

MD Clarinet News

Maryland Clarinet Society

3/29/16

Edition 1, Volume 1

Maryland Clarinet Society

Welcome to the Newsletter

Welcome to the Maryland Clarinet Society. I am extremely excited to launch our first newsletter "MD Clarinet News" and my hope is that we will grow during the next few years to include member stories, recitals, upcoming events and other important news. With the help of several of my current students at the University of Maryland I have been able to present this volume one issue. Thanks to Joseph Beverly for his article on UMD Clarinet as well as friend that have proofed and read the draft. I look forward to receiving your submissions and working with you in the future. Remember the Clarinet Society is member based and members submit everything in the newsletter. We encourage our members to be part of the International Clarinet Association

and we have partnered with them to share ideas and information.

As the State Chair for the Association I will also address issues and concerns you may have in the newsletter and hope you will feel free to send me your comments. My email address is: rdilutis@umd.edu. Thanks again for all of your support and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Robert DiLutis



Buffet Artist Robert DiLutis presents a clinic at Perry Hall Middle School on February 17, 2016 sponsored by Buffet Group USA

Reed Myth No. 1

•••

Reeds with short vamps play sharp.

I have heard this comment from many students but the reality is that these reeds can play very well and in tune. The short vamp seemingly allows for less vibration. However, we must remember that pitch is affected by the thickness of the heart of the reed and the pressure placed on the vibrating surface. As we dampen or press the reed with our embouchure, we increase the vibrations the reed is making and raise the pitch. Reeds that have shorter vamps are usually the result of a very thin blank being used to copy a thicker reed template. The accidental result is a reed with a short- vamp. In general, a reed's vamp should be equal to the length of your mouthpiece's window opening. I have produced and found many high quality reeds with short vamps.

On the Road with the United States Army Field Band Clarinet Section

By Reis McCullough

Military bands serve as the largest employer of musicians nationwide, and have the most concentrated presence in the Maryland/DC/Virginia area. As a member of the U.S. Army Field Band, I have enjoyed the wonderful experience of playing in a premier military band. There are approximately 100 Army Bands worldwide, and The U.S. Army Field Band is one of three premier bands in the Army. Our main job is to represent the Army on national concert tours, helping to connect the Army with the American people. We perform more than 100 days each year, which means we travel a lot!

The Concert Band and Soldiers' Chorus of the Army Field Band is currently on a 39-day concert tour covering more than 3,000 miles starting in California, then heading east through Nevada, Utah, Colorado and eventually getting back to our home at Fort Meade, MD on April 6th. We started off the tour as the

showcase group for the American Bandmasters Association convention in San Luis Obispo, CA. We performed several new compositions that were premiered by the Concert Band at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago this past December. These works were Julie Giroux's *Under the Willow*, the closing credits from John Williams' score of the new Star Wars movie *The Force Awakens*, and a contemporary piece by David Sampson entitled *Double Back* with trumpeter Christopher Martin of the Chicago Symphony and trombonist Joseph Alessi from the New York Philharmonic.

We have a lot of fun in the clarinet section of the Army Field Band. Most of us have played together for years, and enjoy the camaraderie that comes with traveling together and playing many concerts together. The clarinet section consists of a total of 14 musicians, including 12 B-flat soprano clarinets (one doubles on E-flat), and two bass clarinets (one performs all of the auxiliary instruments including alto and contrabass). Our educational backgrounds vary, but some of the schools that are represented include the Eastman School of Music,

University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Indiana University, University of Georgia, and Northwestern University. We are looking forward to welcoming our newest member of the section, Erik Franklin from Indiana University, who is currently finishing his basic training at Fort Jackson, SC.

One of the greatest challenges in the job is performing in different venues every night and having to deal with various environmental conditions. For instance, on this particular tour we are playing concerts in the high altitudes of Utah and the Colorado Rockies. Reeds vibrate less at higher altitudes and thus makes blowing more resistant and stuffer. I have found that sea level reeds will generally work in altitudes below 2,000 feet. From 2,000 to 6,000 feet requires a reed that is one strength softer than what is normally used, and from 6,000 feet plus might require two strengths softer. Try to prepare your softer reeds at sea level so that they are sufficiently broken in and balanced before you get to the higher altitudes. It helps to take some material out of the lower end of the vamp in order to allow for more

vibrations. Reed adjustment may be necessary at the concert site so allow some time beforehand. Take these precautions and you will have

a much more enjoyable concert experience!

UMD Clarinet Day 2015

Mark Nuccio Performs as Guest Artist



Hyattsville, Maryland USA

by Joseph Beverly

Maryland Clarinet Day 2015, presented by the University of Maryland Clarinet Studio and Buffet Crampon, took place on the beautiful campus of DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, MD on March 29. Host Robert DiLutis, UMD Professor and Buffet Artist, planned an exciting day of classes, vendors and performances

that more than 75 clarinetists of all ages could learn from and enjoy. The featured guest artist was Mark Nuccio, newly appointed principal

clarinet of the Houston Symphony. Other guest artists included UMD faculty members

David Jones (Kennedy

Historical Facts

• • •

Members of the Cleveland Orchestra Clarinet Section

C.G. McGibney 1918-20

Louis Green 1920-25

Walter R. Thalin 1925-26

Louis DeSantis 1926-28

Henry LeRoy 1928-30

Aaron Gorodner 1930-31

Alexander Pripadcheff 1931-33

Daniel Bonade 1933-41

Robert McGinnis 1941-42

Gino Cioffe 1942-44

Emerson Both 1944-45

Stanley Hasty 1945-46

Robert McGinnis 1946-47

Bernard Portnoy 1947-53

Robert Marcellus 1953-73

David Shifrin 1973-76

Franklin Cohen 1976-2015

Benjamin Lulich 2016-present

Center Orchestra) and Paul Cigan (National Symphony Orchestra).

Classes occurred throughout the day and were tailored to specific topics. Jones taught an excellent class on high school All-State preparation, while Cigan presented a lecture on orchestral excerpts for college students and professionals. DiLutis held a master class with students of many different levels, introducing innovative teaching strategies that were beneficial to both teacher and student. Nuccio also facilitated an excellent master class full of insight that immediately helped many students improve.

Along with the master classes, there were many exciting performances throughout the day. The day began with an impressive performance by the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra Clarinet Choir, led by director Albert Hunt. This was followed by a short recital of solo clarinet works

featuring performers from the UMD clarinet studio. After lunch, DiLutis conducted the clarinet choir reading session. This gave participants a chance to play several challenging and beautiful clarinet choir pieces alongside professionals and teachers. The closing recital of the day was Mark Nuccio's performance of Mozart's *Clarinet Quintet* with a group of graduate string students from the University of Maryland. Nuccio exemplified an ideal tone and emotional connection in this masterfully artistic performance.

Many different vendors and sponsors were in attendance as well, including Buffet Crampon, Music & Arts, RJ Music, Lohff & Pfeiffer, Rovner, L & L Music – Wind Shop, Redwine Jazz and D'Addario. There were reeds, mouthpieces, ligatures, music, and many different Buffet clarinets on display for everyone to try and purchase. Wolfgang Lohff also gave a very insightful and

practical class on clarinet repair and maintenance. Maryland Clarinet Day 2015 was a success and we hope that you will join us in 2016!



*Member of the United States Army Field Band
on tour this month*

UPCOMING EVENT

Catholic University Single Reed
Symposium April 2, 2016

University of Maryland Clarinet
Symposium April 3, 2016

Delaware Clarinet Day April 9, 2016

Clarinet Academy of America July 5-9,
2016

Please email
rdilutis@umd.edu to submit
articles and information for
the next newsletter by 5-1-16.