



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone!

I can hardly believe that we are already writing the March/April *Update*! Our NASA year is in full swing, and we have conferences occurring in Regions 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 this spring in the United States and Canada. Visit the Conference section of the NASA website to find information about your region. Attending conferences is a great way to hear the latest new music, meet new friends, and renew long-term friendships in the saxophone community. Ours is truly a small world, and I look forward to each conference.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to make three important announcements:

The 2010 NASA Biennial Conference will be held at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music of the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, March 3-6, 2010, hosted by Dr. Kenneth Fischer. Further information and a call for proposals will be announced shortly. Thank you, Dr. Fischer, for hosting this important event!

Slovenia has just announced their 13th International Saxophone Meeting July 3-5 in Nova Gorica at which they will hold the 5th International Saxophone Competition. With the XV World Saxophone Congress taking place July 7-12 in Bangkok, Thailand, it promises to be an exciting summer for saxophonists.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Timothy McAllister as the new Region 2 Director. Dr. McAllister is Associate Professor of Saxophone at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. We are pleased to have him on board. You may find his contact information in the Regional Directors section of the web site.

Enjoy the rest of your semester; I look forward to seeing and hearing many of you at the upcoming conferences!!

Best,
Debra Richtmeyer
NASA President



SAXTECH

By Steve Stusek

I was struck by a statement one of our NASA Executive Officers made in his recent election platform: "Technology is all around us." While computers, cell phones, and iPods have changed the way we communicate, relax, and work, the software - programs that make these machines useful - can and is revolutionizing the way we teach and learn in the saxophone studio. This is the first in a series of articles on currently available - often free - software that can change the way you run your saxophone studio.

For this first article, I want to tell you how I use Google Docs. Google Docs is a suite of online software components that resembles a stripped down version of Microsoft Office. The major difference between MSWord and Google Docs is that in its native form, your Google Doc is saved on one of Google's on-line servers rather than on your computer. You may have heard this referred to as "cloud computing." In almost every other comparison, the two are very similar: if you are familiar with Word, you will be able to function in Google Docs. I won't go into Google Docs' attributes because it has too many to list here. You can find a very good starter guide at <http://www.google.com/google-d-s/tour1.html>. The important thing to know is that because your document is stored on a server, you can share it with and have it edited by other people.

Aside from a computer and an internet connection, you only need two things in order to share Google Docs: a Gmail account and another person with a Gmail account! I've had a Gmail account for years, and it is free for anyone who wants it; UNCG student email is provided by gmail, so my students also have accounts. I use Google Docs in my saxophone studio for two things: to track lesson assignments and for students to keep a journal or blog of their team scale work.

Back in the day, students kept notebooks for their saxophone lessons, and they would bring their notebooks to each lesson. Along with comments about

pieces, fingerings, etc., I would offer assignments for upcoming lessons. I now do that in Google Docs. I open a Google Doc and name it after the student ("Joe Sax") and then click on a big button marked "Share." This brings me to a window where I begin to type in a student's name. If I have the student's email address already - and I do - their name pops immediately into this window. Click "Collaborate," and the document instantly appears in the student's Google Docs folder as well as my own. Now, instead of writing in the notebook, I simply type notes in Google Doc while the student plays. I keep a list of all the scales they are working on (and tempos), their repertoire lists, upcoming recital dates, and lesson grades. I usually enter assignments, too. At this point, of course, I haven't done anything I couldn't do with a notebook. Once I hit "Save," all of that changes. I can add more comments after a student leaves. If there were unanswered questions, or I have thoughts later on (it could happen!), I can add those at any time. And the real beauty is that not only do students see these notes when they open their Google Docs, they can ask questions, make comments of their own, and ask for clarification. I'll see these changes the next time I open the document. Additionally, if a student does make an entry, their Doc will be at the top of my Google Doc Folder, so I will know instantly that they have been busy.

My students love this. They always have a computer with them, even in the practice room, so they can check assignments any time, and they can use the doc as a practice journal. They can't lose it or forget it, so it is always up to date. Because you can collaborate with any number of people, we have "Scale Blog" documents that are shared among groups of three students, my TA, and me. Any of us can make comments, and all students are required to make entries. It works flawlessly!

Finally, you are free to save your Google Doc on your desktop, in MSWord or just about any current format. In fact, I wrote this article as a Google Doc!

MEMBER NEWS

Fancher Releases New CD

Susan Fancher is pleased to announce the release of her newest CD *In Two Worlds* on Innova Records (Innova 736). *In Two Worlds* takes the listener on a sensational journey through the electroacoustic music of Morton Subotnick, Reginald Bain, Mark Engebretson, Edmund Campion, Judith Shatin, James Paul Sain and John Anthony Lennon. The disk is available through the Innova Records website at www.innovarecordings.com or directly from Susan Fancher for \$15 including shipping. Email Susan at fanch@earthlink.net.

**Leatherman wins saxophone position in Band of the West**

Congratulations to Ryan Leatherman on winning the saxophone position in the Air Force Band of the West, based at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Ryan will play in the concert band and in Dimensions in Blue, the jazz ensemble. The Air Force Band of the West performs throughout Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Arizona. Ryan is a student of Professors Debra Richtmeyer and Chip McNeill at the University of Illinois.

MTNA National Chamber Music and Young Artist Finalists

Four of the seven MTNA Chamber Music Division winners for MTNA are saxophone quartets, and five of the seven Young Artists Woodwind Division winners are saxophonists! They will compete in the MTNA finals in Atlanta, Georgia, March 28 - April 1. Congratulations to all involved, and good luck in the national competition.

Chamber Music Division Finalists*East Central Division*

Hi-Def Saxophone Quartet (University of Illinois)

Noa Even, soprano

Dave Tribbley, alto saxophone

Collin Wilson, tenor saxophone

Phi Pierick, baritone saxophone

Coached by Prof. Debra Richtmeyer

Eastern Division

Red Line Saxophone Quartet (Eastman School of Music)

Doug O'Connor, soprano saxophone

Brandon Kies, alto saxophone

Gal Qun, tenor saxophone

Quinn Lewis, baritone saxophone

Coached by Dr. Chien-Kwan Lin

South Central Division

North Texas Saxophone Quartet (University of North Texas)

Joey Resendez, soprano saxophone

Chris Dickhaus, alto saxophone

Doug Stone, tenor saxophone

Sarah Roberts, baritone saxophone

Coached by Dr. Eric Nestler

Southern Division

Krang Quartet (University of Southern Mississippi)

Ryan Raziano, soprano saxophone

Thomas Giles, alto saxophone

David Wozniak, tenor saxophone

Noah Madison, baritone saxophone

Coached by Dr. Lawrence Gwozdz

Young Artist Woodwind Finalists

East Central Division: Noa Even, student of Prof. Debra Richtmeyer

Southwest Division: Derek Granger, student of Dr. Tim McAllister

West Central Division: John Cummins, student of Dr. Eugene Rousseau

Eastern Division: Quinn Elliott Lewis, student of Dr. Chien-Kwan Lin

Northwest Division: Danile M. Goodrich, student of Prof. Fred Winkler

Premiere Saxophone Quartet releases *Magheia*

The Premiere Saxophone Quartet is proud to announce the release of their debut compact disc, *Magheia*. The recording includes the title track by Lucie Robert-Diessel, a major tour-de-force for saxophone quartet and piano written in 1976. As a result of correspondence with the composer while preparing *Magheia* for performance at the 2006 NASA Biennial

Conference, Robert-Diessel wrote a new work for quartet and piano, *Issôs?*, which is also included in this recording. The final piece, *Sr. Miro's Saxophone*, is a new work for saxophone quartet by San Francisco Bay Area composer Jon Scoville. Further information about the recording is available on the quartet's website, www.psquartet.com and the CD and mp3 are available at www.cdbaby.com.

The quartet is comprised of NASA members Dale Wolford, soprano; Kevin Stewart, alto; David Hen-

derson, tenor; and Aaron Lington, baritone. Pianist Victoria DiMaggio-Lington joined them on the recording.



LOIS HICKS-WOZNIAK GUEST AT ITHACA COLLEGE



Heitor Villa-Lobos, Michael Titlebaum, David Froom, Stacy Garrop, and Jules Demersseman. Performing with Ms. Hicks-Wozniak was Josh Oxford, a

On Wednesday, February 4, 2009, Lois Hicks-Wozniak presented a recital and clinic at the Ithaca College School of Music. Her concert included works by

staff accompanist for the School of Music. The recital was superbly performed, and the duo received a standing ovation at the end of the program.

Following the concert, Ms. Hicks-Wozniak talked with members of the saxophone studio about the challenges of the music profession and her personal experiences. This presentation was sponsored and funded by the newly formed Ithaca College Saxophone Society, which is composed of the saxophone students and teachers at the college.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA SAXOPHONE PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP

The fourth annual University of Georgia Saxophone Performance Workshop is a unique and intensive six-day musical experience that offers advanced high school and university level saxophonists the opportunity to achieve the highest level of musical growth. Held on the beautiful campus of The University of Georgia in the Hugh Hodgson School of Music, students will study saxophone performance in all styles of music, classical through jazz. Each student will have private lessons with the internationally acclaimed faculty. In addition, participants have the opportunity to perform in quartets, a large saxophone orchestra (sopranino, soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, and bass saxophones), and as soloists while gaining experience on each of the saxophones. The week will end with a gala public performance in the world-renowned Ramsey Concert Hall. Workshop activities are held in The University of Georgia's state-of-the-art facilities. Faculty for the workshop include Director Dr. Kenneth Fischer of UGA, Dr. Scott Turpen from the University of Wyoming, and Dr. John Bleuel of the University of West Georgia

The UGA Saxophone Performance Workshop will be held June 21 – 26. Performers of all saxophone voices (soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone) are welcome. Lodging is available in the dormitories of The University of Georgia. Further information and applications are available at http://www.uga.edu/music/saxophone_workshop/.





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