding performances and master classes. I would like to extend a tremendous thanks to Program Chair

Scott Turpen and the Program Committee for their great work in putting together the schedule. Thank you also to Dr. Fischer's son Stephen for taking over the hosting duties so that this conference can go on: we feel certain that this is what Dr. Fischer would have wanted. Please contact me if you have any items that you wish to place on the agenda of the NASA General Meeting that will be held during the conference and/or if you would like to make a proposal to host the next Biennial conference in 2012. Watch the NASA and conference websites for updated information regarding the schedule and hotels.

I hope to see you in Athens!!

Debra Richtmeyer

### FOR KEN

A saxophone is a thing we hold in our hands.

But it is the musician behind the instrument that creates the voice.

We speak during our life and our voices rise at different times, in different ways.

We encourage, we guide, we organize and we sing!

Thanks Ken, for your voice. It touched us all.

John Nichol

## MEMBER NEWS

### **Ancia Saxophone Quartet releases *Short Stories* on Naxos International**



Ancia Quartet

The group's innovative and diverse repertoire stretches traditional boundaries of genre and style, juxtaposing traditional classical repertoire with contemporary works by modern composers. The CD can be purchased on the Ancia website <http://www.anciaquartet.com/cds.htm> with PayPal or any major credit card.

*Throughout the Ancia Saxophone Quartet show themselves as a technically adroit group with a palpable sense that they enjoy everything they play.* -- David's Review Corner

*[Ancia] has been playing together since 1990, which practically places it as pioneers in what remains a growing field of ensembles in the United States.* -- AMG (4-stars out of 5)

*A rarity -- an album of modern sax quartet music that hasn't a clunker on it . . . Their unanimity*

Taking its name from Jennifer Higdon's *Short Stories*, this album explores stylistically diverse music showcasing the saxophone quartet's immense expressive potential. The Ancia Saxophone Quartet has delighted audiences throughout North America, Europe, and Asia for almost two decades.

*of ensemble and complementary tonal qualities certainly testify to long experience in the field. Enthusiastically recommended.* -- Steven Ritter (Audiophile Audition)

*Elegantly and thoughtfully rendered.* -- Michael Torke

### **Sintchak will teach at Lutheran Summer Music Academy**

Matt Sintchak will serve as saxophone teacher and performer for the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival (LSM), which will take place June 20 to July 18 at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. The residential music training academy -- which serves more than 150 high school age musicians from across the United States -- features three major ensembles: band, orchestra and choir, as well as a comprehensive keyboard and organ program. Nearly 40 faculty artists, all of whom are esteemed practicing professional musicians and academicians from throughout the United States, serve LSM students. The faculty live in residence on the host campus during the four-week program.

As a member of the artistic faculty, Sintchak will maintain a private studio, coach a small ensemble, and teach musicianship. Additionally, he will perform in solo recitals and play for worship services throughout the summer.

### **Helton Leads *The Saxophone in Paris: Then and Now***

The University of Florida Paris Research Center, in conjunction with the University of Florida International Center study abroad programs, will offer an intensive spring break course *The Saxophone in Paris: Then and Now* with Dr. Jonathan Helton. This is an

excellent study abroad opportunity for saxophonists and can also serve as a professional development experience for teachers and performers.

During the first program in 2008, 14 saxophonists from eight states and Canada spent a week packed with saxophone-related activity in Paris. The activities included a Selmer factory tour, a Selmer showroom visit, a trip to the Vandoren showroom and sheet music store, a visit to Adolphe Sax's tomb, master classes with Jean-Michel Goury, observation of Claude Delangle's teaching at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris, and a concert by Delangle. In addition, two saxophone ensemble concerts were performed by members of the class at venues in and around Paris.

In 2010, we will add a visit to the absolutely stunning, newly renovated Musée de la Musique, one of the world's oldest and most impressive musical instrument museums whose holdings include a number of Adolphe Sax's original instruments. We will also attend a concert by the Garde Républicaine band and attend a master class with Jean-Pierre Baraglioli and a concert by his students.

The trip will take place March 7-13. Enrollment is limited to 15 participants. More details can be found at <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/music/saxophone/paris.html>

### **New Edition of Lang's Altissimo Studies**

A new edition of Rosemary Lang's Beginning *Studies in the Altissimo Register* has been published by Ensemble Publications. Long out of print, it has been revised and updated by Gail Levinsky of Susquehanna University. The book's purpose is to teach the altissimo register quickly and efficiently using well-known tunes and interval studies. The method concludes with major, minor, and chromatic studies covering all 12 keys. The book is available through Hickey's Music <http://www.hickeys.com/pages/xscat.htm>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Londeix Nominated for Honorary Life Membership**

Bill Street has nominated Jean-Marie Londeix for Honorary Life Membership in the North American Saxophone Alliance. The Executive Committee enthusiastically supports this nomination and would like to forward it to the membership for a vote. By voting yes, you will recognize and honor Jean-Marie Londeix for his many years of performance, recording, research, pedagogy, arranging, publishing, and service. Information about online voting will be posted on the NASA Website in the near future.

John Nichol, President-Elect

### **Biennial Conference**

The 2010 NASA Biennial Program Committee has finalized their work on the master schedule, and it is available on the NASA website at [http://www.saxalliance.org/2010\\_biennial\\_schedule.html](http://www.saxalliance.org/2010_biennial_schedule.html). The Committee is pleased to announce that Dr. Frederick Hemke and Dr. Eugene Rousseau will be in attendance and will present master classes.

We look forward to seeing you in Georgia!

J. Scott Turpen, Chair  
Biennial Program Committee

## ALMOST A WORLD SAXOPHONE CONGRESS . . .

By Thomas Liley

It was impossible not to notice the strong presence of the saxophone at the recently concluded Midwest Clinic. The 63<sup>rd</sup> annual Midwest Clinic, an international band and orchestra conference, is held in Chicago every December. This year's event included such a large number of saxophone soloists, ensembles, and clinicians that it was almost a World Saxophone Congress.

On Wednesday, December 16, NASA Honorary Life Member Frederick Hemke and the Northwestern University Saxophone Ensemble gave one of the Clinic's first wind presentations. *The Magnificent Sax Machine* provided historical information and a rationale for the creation of saxophone ensembles at the high school and collegiate levels. Dr. Hemke was enlightening, humorous, and persuasive. The ensemble of twelve musicians gave superb performances of works by composers including Bernstein, Handel, Stravinsky, and Matitia. Northwestern University Director of Bands Mallory Thompson conducted Steven Dragun's gorgeous arrangement of the *Serenade* by Richard Strauss.

Soloist Kenneth Tse joined the symphonic wind orchestra La Armónica of Buñol, Spain. With a few well-chosen words, Tse dedicated their performance of *Segaria*, a fantasy for soprano saxophone and band by Bernabé Sanchis, to the late Kenneth Fischer. Tse and guest conductor Ray Cramer, Director of Bands Emeritus at Indiana University, presented a composition that was both reflective and colorful.

Ingolf Dahl's masterful *Concerto* was given a memorable performance by Chief Musician Joshua Thomas and the United States Coast Guard Band. Thomas dispatched the work's many challenges with ease and the band negotiated their difficult role as well as a soloist could wish. It's worth noting that conductor Commander Kenneth Megan studied saxophone from the age of twelve, and assistant conductor Chief Warrant Officer Richard Wyman holds degrees in saxophone performance from the Eastman School of Music and the University of Illinois.

The Coast Guard Saxophone Quartet, with Thomas on alto, Greg Case on soprano, Adam Williamson on tenor, and Jeffrey Emrich on baritone, also presented a recital.

In addition to the *Fantasy Etudes* of William Albright and Russell Peck's *Drastic Measures*, the Japan Coast Guard Saxophone Quartet (Masami Nakanishi, soprano; Ayumi Hirata, alto; Akiko Takakura, tenor; and Go Nagai on baritone) joined them for the *Passacaglia in Celebration of Carl Orff* by Elwood Derr.

On Friday, NASA's President-Elect John Nichol appeared as soloist with the Clarence Wind Ensemble of Clarence, New York. Dr. Nichol selected Max Bruch's *Kol Nidrei, op. 47* in the arrangement for winds by Makio Kimura that is included on Eugene Rousseau's compact disc *Saxophone Vocalise*. The performance at the Midwest Clinic was sensitive and similarly moving.

The Clear Lake High School Wind Ensemble of Houston with Timothy McAllister as soloist presented one of the Clinic's concluding concerts. McAllister continues to establish himself as a leading saxophonist, and his performance of the second and third movements of the *Concerto* by Charles Rochester Young further enhanced his reputation.

The saxophone is a wonderfully expressive jazz instrument as well, and several distinguished jazz performers were an important part of the week's events. Notable appearances include those by Chris Vadala, Tom Scott, Jon Irabagon, Steve Duke, Denis DiBlasio, and Mark Colby. A particularly interesting contribution was made by Aaron Lington, whose jazz quintet joined the San Jose Wind Symphony for his composition *Open Evidence*, a work reminiscent of a concerto grosso. Matt Olson's clinic *Playing 'Both Sides' of the Saxophone* was greeted by a large and enthusiastic audience.

There were, of course, other instrumental soloists and clinicians but none to the extent of those representing the saxophone. This strong presence says much about the vitality of our instrument and the enthusiasm with which we advocate for it. The saxophone has been an important part of the Midwest Clinic since Sigurd Rascher presented a clinic in 1951. The first two World Saxophone Congresses in 1969 and 1970 were held in conjunction with the Midwest. One can be certain that the saxophone will continue to be well represented at the Midwest Clinic in the future.

## EUGENE ROUSSEAU 2009 INTERNATIONAL SAXOPHONE MASTER CLASS



Roger Boutry and Eugene Rousseau

By Kaelah Caldwell

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Eugene Rousseau International Saxophone Master Class took place at the University of Minnesota October 22-24 and celebrated the music and artistry of Roger Boutry. Guest artists included Roger Boutry, Thomas Liley, Kenneth Tse, Thomas Walsh, Anna Marie Wytko, the Ancia Saxophone Quartet, and the Zagreb Saxophone Quartet.

The event began on Thursday night with a presentation by Thomas Walsh entitled *Teaching and Learning Jazz Saxophone: Style and Content*. The session captured the essentials of jazz and how to approach the basics as a beginner. Musical examples were performed by Dr. Walsh with Tanner Taylor, piano; Gordon Johnson, bass; and Phil Hey, drums.

Friday was full of performances by the seven master class participants: Tyler Cessor, John Hallberg, Tyler Hubbard, Kyle Hutchins, Alex McKee, Gregory Wrenn, and Kaelah Caldwell. Dr. Rousseau led the master class sessions, and everyone gained insight into the works performed. That afternoon, Thomas Liley gave a pre-

sentation on the history of Sigurd Rascher and Marcel Mule. The session was very lively, and those in attendance were able to compare and contrast Rascher and Mule's recordings of standard repertoire.

An evening concert honoring Roger Boutry's music followed Dr. Liley's presentation and featured Roger Boutry, Kenneth Tse, Anna Marie Wytko, and the Zagreb Saxophone Quartet. It was an honor to hear an entire program of Roger Boutry's inspiring music.

An informal panel discussion with Mr. Boutry, Dr. Rousseau, Dr. Liley, Dr. Walsh, and Dr. Wytko took place on Saturday. An incredible energy filled the room. At one point, Roger Boutry and Dr. Rousseau were playing at the piano; next, they were drawing diagrams on the whiteboard. The discussion was fascinating *and* highly entertaining in part because of the translation factor, and also because we were able to learn about Roger Boutry's life experiences directly from him.

The three-day event concluded with an evening recital by the seven Master Class performers. I had the privilege to perform Boutry's *Divertimento* on this program. Afterwards, Dr. Rousseau graciously translated my appreciation of that piece and his music to Mr. Boutry. Thank you, Dr. Rousseau, for generously hosting this event which allowed saxophonists from all over the world to learn, collaborate, and celebrate the music of Roger Boutry.



Author Kaelah Caldwell with Roger Boutry and Eugene Rousseau

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