

## Second Annual Double Reed Day at California State University Fresno, February 28, 1998

By Betty Asher  
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California is a land of milk and honey, and out there in the midst of the Central Valley with its dairy farms and orchards with bee hives sits "Fresno State", one of California's little-known treasures. Fresno State champions education in some lesser-known fields such as land surveying and double reed music. The Second Annual Double Reed Day presented by music faculty **Larry Gardner**, bassoon, and **Jose "Joe" Diaz**, oboe, revealed that treasure to over one hundred delighted double-reeders.

Participants ranged from almost-beginners to those with a generous growth of gray - or no - hair. Larry and Joe designed a conference that contained information of interest to all, from warming up to master class discussions of concerto interpretations. Special guests, **Daniel Stolper**, oboe (of Michigan State University), and **Christopher Weait**, bassoon (of Ohio State University), shared their years of playing and teaching know-how with all of the enthusiastic attendees. In addition to master classes covering diverse selections from the bassoon and oboe repertoires, topics presented included "Warm up techniques", "Toward more expressive playing through articulation and nuance", and "Practicing for those who hate it."

Not only did the participants get to hear these fine artists live in a delightful program, but they were able to join with them in a "big-band" concert at the end of the day. With music arranged and provided by Mr. Weait, 27 oboes, 24 bassoons, and three contras rehearsed and performed works by Bach, Palestrina, and Handel. Hearing that sound of massed double reeds - amazingly almost in tune - is the stuff that memories are made of.

Many thanks are due to the members of the music industry who brought displays and advertised in the program. Without their support special days such as this could not happen: Thanks to Fox Products Corporation, Forrests Music, Mark



*Dan Stolper master class on the Barret Articulation Studies.*



*Chris Weait conducting the participants in the Grand Finale.*

Chudnow Woodwinds, and Flemming Music Shop. In addition California State University Fresno Associated Students Inc. and Mu Phi Epsilon contributed to the success of the day. Noteworthy and deserving of special gratitude and appreciation are the students who volunteered for the on-the-hot-seat master class demonstrations and Lenore Voth Hiebert, pianist extraordinaire, who with minuscule rehearsal time with the guest artists, enhanced the program with her sensitive accompaniments.

Plan to attend the Third Annual Double Reed Day in 1999! For further information contact José A. Diaz at 209-278-2620 or (josed.csufresno.edu). ❖