
AMATEUR CHAMBER MUSIC PLAYERS

1123 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10010

Newsletter, June 1995

FROM THE ACMP CHAIRMAN

"Stick close to your desks and never go to sea,
And you all may be Rulers of the Queen's Navee"
(But you'll never be Chairman of the ACMPee)

Now that I have been catapulted into the ACMP Chairman's chair, I am more than ever aware that being an advocate for amateur music involves traveling around, both in person and through the mails, making contact with individuals who play and sing music for fun.

The shoes that I am stepping into were most recently filled by Cecilia Drinker Saltonstall. Cecilia saw the ACMP through unprecedented change as your Board acknowledged Clinton Ford's gift, and then set up the ACMP Foundation. Last fall Cecilia was sufficiently troubled by her arthritis that she felt it necessary to resign her position as Chair. I am happy to report to you that surgery and steadfast physiotherapy have arrested the arthritis, and Cecilia remains on the Board, vigorous in her correspondence with members and in her involvement with all aspects of ACMP activities. Although at this time she cannot play her stringed instruments, she is busy with her recorders, and I have it on excellent authority that she has been seen playing *bass drum* in orchestral concerts. I am in regular contact with Cecilia, and I appreciate her experience and her wise counsel.

Cecilia's predecessor, Susan Lloyd, has been Editor/Co-editor of our Newsletter for many years, including through her five-year term as Chair. In passing on her job, she wrote that she thought that being Chair consisted "most of all of three tasks: listening, encouraging, and mediating." These things Sue did extraordinarily well; in addition she regularly brought Board members up to date about ACMP happenings. I will keep Sue's words in mind during my time as Chairman.

It is difficult to imagine a Board that would make it easier and more fun to be Chairman. The Board members are there because they want to be there; they are passionate about encouraging music-making for pleasure, and they are all active, in various ways, in promoting the spirit of the ACMP. They have kept me informed about their activities, and I have already leaned on each one for assistance and advice.

Advisory council members too are music enthusiasts; they have been generous with ideas, suggestions, and questions. Thanks to communications from them and from many other members, we are in touch with amateur musicians around the world. Dan Nimetz (*Hn A*) has now been running our New York office for nearly 18 months. With the assistance of Daniela Pierson (*Vla C*) he has put together Directories and Supplements, answered questions from members and prospective members, and assured the smooth running of ACMP as well as Foundation business. I am in frequent telephone contact with Dan, and I visit the office several times a year.

I encourage you to be in touch--by letter, telephone, or e-mail--with Board and Advisory Council members, with our

New York office, and of course with other ACMP members. After all, the primary purpose of our organization is contact among people who love participating in chamber music!

- Jane Wilson



BOOKS AND ARTICLES RECOMMENDED BY OUR MEMBERS

In response to your notice for Good Writing about amateur playing may I recommend a book called *A View from the Stands* by Peter Akehurst published by Nova Music Limited, Goldsmid Mews, 15a Farm Road, Hove, E. Sussex BN3 1FB, England. It is a very amusing book and his chapters on Chamber Music--Moving into the Small time and Picking up the Pieces---are obviously written from the author's personal experiences.

- Joan Wilkinson, England

Music in the Wood, by Cornelia Cornelissen, photographed by John MacLachlan. It is published by Delacorte Press. This is a book ostensibly for children, but really for all ages, which combines absolutely stunning black and white photographs with beautifully balanced text, describing the making of a baroque cello. We follow the process from a photo of pieces of wood stacked in the violin maker's studio, through careful descriptions and photographs of every step as the violin maker shapes, cuts, tunes, varnishes, to a Compact Disc (included in the back of the book) of cellist Roel Dieltiens performing some of the Third Bach Suite for unaccompanied cello, and a Boccherini sonata on his newly made instrument.

- Sally Bagg, ed.

MUSIC RECOMMENDED BY MEMBERS

Alexander Fisher writes:

I was impressed by Mr. Gordon Raisbeck's list of trios for Viola. Due to the fact that for many years now we have not had a cello player, I have collected quite a few pieces for VI-Vla-Pf trio, many of which have been mentioned by him. I wish to make some additions to his list as follows:

IGNATZ LACHNER: Trios in B-flat, Op. 37; in G, Op. 45; in D, Op. 58; in d, Op. 89. Friedrich Hofmeister, Leipzig.

CARL STAMITZ: Symphony concertante. Knewlsin, Basel.

A. LINDBLAD: Trio in g, Op. 10. Schott.

ADOLF WEIDIG: Trio, Op. 9. Schott.

I also wish to mention to viola players the VI/Vla Duos (I have four) by Alessandro Rolla, as well as his Concerto for Viola.



Jochen Schwichtenberg wrote in to recommend the Lachner trios as well.

From Marilyn Reid comes the following list of "several chamber works that my friends and I have enjoyed performing:"

MADELEINE DRING: Trio for Fl, Ob, Pf. Josef Weinberger Ltd.
MAURICE MOSZKOWSKI: Suite in g, Op. 71; 2 Vl, Pf. International #979.
CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS: Caprice on Danish and Russian Airs, Op. 79; Fl, Ob, Cl, Pf. International.
ARTHUR FOOTE: *A Night Piece*; Fl, 2 Vl, Vla, Vc. Southern Music Co.
JOSEPH CLOKEY: work for organ, Pf.

Judith Rattenbury writes,

I am slightly embarrassed to find I am mentioned in the December 1994 newsletter as recommending Spohr's Quintet, Op. 33 No.2. I do recommend it but was not directly responsible for the plug. Those in the know might consider it a bit of back door advertising since it is my company, SJ Music, that publishes it.

However, having absolved myself of that, I would like ACMP members to know that SJ Music specializes in publishing 18th and 19th string chamber music and that we are always looking for suggestions. In fact it was Dr. Whitby from Ontario, another ACMP person mentioned in the same newsletter, who suggested publishing Spohr quintets. SJ Music publications are currently available in the USA from: Joseph Patelson and Frank Music in New York; Yesterday Service in Cambridge, MA; Elbe Music in Iowa City.

Editor's note: We have received requests for help from members who want to order the Spohr quintet. Here is the answer!

Joan Wilkinson writes as well to recommend the chamber music of ALAN RAWSTHORNE (1905-1971), a British composer. His works are published by Oxford University Press, Music Department, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP; Boosey and Hawkes, The Hyde, Edgware Road, London NW9 6JN; and Warner Chappell Music Ltd., Woodford Trading Estate, Southend Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 8HN, all in England.

A STUDY WHICH LINKS SCIENCE AND MUSIC

Madeline Frank, *Vl/Vla Pro*, has sent a request to ACMP for help from members: *I need to show the importance of studying a musical instrument from childhood through adulthood and am working to show a correlation between music study and the disciplines of medicine, science, and mathematics... I believe data supporting a positive correlation between these disciplines and music study would go far in changing the American public school system.*

Editor's note: While ACMP does not keep figures on the occupations of its members, physicians, scientists, and mathematicians who would like to help Ms. Frank in her study are invited to write to her at 2 MacIrvin Drive, Newport News VA 23606.

ON-LINE

Don Cohen informs us that Sven Eriksen's MUSCAT, a Music Cataloguing Program for use on a PC, is now available on the Internet and may be down-loaded. It can be found in the "ACMP Repository."

GOOD NEWS NOTES

♪ Alexander Eltman sends word of a happy discovery:

Recently, I was browsing through the 1994 Special Supplement, and came across the name of Herbert Fiss. I attended Alexander Hamilton High School in Brooklyn, NY in 1927-29. Orchestra was a major subject there. I recalled, when I read the supplement, that our concertmaster was a young man named Fiss. Sure enough, he was one and the same! ...I plan to visit him, with my violin. I eagerly await the experience of playing music with someone I haven't played with in 66 years.



Margaret Sullivan (cello) celebrated her 93rd birthday by inviting her musician friends to a dinner party, and then an evening of chamber music. We can see from the photo that they played Mozart; and the editor wonders what else was played on that very special evening.

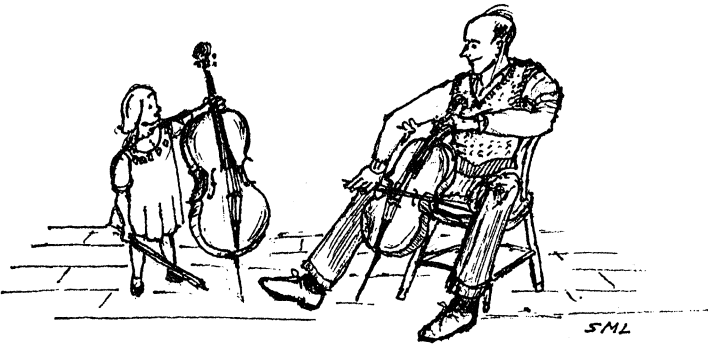
TELEPHONE-BOOTH VIOLA

It may be impossible to play a viola in a telephone booth, but not a viola made from a telephone booth. From Alan Pollard comes a wonderful anecdote about Virginia Apgar, the physician who invented the Apgar score, first appearing in *The Medical Post*, a journal for physicians published in Toronto. Terry Murray, the reporter who researched the story and who has given us permission to use it, wrote that Dr. Apgar was a close friend of Carleen Hutchins (see Bulletin Board) who has done so much to explore acoustical quality in all stringed instruments. The two women had spotted a shelf in a phone booth near Columbia University in New York; it was of exactly the right sort of wood, curly maple. They tried to buy the shelf through normal channels, to no avail. So they made a replacement shelf, stained it the exact stain, went back to the booth to install it--and found it to be too long. Hurrying to a public washroom, Hutchins sawed it down to size while Dr. Apgar stood watch. This was fortunate, as a nurse, hearing strange sawing noises in the lavatory, came to see what was happening. "It's the only time repairmen can work in there," Dr. Apgar told her. This same viola with the telephone-booth back was played at a concert, by the Apgar String Quartet, during the ceremony unveiling the 20-cent Apgar stamp late in October '94.

NEW NORTH AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alvin Wen began his studies on the violin as a student of Kenneth Sarch and Mary Hess. While at Phillips Academy in Andover MA, he became a student of Mimi Bravar, who in due time convinced him to take up the viola. As an undergraduate at Harvard College, Alvin found time to play principal viola in the Harvard-Radcliffe orchestra and spent a summer at the Castleman Quartet Program. He graduated with a degree in computer science. He took a year off from the computer industry for graduate viola studies at Juilliard, but returned to software engineering, his dreams of a musical career sidetracked by a need for food and shelter. Alvin is a native of Worcester, MA, currently residing in the Boston area. He is married to Alexandra Moellmann, a professional violist.

Artist **David Yang** studied viola at Manhattan School of Music and architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. When not traipsing around the industrial ruins on the fringe of New York City, he spends at least two nights a week playing chamber music around town. He is currently leading a pilot program in New York to introduce ACMP to people in their '20s and '30s.



ACMP INTERNATIONAL: FOUNDATION NEWS

The ACMP Foundation has had as one of its goals, the encouragement of chamber music playing around the world. Sonya Monosoff sends word:

For the past four years I have been coaching chamber music classes in the Moravian town of Valtice, a small town with a large castle and an impressive cathedral. In the summer of 1994 I coached three young Czech musicians in the Beethoven String Trio in c minor, Op. 9. Even though they had been studying the literature of their respective instruments for many years, they had never before had instruction in any of the standard chamber music works. They were so eager to work and so inspired by the experience that they are now trying to establish a music school, in their northern Moravian city, where chamber music will be a part of the school's agenda. I have confidence that it will happen. They have all joined ACMP and have thus become members of our unique international community.

They will work with me again this summer in Valtice. It occurred to me that a summer fellowship in the United States would help them in terms of repertoire and teaching skills. I

turned to the Apple Hill Players who, for many years, have had an international program for professionals and amateurs. Although Apple Hill's recruitment of young musicians has been primarily in Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Syria, they are expanding their activities to Eastern Europe. They have given full scholarships to the three young musicians to attend their International Program in August.

We are grateful to CSA Czech Airlines for generously agreeing to provide a major portion of the airfare. The seventy-year old airline of the Czech Republic is the only carrier which flies non-stop between Prague and the United States. The ACMP Foundation will cover remaining transportation costs. Prague is one of the most beautiful cities of Europe, and its year-long musical activities are equalled only by those of London and New York.

The International outreach program of ACMP Foundation was launched at the Board Meeting last January when we voted to honor the request of International Advisory Council member David William-Olsson to fund, albeit partially, transportation for Latvian and Estonian musicians to attend chamber music programs in Sweden and in Finland. Our rationale for initially granting funds to eastern European musicians is their almost total lack of resources. This was evident in 1991 when Robert McIntosh and I made our exploratory trip for ACMP to Bratislava, Prague, Crakow and Budapest. Since then support for the arts in the former Communist countries has become even more meager. The ACMP Foundation is pleased to be able to assist, given our mission to encourage the playing of chamber music for the love of it in places where encouragement is sorely needed.

ACMP INTERNATIONAL: MEMBER NEWS

Greetings arrived at the ACMP office during the month of January from Vladimir Fährnich of Prague. He has been a member since 1967, when Richard Gibian introduced him to ACMP and to Helen Rice (our founding secretary), who of course wrote to him. He treasures her letters. Mr. Fährnich says that his late mother studied piano at the Prague Conservatory during the time of Dvořák, and loved to play piano chamber music all her life. She kept a book which recorded all the chamber music sessions which took place, who was there, and he says that it was truly international: 114 sessions with people from the United States, Canada, Brazil, Chile, Australia, Japan, England, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and Hungary, all because of the ACMP!

We hope that many more gatherings will take place in Prague because of our directories. Thank you, Mr. Fährnich, for sending this news.

From **Bucharest**, Dr. Petru Dan writes that they are greatly enjoying chamber music evenings with the help of the directories; they very much want ACMP members to contact them when in Bucharest. They hope to be able to travel also.

LETTERS

Helen Rice Collection

A note of thanks for the Helen Rice Chamber Music Collection.

We're at least an hour's travel from a good music store and usually end up mail-ordering music, which can take lengthy amounts of time. Although I was eventually able to find and purchase a copy of the Mozart Oboe Quartet for my daughter to use for the Connecticut High School All-State Auditions, I was able to borrow the piece from the Helen Rice Collection so she could begin studying it this past summer.

This was not the first time I've turned to the Helen Rice Collection for help to "bridge the gap" and make both my daughter and her teacher happy--so I'm taking this opportunity to say thank you, both for the availability of the collection and also for making life with a teenaged oboe a fraction less frantic.

- MAM, Connecticut

Editor's note: This member, like dozens of others, has told us of her pleasure in the Fall '94 Newsletter. Thank you! We know it was long—but ACMP members have words as well as music; we do enjoy all we learn from your stories and your ideas, and we pass them on to other members as often as space permits.

Suggestions

I noticed in the last newsletter that a member mentioned having a left-handed violin student. I hope that that student is not being taught to play a backwards violin (right hand fingering, left hand bowing), since a regular violin is not a "right-handed" instrument. Rather, all the regular string instruments require skill with both hands. Also, a person playing backwards will always create awkward situations playing in orchestras. Finally, there are few backwards violins made, so a person has little choice when looking for a good, affordable instrument.

With all respect to those people who play "left-handed" violins, I strongly urge violin teachers to think of instruments as being "regular" or "backwards," not "right- or left-handed." Regular violins are for all beginners. Thank you.

- AC, Illinois

It would be nice to have listings of music for small groups of winds, and wind (flute for me) -string combinations, especially new music. Most of your chamber music collection is for strings only.

I've never seen you mention the fact that there are chapters of the National Federation of Music Clubs all across the country. I belong to one in Florida in the winter. Many of those members play chamber music. Some also have joined ACMP after networking with other musicians as a Federation Chapter. It is another resource for musicians.

- JNC, Florida

To JNC: Thank you for both suggestions.

Wd like to make a suggestion with regard to the directory: The expression "Available Weekdays" apparently gets interpreted differently by different people. I believe it is intended to mean

"Available during the day on weekdays," e.g. the person is not working full time every day.

- EN, Maryland

Editor's note: Exactly right. Updaters, please take note.

I again suggest it is unnecessary to have yearly printing of the Directory. Every other year is more than enough. Why not poll the members and see what they want, including financial impact of every 1, 2, or 3 years?

- AK, California

Editor's note: We appreciate your concern that ACMP use its resources wisely. Our ACMP board has discussed your ideas that we abandon the yearly supplements to each directory, and combine International and North American Directories into one biennial publication. We've concluded that the supplements are money well spent. The growing size of both supplements seem to tell the story: veteran members often change addresses or entry information; new members like to be listed as soon as possible. Computer technology now minimizes listing expenses, while our routine twice-yearly mailings (including Fall and Spring newsletters) allow members to spread news of upcoming events as well as to learn of directory updates.

A poll? Maybe. There are other questions we might add. Thanks for your suggestion.

Musical Travels

I just had a visit with Vivienne Pittendrigh. I have attended many of her Holidays and Festivals, most recently in Prague and Corfu last year. What a city! What a quartet festival! What a great time! The Prague International Quartet Festival was a rare experience. Enough of that--I've been with ACMP lo these many years. What great work you are doing there.

- RM, Florida

Editor's note: For information on Chamber Music Holidays, see Bulletin Board.

I returned from a long trip through Europe, where I was greeted in Prague by friends of Sonya Monosoff. And shortly thereafter came a call from Germany...the German musicians soon arrived in Australia, backpacking, and we had a memorable evening. I welcome all members approaching Australia to phone or write so similar evenings can be enjoyed.

- Sonia Letourneau, Australia

On Line

Many thanks for your many services.

Your "communications" keep getting better and better! Delighted to know about Don Cohen's On-line ideas and plan to join in on the fun.

- EW, Massachusetts

On-Line? Enthusiastically yes. Don Cohen and Internet are already helping me with playing dates.

- AS, Israel

Would like to see interesting information and perhaps out of print music made available to members with e-mail addresses. This would encourage members to get on the internet and

thereby bring us closer together. I have already had a couple of requests for sessions by e-mail.

- JZ, California

We organize an amateur string orchestra which meets once a month from September through May and would be pleased to see anyone visiting the area.

- Erika Harding, England

Thoughts, Whispers, Shouts

While I personally have done virtually no chamber music in the last two decades, this is only because my life was enriched by too many other activities.

But--I love chamber music, I listen to it a lot. Often that listening gives a boost to enjoying life in a manner hard to describe to anyone not himself a devotee.

Therefore, I do support your group of wonderful fellow chamber music enthusiasts, and I'd appreciate it if you keep my name in your membership list--just for the record.

- AL, Indiana

Proposal: To hire a big ship for all ACMP members for some weeks and make music from morning to the evening with the background of water or sea, combined with the possibility of visiting interesting places. What do you think of that?

- AG, Germany

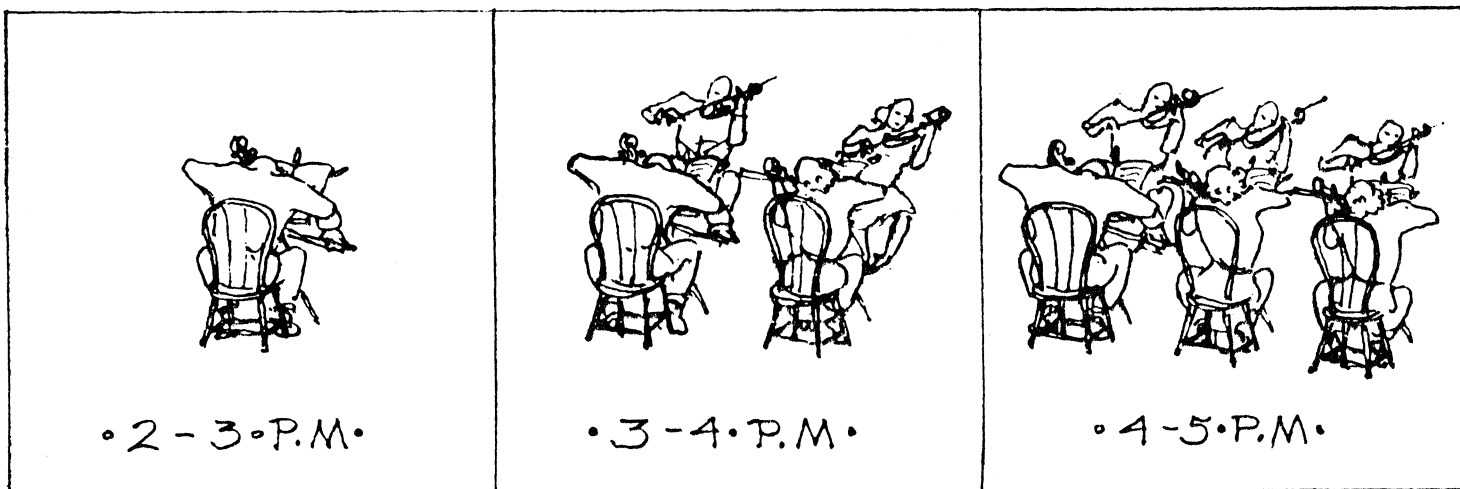
At last--that wonderful Atlantic story--available through ACMP. We were subscribers at the time--and lost the story 30 some years ago, despite intending to keep it and share. So--once again "Hail" to Helen Rice's fulfilled dream with ACMP. Thank you, sir!

- EB, California

Help! We need more players in mid Vermont!

- PA, Vermont

♪ ♪ ♪ ♪



Thomas Mott Shaw demonstrates how chamber music EXPANDS
through an afternoon at a houseparty or Play-in. More coming, Fall '95.

FOUNDATION FOOTNOTE

Twenty community music schools in the United States and Canada have received ACMP Foundation awards during the past academic year. Many of them present frequent informal chamber music recitals featuring students of all ages and skill levels who are benefiting from the grants. ACMP members are encouraged to support these school's chamber music activities by attending programs and perhaps participating in their other offerings. You might also meet some new and future members.

Here are the schools and locations, in alphabetical order:

Bloomington House of Music (New York City); Brooklyn Music School (Brooklyn, NY); Community Music School (Allentown, PA);

Community Music School of Collegeville (Trappe, PA); Community School of Music and Arts (Ithaca, NY); Concord Community Music School (Concord, NH); Darlington Fine Arts Center (Wawa, PA); David Hochstein Memorial Music School (Rochester, NY); Brattleboro Music Center (Brattleboro, VT); Indian Hill Arts (Littleton, MA); Manchester Community Music School (Manchester, NH); Merit Music Program (Chicago, IL); Music Center of the Northwest (Seattle, WA); Nevada School of the Arts (Mesquite, NV); Northampton Community Music Center (Northampton, MA); Settlement Music School (Jenkintown, PA); Victoria Conservatory of Music (Victoria, BC).

Twenty-eight additional schools will receive ACMP Foundation grants beginning with the 1995-96 academic year.

ACMP BULLETIN BOARD

Chateau d'Oeux/Gstaad, Switzerland.
CHAMBER MUSIC WORKSHOP, 7-10 September, 1995. ***Star Hotel. André Rochat, Genève, Director and 3 teachers. You may of course stay longer and take excursions to Montreux, Bern, Interlaken, etc. For detailed program, Fax (41) 22 751 26 58.

BRITISH PROFESSIONAL Violinists of Today: a directory of achievement, current activity, and their related ensembles. *The Marcan Handbook of Arts Organisations:* a compendium of information on the activities and publications of UK and Ireland regional and international arts and cultural organizations. Extensive listings for classical music. Available for \$45.00 air mail postage included from Peter Marcan:
PO Box 3158, London SE1 4RA

A.M.A., **FRENCH ASSOCIATION** of amateur players: Annual gathering in La Barboule, Monts Dore, France, 3-14 July, 1995. For further information and enrollment form contact:

Association Hauts de Jamme
Mairie. BP 81
F-63150 La Barboule

We're looking for musicians/families to help co-op an **1893 MANSION** in a SE Vermont village. Great place for chamber music vacations. Four shares at about \$50,000 each. Call Laura Chalfin at 607/746-6829 for details.

DELAWARE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL, July 24-28, 1995. St. Mary's Church, Delaware OH. Small ensemble coachings, individual instrument classes, 2 levels of chamber orchestra. All ages and abilities welcome; strings, woodwinds, piano. Contact:
Deborah Price, Director
242 North Sinsbury Drive
Worthington OH 43085; 614/848-3312

CHAMBER MUSIC HOLIDAYS started in London in 1984 with the help of the ACMP newsletter. This year Festivals will be in Corfu (June and September), in Prague (July and September), and Beethoven on Board--a Caribbean cruise in November. Do join us! Contact Vivienne E. Pittendigh:
Chamber Music Holidays and Festivals
57 Chatsworth Road
Bournemouth BH8 8SL
Tel. (44) 01202 528328; Fax 01202 524081

STUDENT EXCHANGE: French family wishes to send violinist son, age 17, to the USA for 3-4 weeks in July '95; in exchange they will welcome a student to their home near Paris for 3-4 weeks in August '95. M and Mme François, son Sebastien.
1, rue de la Maison Brulée
F-94100 St Maur des Fosses
(33) 1 48 83 91 27

Piano trio seeking **LIGHT MUSIC:** pop, show tunes, ballads, etc. VI-Vc-Pf. Valerie Harris, 341 Dennis Boulevard, Pt. Townsend WA 98368. 206/385-5671.

WASHINGTON, DC Metropolitan Area Chamber Music Directory Project. The Adult Music Student Forum, Inc. is compiling a directory of adult amateur musicians in the Washington DC area who are interested in playing chamber music. If you would like to be included in the directory or would like more information, call or write Susan Green:
3312 Fessenden Street NW
Washington DC 20008-2033
202/364-7366

Carleen M. Hutchins **VIOLA**, SUS #54, which was owned by Sidney Fox of Bethlehem PA, available from the Estate. To see this fine instrument contact Carleen Hutchins:
112 Essex Avenue
Montclair NJ 07042

The **SENIOR ADULT CHAMBER MUSIC PLAYERS** of the 92nd Street Y invite you to join them every Thursday from 10:30 am. - 12:30 pm. (free trial period). For information call Helen Bernstein, Director, Senior Adult Program, 212/415-5636 or Ted Baumgold, Chamber Music Coordinator, 203/325-4910.

LOOKING URGENTLY for 2 violinists, 1st and 2nd, to form a quartet with me (Vla B) and a cellist to participate in the course at Fürsteneck Castle (near Frankfurt am Main) between 13-17 October, 1995. Please write to Benjamin Yahalom:
PO Box 6379
Haifa 31060, Israel; (972) 04-378698

Please note: The ACMP Bulletin Board is open to all members for their use. Inclusion of an announcement reflects neither approval nor disapproval by the Board of Directors of ACMP.

*There let the pealing organ blow
To the full-voiced choir below,
In service high and anthems clear—
As may, with sweetness, through mine ear
Dissolve me into ecstasies;
And bring all heaven before mine eyes.*

John Milton, 1608-74

