



Events

Calgary Oboe Round-Up

Calgary Oboe Round-Up

Over 50 oboists participated in this unique event, held on Sunday October 24, 2004 at **Mount Royal College** in Calgary, sponsored by **Gary Armstrong Woodwinds Ltd.**, and coordinated by **Melody McKnight** and **David Sussman**. Attending from across Alberta, musicians from Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Fort MacLeod and Rocky Mountain House enjoyed a day-long series of clinics and seminars geared towards all musical levels and ages.

The day began with a workshop

conducted by **Gary Armstrong**, followed by an exhibition of **Lorée** products, discussion groups, oboe reed making sessions by **Heather Haydu** and **Jean Landa**, and an oboe performance featuring Calgary Philharmonic oboist **David Sussman**. **Landwell Reed Knives**, and **Dave Morley** from **Adam Shaper Tips** were also present at the event. Later in the day participants were able to relax and enjoy a half-hour recital/demonstration of the Baroque oboe, performed by **Gerard Gibbs** (baroque oboe), **Joan Kent** (cello), and **Christine Azad** (harpsichord). This ses-

sion was followed by a fun and interactive workshop on jazz oboe, conducted by oboist **Colin Maier**, and discussions regarding excerpt difficulties, as well as how to prepare for and survive an orchestra audition. The Calgary Oboe Round-Up ended with a 45-minute mass performance by all oboists, enjoyed by the many parents and siblings who audited the seminars throughout the day.

Six of the eight professional oboists participating play **F. Lorée** oboes; two play on **Buffet** Greenline oboes. Two students at the event enthusiastically purchased a **Lorée** oboe and a **Lorée** English horn.

We wish to extend our thanks to **Mount Royal College** for their generous donation of classroom and theatre space for the day.

(continued on page 2)

g **glotin**
FRANCE

F. Lorée
PARIS



Play-off at the Calgary Oboe Round-Up

Events (continued from page 1)

Special thanks to **Melody McKnight** for her tireless efforts in organizing this terrific event that was enjoyed by so many oboists. If anyone needs an event planner in Calgary, Melody is the one to call. Thanks also to **David Sussman**, for initiating the conference and for strong support throughout.

A Day with the Clarinet

On October 1st 2004, the **University of Western Ontario** sponsored a clarinet event hosted by **Gary Armstrong Woodwinds Ltd.** and **Buffet Crampon (Coast Music)**. The event featured professional clarinet player **Professor Jerome Summers** with the premier of an array of music by composers such as **Ronald Royer, Michael Conway Baker, Dale Reubart** and **Olivier Whitehead**. A recording of these works will be made available by 2006 along with other solo works of similar genre, all conducted by **Simon Streatfield**.

A Clarinet Christmas

On December 11th, **Gary Armstrong Woodwinds** hosted their first annual Clarinet Christmas party. Characterized by free beer, lots of food, door prizes and chamber music, the event attracted a number of clarinet players from the GTA and surrounding areas.

Harold Gomez (president of **Valgon Rings**), **Stephen Fox** (innovator and designer of custom clarinets) and **Colin Murray** (**Buffet** representative from **Coast Music**) were amongst the numerous individuals that participated throughout the course of the day.

We were also thankful for the presence of **Merlin Williams**, who spent the day assessing and documenting clarinet mouthpiece facings for analysis.

Visit Merlin Williams' website at www.merlinwilliams.com.



woodwind horoscope

Aries ♈

Ignore the bad reeds, leaky keys and politics because nothing can stop you this month. The change in weather and lunar eclipse has been a detriment to your musical capabilities, and though you rebel, a change of equipment will be most necessary for the development of your musical career. Trust no one, especially those in your section, and be aware of back-stabbing brass players near the middle of the month.

Taurus ♉

You've never been fond of being ordered about, but take suggestions from an old and cranky conductor or at least pretend. You're advised to glide past know-it-all trombone players and don't bother arguing with the tuning pitch in the back row. Expect the unexpected and don't be surprised if an audition flies your way.

Gemini ♊

Your current musical block is the result of internal conflicts. Relax your mind, body and shoulders and you will quickly overcome the problem. Go with your heart when it comes to making choices and be aware of a charming string player who may serenade their way into your life near the middle of the month.

Calgary Oboe Round-Up

2004





Harold Gomez and Gary with Harold's unique invention, *The Valgon Rings*



Clarinet Christmas party at the store, Dec. 11, 2004: the *Clarinet Choir*



Gary with Steve Fox, left and Merlin Williams



woodwind horoscope

Cancer ♋

Things are getting monotonous and you desperately need some excitement, and it is on its way. You will soon find yourself in competition with a good friend for a position that you equally deserve. Practice hard and may the best candidate win.

Leo ♌

This month dishes out another cautionary tale about the importance of choosing the proper accompanist, quintet or stand partner. Failing to do so will result in the last-minute collapse of an extremely significant performance. Keep to yourself and avoid speaking freely about upcoming plans or auditions in the next several months. A big mouth may promote unwanted competition that would usually seem unlikely.

Virgo ♍

Your tenacity is admirable, but the time has come to honestly reappraise your instrument's fundamental capabilities. You are progressing rapidly and a small change in equipment will reinstate confidence and technical finesse, bringing out your creative and bold side. Reevaluate a recent rendezvous with a brass colleague and move forward with a not-so-professional relationship.

Vandoren
PARIS

The Valgon Rings control and stabilize the oscillating air column on the outside of the instrument, resulting in significant improvement in the instrument's response. Available for B \flat clarinet, E \flat clarinet, flute and piccolo. Soon to be available for alto, bass and contrabass clarinet, alto and bass flute, alto and tenor saxophone.



Events to come

Gary Goes to Cuba

Jane Bunnett, a renowned jazz soprano sax/flute player, has invited **Gary** to accompany her and her husband, jazz trumpeter **Larry Kramer**, on a mission to Cuba to offer assistance as a repair technician at the Music Conservatory of Santiago. The music scene in Cuba is well established, with a strong system of conservatories. They have some instruments (up to 10 kids will share a single flute), but they have little in the way of repair parts and supplies. Jane has set up a foundation,

"*Spirit of Music*" to bring technicians, much-needed supplies, and new instruments to this vibrant musical country. And so she and Larry, along with some amazing Cuban musicians, performed in a benefit concert on Sun., Jan. 16, at Lula Lounge in Toronto. If you wish to help, please make a cheque payable to **Spirit of Music** and mail to:

Spirit of Music
26 Sorauren Ave.
Toronto, On
M6R 2C7



New products

Tosca Clarinet

The first **Buffet** "Tosca" model clarinet has arrived in Canada and is being featured at **Gary Armstrong Woodwinds Ltd.**

The B \flat Clarinet is the evolutionary result of advanced materials and manufacturing techniques. It incorporates premium Grenadilla wood and a newly developed bore design, which is the foundation for the 19-key and 6-ring ergonomically remodeled silver-plated key work. It features an auxiliary E \flat lever and a low F correction key to further improve tone and tuning.

New Vandoren Ligatures

Klassik: New woven **Vandoren** ligature is adjustable and easy to fit. It precisely fits the reed to the mouthpiece and allows for a perfectly centred sound: **\$52.95**



Leather: New genuine leather **Vandoren** ligature with a hand crafted finish. It includes 3 interchangeable pressure plates to adjust the sound, allowing for a round and warm sound: **\$59.95**



Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts

Toronto's new home of the Canadian Opera Company & the National Ballet is ready to receive its roof. Gary's partner, Anne has played with the COC for over twenty years, and she and the rest of the orchestra are looking forward to finally having their own acoustically excellent (hopefully) home. Both companies are excited about the new building which is scheduled to open in 2006.

woodwind horoscope

Libra ♎

Don't take unnecessary chances with your practice schedule, and keep an eagle eye on valuable recently purchased merchandise. The 20 cents difference in pitch between you and a colleague during a concert solo will lead to the downfall of a good friendship. Finally, someone recognizes your talent and determination, and is willing to hand you the keys to the kingdom. Do not accept this tempting offer, as only bad will come of it.

★ SALE ★ SALE ★ SALE ★ SALE ★ SALE ★ SALE ★ SALE ★
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Note: All sale prices will be honoured until March 15th

A for the price of a B \flat

Don't B \flatBuy an A, eh?

Say goodbye to transposition, playing a semi-tone sharp in a Beethoven symphony and endless scams at the U of T instrument sign-out room because the deal of the year is here.

WOW...now for a limited time you can own your very own A Clarinet for the same price as a B \flat

SPECIAL

Buffet "Elite" A Clarinet
Reg. \$5995 Sale: **\$2995**

Buffet "Vintage" Clarinet
Reg. \$3695 Sale: **\$2695**

Buttmer Bassoon Reeds

Paul Buttmer had put his bassoon reed making on hold for a few years but is back in the business. To promote the sale of these phenomenal reeds you can

now purchase them (until Mar. 15) for the low price of **\$13.95** (reg. \$16.95).

Backun Bells and Barrels

Hand crafted clarinet Bells and Barrels made from rare and exotic woods, all of which is individually hand selected. Each Bell and Barrel is customized to meet the exact specifications of all individual players, resulting in a drastic improvement in tone quality, tuning, and finesse. They are available in a wide variety of woods including Cocobolo, Grenadilla and Rosewood and for the range of clarinets (B \flat , A, C, D and E \flat)

Barrels Reg. \$275 Sale: **\$199**

Bells Reg. \$675 Sale: **\$495**

Vitry Knives

Reg. \$39.95 Sale: **\$29.95**



Légère Reeds

The long lost search for a functional artificial reed is finally over with the miraculous development of Légère Reeds. These synthetic reeds are great for all players, especially teachers, marching band players, and certainly doublers. They allow for a quick setup, ultimate consistency, and are unaffected by changes in temperature and humidity. Légère reeds come in quarter strengths for clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax and baritone sax.

Reg: \$21.95 Sale: **\$17.95**

Stephen Fox Clarinets

For a decade now, **Stephen Fox Clarinets** have been one of Canada's best-kept (legal!) export secrets. The innovatively designed custom artist clarinets and meticulously researched reproduction historical instruments have been distributed and are renowned worldwide.

The clarinets range from E \flat down to basset horn (a bass clarinet is due to be introduced next year), with

each model offering novel acoustical and mechanical features. B \flat and A clarinets are available with several different bore concepts: a relatively conventional French bore design (as with virtually all of the clarinets used in North America), a German bore Boehm system model, and the NX and Nexus, which are unlike anything produced by any other company, and open up different paths to

the type of sound and response that all clarinetists seek. While to date all instruments have been made to order for individual customers and have not been sold through retailers, plans for the near future include stepping up production, starting with B \flat and A clarinets, to a rate that would allow wider distribution.

Full information can be found by visiting www.sfoxclarinets.com.

Used instruments for sale

Are you wondering what you could possibly do with that old and dusty clarinet, sax, oboe, flute or bassoon that you gladly threw in your attic closet on graduation day of high school music??? Look no further. You can sell your instrument(s) at **Gary Armstrong Woodwinds**.

You name the price.

Why buy an instrument at Gary Armstrong Woodwinds?

- **All instruments** come with a 1 year completely covered store warranty (including cracks) for any necessary repairs. Along with a factory warranty of 1 year.

- **All wood clarinets** come with:

- a free box of reeds
- a free dampit
(instrument humidifier)
- corkgrease
- a swab

B \flat Clarinets

Buffet E-11	.....	\$795
Strasser (wood)	.....	\$350
Yamaha model 34 II	.....	\$800
Keilwerth (wood)	.....	\$500
Leblanc , Concerto model	.....	\$2500
Buffet R-13, nickel-plated keys	.....	\$1800
Leblanc , "Vito" plastic body	.....	\$300
Selmer Signet (wood)	.....	\$749

A Clarinets

Boosey & Hawkes Edgeware Clarinet (wood)	..	\$500
Yamaha YCL65 (wood)	.....	\$1499
Buffet R-13 Clarinet (Wood)	.....	\$2500

Oboes

F. Lorée CQ 06	.....	\$3995
F. Lorée CL 05	.....	\$3995
Buffet Greenline	.....	\$4800
Selmer Signet	.....	\$2000

Bass Clarinets

Leblanc to low E \flat	\$2800
Yamaha to low C	.....	\$5200



woodwind horoscope

Scorpio ♏

A misunderstanding between you and a close ensemble colleague regarding who's in charge or who makes the final decision concerning repertoire will result with an awkward tension. You are prepared to overlook the problem, but their stubborn persistence forces you to hold a grudge. Keep your mind set on priorities.

Sagittarius ♐

You begin to notice that a fear of straying away from the box has left you without options. Investing in something new and exciting and of a non-musical nature will be the key to open your eyes and spirit. Your hard work and dedication to reed choosing and/or making will result in excellence. Not surprisingly, this actually persuades you to work even harder.

Capricorn ♑

That lingering feeling of being lost in a Schoenberg 12-tone row may finally dissipate this month. This is long overdue and may be followed by another big event or concert that will feature a member in your section. You may feel overwhelmingly jealous, but your turn is not far away. A financial burden will also lift, leaving you with unforeseen stability for equipment you long desired.

Aquarius ♒

New friends challenge your theories and galvanize your creativity. Ignore their views and focus on personal musical goals. A new reed and a risky purchase may be the key to an increase of productivity, which will be beneficial to the outcome of an upcoming placement. You re-establish your ties to a relationship or community ensemble via an old string colleague that was once quite attractive.

Pisces ♓

Traveling to new and exciting places and decision-making looks probable in the upcoming months. Wishing your repair technician a "happy birthday" will only lead to a positive outcome concerning the purchase of reeds and other musical needs. Financial situations are looking up for you this month and unexpected expenses will be a great benefit to you in the very near future.

LOST AND FOUND

Retrieved

We would like to send our many thanks to Nigel Robbins, professional oboist in the Sudbury area, and to the Vancouver police department for their assistance in the retrieval of 3 out of 4 of the instruments that were stolen from us last summer.

Stolen

On Nov. 11th 2004 two clarinets, a **Buffet Prestige R13** and a **Buffet Festival A** were stolen from the back of the car of DJ Gotfrit, sales and marketing associate at Gary Armstrong Woodwinds. They were last seen in a blue Bam double case. Please be on the lookout for the following serial numbers:

Prestige: 510461

Festival: 502801

g glotin
FRANCE

Légère™
REEDS & TO
Synthetic Woodwind Reeds
FRANCE



F. Lorée
PARIS

Vandoren
MADE

VALIGNON



Gary Armstrong
WOODWINDS LTD

1612 Queen Street West
(between Lansdowne & Roncesvalles)
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6R 1A8

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garyarmstrongwoodwinds@rogers.com

website: www.garyarmstrong.com

phone: 416-535-6000

toll-free: 1-800-356-4025

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