

AMATEUR CHAMBER MUSIC PLAYERS

545 Eighth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10018

Newsletter Supplement, February 1994

MANY THANKS to ACMP member Ted Rust, Editor of *Music for the Love of It*, for printing and mailing this Newsletter. North American members will receive it with Ted's special issue on North American chamber music workshops.



News of three HELEN RICE PLAY-INS

to be held, as last year, the 2nd weekend in March. Each will celebrate Helen's memory with the 3rd Brandenburg at 4 PM.

NEW YORK CITY AREA

1:30 - 7:30 PM Sunday, March 13, 1994

(Third Brandenburg at 4 PM)

Location to be announced.

\$5.00 contribution or a dish for potluck supper invited.

RSVP Kitty Benton, 212/966-2776

286 West Broadway, New York, NY 10013

Call or write if you would like more information.

EASTERN NEW ENGLAND AREA

1:30 - 7:30 PM Sunday March 13, 1994

at the music building of Phillips Academy, Andover, MA
Jointly sponsored by ACMP and the Appalachian Mountain Club
Music Committee. Instrumentalists *and* singers welcome.

\$5.00 contribution or a dish for potluck supper invited.

Call or write Martha Jaffe for more information: 617/244-0955,

31 Parker St., Newton Center, MA 02159.

PITTSBURGH AREA

There is almost certain to be a March 13 play-in.

Call Kitty Benton, 212/966-2776, if you're interested.

And two further Play-ins:

A weekend in the hills near Calgary, Alberta, CANADA

This coming summer makes the 25th Anniversary of a chamber music weekend organized by ACMP member Neel de Wit-Wibaut at her remote upland sheep farm. It has long been open to ACMP members, but not well-known outside Alberta. Ms. de Wit-Wibaut cordially invites string players who enjoy both music and outdoor life to join her and other "regulars" on the LAST WEEKEND IN JUNE. Contribution of food, plus \$20 for each player or spouse, will help to cover the expenses of the weekend. Please call

Neel de Wit-Wibaut — 403/270-7522

Space is not unlimited, so if there are more people who want to come than can be accommodated, Ms. de Wit-Wibaut will try for a balance of instruments among those who attend. Plan to bring a sleeping bag.

A week in the Swiss mountains, and more

Play-in open to all, August 27-Sept. 3 in Blonay, above Lake Geneva. Site: the Hindemith Foundation (7 grand pianos)! Cost: c.\$450 room and board. About 25 plan to go on to hike in the high Gspon area (c.\$60 per day), Sept. 3-6. Organized by ACMP's Bill Simmons. Contact Bill ASAP at 505/266-5678 (business hours), or 5000 Marble Ave. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110.

Anyone wishing to arrange a Play-in is welcome to call Kitty Benton, 212/966-2776 for assistance.

Kitty coordinated and wrote up the 1993 Play-ins (see December Newsletter). Long an ACMP Advisory Council member, she has just been elected to ACMP's Board of Directors. We'll tell you more about her in June.

CLINTON FORD, VI/VLA B 1913-1992

Clinton Ford made important gifts to the future life of chamber music during his lifetime, as well as in the bequest that has allowed us to establish the ACMP Foundation. We thought members might like to know something about him.

A friend of Clinton Ford's remembers him remarking that he had three main interests: the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO), the stock market, and his violin. "In all three of these areas he has been eminently successful."

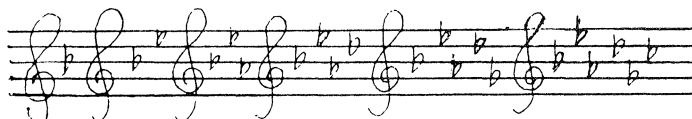
Mr. Ford recalled in his memoirs, published by AAVSO, how his interest in astronomy began: "[My father described] his father rudely awakening him at 3 or 4 AM so 'Poppa' could see 'The Great Comet of 1881.'...one of the most brilliant and spectacular comets in recorded history." The very next day, "Poppa" took young Clinton to the University of Michigan's observatory to see Trouvelot's painting of the Great Comet. "My 'burn' for astronomy was forever ignited," Ford writes.

This remark gives a flavor of Ford's rich enthusiasms. Over the entire span of his life Clinton Ford was deeply involved in the observation of variable stars. He collected data, prepared finding charts, encouraged and supported research by others, and contributed much information himself. Because of his own extensive work and his financial contributions, the AAVSO Variable Star Atlas exists today. The Clinton B. Ford Astronomical Data and Research Center is now the headquarters of the AAVSO in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Clinton Ford's musical life developed along with his interest in astronomy. He took violin lessons while growing up in Ann Arbor Michigan; he studied in Paris during fall and winter 1928 with a teacher from the Conservatoire who convinced him to take his musical life seriously. At Carleton College in the 1930's, he found—as do many—that violists were needed in the orchestra, and learned to play viola. There he met Theodore Finney, on the faculty at Carleton, whose weekly musical gatherings introduced Ford to the chamber music literature, starting a lifetime involvement.

Clinton Ford was a long-time member of ACMP. He played with Helen Rice in the yearly Brandenburg parties at her New York apartment. His friends remember collecting at his family home in Ovid N.Y. for weekends of "music marathons" where two or three quartets' worth of players and their families would enjoy themselves thoroughly. In the best tradition of chamber music-making, people who made their living playing could relax with friends, both old and new, who played only for the love of it.

Editor's note: ACMP Friends who remember Clinton Ford are invited to send their recollections to us for the Fall '94 Newsletter.



TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE on the new ACMP Foundation:

The organization of the foundation's activities is proceeding at a rapid pace. The Foundation now has its federal and state tax exemptions. In addition to the choice of Dan Nimetz as ACMP's Executive Director, the Board has been meeting by telephone; and in December, held its first quarterly meeting in New York city. Priorities at the December meeting were the efficient production of the Directories, and finding a new office for the ACMP.

The March meeting of the Foundation Board will focus on setting out grant guidelines and procedures.

INTRODUCING ACMP'S Executive Director

Many of you have already talked with him on the phone or received letters from him. He is Daniel M. Nimetz, and we are fortunate indeed to have him on board. Dan has the skill and experience to help us get the new ACMP Foundation off to a good start, while overseeing the traditional day-to-day operations of ACMP, Inc. itself.

Dan has spent the last five years as Early Music America's first executive director. This national organization, whose fast-growing membership is about equally divided between amateur and professional musicians, has distinguished itself most of all by its helpful services to individual members. Dan has also published EMA's respected biannual journal, *Historical Performance*, and has organized workshops and symposia for the early music field at large. Your Board was extremely impressed with Dan's accomplishments for EMA.

A professional French horn player, Dan also holds a PhD in musicology from Eastman School of Music. His first position was assistant professor of music at SUNY Albany from 1966-73. He has produced over 70 recordings for the Musical Heritage Society and his own Spectrum Records company. Dan has been principal French horn for several small-city symphony orchestras; he has taught French horn as well as music history; and, as ACMP's directors have discovered, he loves an evening of chamber music, whether spontaneous or carefully practiced for. Dan reads both French and German and speaks German, which should help us keep in touch with our European members.

We are delighted to have Dan joining us, look forward to the chance to play Brahms' horn trio with him once again - and hope that many of our members will soon come to know him personally.

TO CHANGE OUR NAME OR NOT?

As of this writing, 31 members have written us to tell us that we should make no change. Another 34 approve ACMP's proposed name, The ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBER MUSIC PLAYERS, Inc.: it seems more inclusive to them, and avoids the "amateurish" connotation. All our correspondents are unanimous on one thing: A changed name must not reflect any change in our character and purposes. With this idea ACMP's directors are also in unanimous agreement.

Those who want us to keep the word "Amateur" in ACMP are eloquent in their reasoning. Some fear that a

name change could suggest an overly professional or commercial orientation. As one member, now **Vc/B**, writes,

Association of Chamber Music Players, Inc. might as well describe a professional Guild or "trade" union. I joined long before I felt secure as a chamber music participant, but I was sure that I was a true Amateur. I don't think I would have joined an "association" of chamber music players. I wouldn't have had the nerve.

The professional and near-professional people we welcome are those who know what the term "amateurs" really means, and enjoy playing with them. Those who don't - do we really need them?

One correspondent suggests we seize the best of both worlds by using a subheading on all our publications as follows:

The ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBER MUSIC PLAYERS
Music-making for the Love of It

Another urges us simply to stick to our original name, and prove to the world in general - and younger players in particular - how various and dedicated "amateurs" can be. Write or call and tell us what you think.



Amerikaanse

Ook in Nederland?

MARGREET HOLLEMAN

U gaat op vakantie, maar u wilt beslist muziek maken in die heerlijke vrije weken! Wat nu? Er zijn gedreven amateur-musici in elk land en een flink aantal van hen heeft zich aangesloten bij de *Amateur Chamber Music Players*, een in New York gevestigde organisatie. De ACMP telt 4.000 leden, die elk beschikken over een lijst met

Vorig jaar deed een Amerikaanse violist Nederland aan ... per fiets en zonder viool! Ter voorbereiding van zijn tocht schreef hij ruim dertig brieven naar ACMP-leden in ons land. De reacties waren overweldigend: zijn agenda met aanbiedingen om te komen musiceren was overvol. Een instrument kon overal wel geregeld worden, geen probleem. In het verslag, dat hij achteraf voor de *Newsletter* schreef, zegt hij: 'I was overwhelmed by the responses and invitations I received and although I was careful to answer all letters, I can only regret not having had the opportunity to meet everyone who wrote. For those I was able to meet I

Publicity

Our Netherlands Advisory Council member, Felix van Raalte has sent us an article about the ACMP, *Amerikaanse muzikale gastvrijheid* by Margareet Holleman. It describes some experiences of ACMP players in Holland, and their hosts. Thank you, Felix!

The ACMP/Hartford Helen Rice Collection

Many of the 4500 works listed in its catalogues (3700 for strings, or strings with piano; 800 for winds, or winds with strings), are hard to find elsewhere. One of our members ordered 24 string quartets for a Play-in. As usual the library staff sent them out the following day, and this time, the US Post Office did its job: they arrived in plenty of time for a hard day's use - and a quick return so that others could borrow them.

The staff are aware of the delays in receiving music that some members have experienced, and are working to solve the problem - short of taking over the US Post Office.

To order the cumulative catalogue or make inquiries, call or write:

Music Department
Hartford Public Library
500 Main St.
Hartford, CT 06103
203/293-6000

A member comments on the inventory of chamber music shown in the Helen Rice Collection catalogue:

I recognize the prominent position of string quartets. BUT I am disturbed by non-recognition of the trio sonata literature which was "on the scene" from around 1685 to 1790 or so (musicologist I am not), and which is, in the cumulative catalogue, listed with piano trios from the classical and romantic period. Where I live, cellists are often not available to play string quartets. Trio sonatas reach many listeners, are flexible as to instrumentation - and for average players, the music doesn't break your fingers.

ACMP INTERNATIONAL

ACMP enthusiasts take to the Swiss mountains

More than 30 ACMP players joined the 1993 gathering organized by Colin Gray. He writes:

This year I was excellently assisted by Nelly Serpi of Basel and Elfriede Artinger of Germany, under the title European Associated Chamber Orchestra, in Switzerland.

For 2 weeks of October, the players were based at the Hindemith Foundation above Montreux, on Lake Geneva, combining a vast amount of chamber music playing with chamber orchestra concerts all around Switzerland. Symphonies by Haydn and Mozart and the premiere of a concerto grosso specially written for the players by Viennese ACMP composer/clarinetist Karlheinz Schrödl, plus a suitably dedicated performance of Hindemith's Trauermusik, were on the chamber orchestra programmes, with performances as far afield as Geneva and a tiny, sleepy village called Hérémente high in the hills near the Matterhorn.

Apart from European players from seven different countries, also present were ACMP New Zealand council member Jim Hessell and, from Arizona, violinist Dale Brubaker.

In addition to the informal chamber music, two special evening soirées were arranged at which, in the beautiful surroundings of the Hindemith chalet, players presented chamber music to each other, with a fair amount of wine flowing in friendship as well! Amongst the surprises in store, we discovered that we had eaten a meal of Ostrich (apparently a special dish in Switzerland). Five chamber

players turned up one evening in country yokel dress for Mozart's Musical Joke, and at the high-altitude Hérémente concert, we all discovered how "roasted cheese" plus wine before a concert can have amusing effects!

The close family spirit of the ACMP/EACO venture grows by the year, as we see the same wonderful faces in a range of countries, bringing the Directory to life. In 1994 (the last 2 weeks of July) we will be bringing the venture back to England, the country where it began 5 years ago, with a special programme of events planned in beautiful countryside to make this a quite outstanding menu of chamber music plus chamber orchestra delicacies.

If you are interested in joining the 1994 gathering, Colin would be delighted to hear from you - his address is 16 Redcote, Pixham Lane, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1PT, England.

A special opportunity for travelers...

...similar to that offered by Colin Gray is a Czech music festival, open to chamber musicians who would find their own playing partners by day. ACMP board member Sonya Monosoff met Mr. Jan Kvapil recently between the performances and baroque violin classes she was giving in the Czech Republic. Mr. Kvapil writes:

I would like to offer your Chamber Music Players 3 week-long stays (July 3-10, 10-17, and/or 17-24) in wonderful South Bohemian towns Bechyně and Týn nad Vltavou. The South Bohemian Music Festival is taking place in both of these towns at this time. Every evening a concert will be performed by top Czech and foreign musicians. Master Classes (piano, violin, cello, recorder) are also offered. Chamber Music Players can have lessons also, though it is necessary to book these ahead. If there is an interest, we could arrange sight-seeing tours to the renaissance town Tele, the water castle Červená Lhota or the medieval castle town Český Krumlov.

The prices are:

Accommodations: \$150-300 per week (depends on number of persons in a room - 1 or 2 - and on place: hotel, private accommodation, student home)

Food: \$70-150 per week (3 meals a day. Price depends on type - student dinner or restaurant).

Concert tickets: Ticket for all concerts in a week: \$40.

Lessons: The price of a lesson depends upon a teacher (optional).

Sightseeing: The price depends on the number of persons (optional).

Application must be sent before April 1, 1994, to my address:

Jan Kvapil
Polská 7
120 00 PRAHA 2
CZECH REPUBLIC
or fax to the number 0042/2/264626.

This could be an ideal holiday for your string quartet!

IF YOU HAVEN'T YET SENT BACK YOUR UPDATE FORM, PLEASE BE SURE TO DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - AFTER CHECKING ALL INFORMATION TO MAKE CERTAIN IT IS CORRECT.

MUSIC CATALOGUING SYSTEM

In December we published an interesting ad from Sven Eriksen, of Australia, a capable cellist (Vc A-) and a computer specialist. We have learned that in April 1993 Sven suffered a nasty accident, severely damaging four fingers on his right hand. However, his fingers were sewn back on by extraordinary Australian micro-surgeon, and now, nine months later, he is again able to play the cello.

During his convalescence Sven passed the time in front of his personal computer screen developing what he calls his Music Cataloguing System, MUSCAT for short.

Sven writes that he is glad to make MUSCAT available to interested ACMP members. He and we suggest that if you can – and would like to – reciprocate, you send him one of your favorite CD's in return. Write or call

Sven Eriksen, 3 Joyce Avenue, Glen Waverley,
Victoria 3150, Australia
(03) 560-0806



IT'S LOVE

MUSCAT - What is it?

I am an avid lover of music, so I spend large amounts of time either playing music myself or listening to recordings. I made MUSCAT because I had trouble keeping track of my recorded music on compact disks, tape cassettes, etc. For example, I could never remember on which CD or tape cassette a particular recording was to be found, so I would often search the entire collection, and possibly still not find it.

If you have had the same sort of experience, MUSCAT may well be what you need. I now have an up-to-date Music Catalogue and all my CDs and tape cassettes carry easy-to-read sleeves with just the right information in readable print.

What will MUSCAT do?

MUSCAT will ask you questions about your recorded music, and given fairly accurate answers, will be able to produce a Music Catalogue for you as well as print neat sleeves for your compact disks, audio tape cassettes, digital audio tapes, digital compact cassettes, etc.

What computers will MUSCAT run on?

MUSCAT Version 1.0 was deliberately designed and built for use on the simplest and smallest IBM Personal Computers and others controlled by the IBM invented Disk Operating System (DOS). Later versions of MUSCAT may change this philosophy. MUSCAT Version 1.0 will run even on an old IBM PC/XT under DOS 2.0.

Sample Entries From Music Catalogue

MUSIC CATALOG 26 AUG 93

COMPOSER NAMES BEGINNING 'S'

Sammartini, G. Recorder Concerto in F
Academy of St. Martin in the Fields
Michala Petri (recorders)
Iona Brown (conductor)
Recording is on CD 029 at Track 2

Schubert, F. String Quartet D. 804, A Minor
Alban Berg Quartet
Recording is on ATCO25 at Track B/00:00

Sven finishes his letter with:

P.S. I think ACMP is a great idea. I have had many pleasant experiences together with ACMP members on my travels in Europe and at home here in Australia. Treasurer Don Spuehler and his wife paid us a visit in Melbourne a couple of years ago and we played the Schubert 2-cello quintet.

Advocacy for... ACTIVE NEW ENGLANDERS

Though we try hard not to promote commercial ventures, no matter how worthy, we gladly let our members know about volunteer efforts to bring chamber musicians together. The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) Music Committee members are past masters at such arrangements. If you like the idea of coming "to the South Shore for a day of informal chamber music, choral singing and hiking," as their latest invitation puts it, or following the blazing autumn leaves to "the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center at the base of Mount Washington...for a weekend of hiking and music making" - including orchestral and choral readings - call or write to ACMP member

Ms. Martha Ann Jaffe
Chair, AMC Music Comm.
31 Parker St.
Newton Center, MA 02159
617/244-0955

AMC organizes Saturday and weekend play-ins throughout the year.

Amateur Ads

If the Board of Directors of ACMP and other members are interested in any information about musical life in Siberia and particularly in Novosibirsk, I would gladly send it. Please write or call:
Ms. Oxana Gaman
Gorkogo 104-16
Novosibirsk 630099
Russia
Phone: 23-76-81

I am looking for the score (i.e. parts) of the STRING QUARTET BY GEORGE W. CHADWICK, especially #5. I don't know whether it is in print, but I have been unable to find it. Please contact
Hanna Eichwald
124-16 84th Road, Apt. 5G
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
718/441-6963