

Oboists in the News

By Dan Stolper
Lansing, Michigan

Some ninety-three alumni and current students of **Richard Killmer** at the Eastman School of Music have formed a consortium, coordinated by **Jacqueline LeClair**, to commission Bernard Rands to write a piece for solo oboe. Entitled *Memo 8*, the work is a gift and salute to Mr. Killmer from his Eastman School students of the past eighteen years. Leclair will premiere *Memo 8* at the Weill Recital Hall in New York on December 12, 2000, and the "group premiere" performances by the commissioning alumni will take place around the United States and abroad on and after April 1, 2001. Rands' *Memo 8* is the latest in his series of pieces for solo instruments, and will be published by Helicon Press. The published work will include a dedication to Mr. Killmer from the commissioning students and alumni.

Oboist **Lisa Silver** won first prize in the woodwind division of the Artist International Second Annual Music Competition on September 14, 2000 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. At this event, sponsored by the Toronto School of Music, Ms. Silver performed the Handel *Sonata in C Minor*, Schumann's *Romance No. 2*, and the first movement of the Hindemith *Sonate* with pianist Adolfo DeSantis. Woodwind musicians from the United States, Canada, China and Korea participated in the competition. Judges included Giuseppe Pastorello, singer and chairman of the Vincenzo Bellini Competition (Italy); Francisco Nunez, conductor of the Mexico City Symphony (Mexico); Oszkar Morzsa, pianist and conductor at the Liszt Conservatory (Hungary); and Colin Yip, president of the Toronto School of Music (Canada).

Other competitions of interest to oboists include the following:

The 6th International Oboe Competition of Tokyo, sponsored by the Sony Music Foundation, was held on November 13-20, 2000. Members of the jury included **Hansjorg Schellenberger**, solo oboist of the Berlin Philharmonic; **Maurice Bourgue**, professor at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris and at the Conservatoire de Musique de Geneve; **Gordon Hunt**, principal oboist of the Philharmonia Orchestra and of the London Chamber Orchestra;

Yoko Kojima, member of the NHK Symphony Orchestra and lecturer in oboe at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music; **Richard Killmer**, professor of oboe at the Eastman School of Music; **Seizo Maruyama**, former oboist of the NHK Symphony Orchestra and former professor at the Kunitachi College of Music; and **Takehiko Nitōri**, also a former oboist of the NHK Symphony Orchestra and professor at Seitoku University. In the final stage of the competition, held on November 20, the first prize was awarded to **Alexandre Gattet** (of France), who was also the winner of the Fernand Gillet Competition in 1999 (held in Madison, Wisconsin). No second prize was awarded, but two third prizes were awarded: to **Pavel Sokolov** (of Russia) and to **Sebastian Giot** (of France). The special Japan Air Lines award was won by **Takahiro Kase** (of Japan).

The 5th Isle of Wight International Oboe Competition will be held from May 8 to 13, 2001 at the Isle of Wight in the United Kingdom. Members of the jury include: **Lady Evelyn Barbirolli**, artistic director and chairman; the eliminating panel members are **Sarah Francis**, professor of the Royal College of Music, London; **Thomas Indermuhle**, professor at the Staatliche Hochschule in Karlsruhe (Germany); and **Richard Killmer**, professor at the Eastman School of Music and (starting in fall of 2000) visiting professor of oboe at Yale University and oboist with the New York Woodwind Quintet (in residence at the Juilliard School). The panel of judges includes: **Daniel Stolper**, professor of oboe at Michigan State University (East Lansing, Michigan, USA) and at the Interlochen Center for the Arts; **David Theodore**, principal oboist of the London Philharmonic and professor at the Guildhall School and at the Royal Academy of Music; **Han de Vries**, professor at the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam and formerly principal oboist of the Concertgebouw Orchestra; and **David Walter**, professor of oboe and chamber music at the Conservatoire Supérieur de Musique de Paris and at the Guildhall School in London. Deadline for entries is December 1, 2000, and details may be had from: Island Partners, Alpine House, 13 Alpine Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 1 BT (United Kingdom); telephone 44 (0)1983 853411; FAX 44 (0)1983 856411;

Email: oboecomp@islandpartners.co.uk; Website: www.wightonline.co.uk/oboecomp

The 50th International Music Competition of the ARD to be held in Munich September 4 to 21, 2001 includes a category for wind quintet. Double reed players on the jury of this prestigious competition include: **Nicholas Daniel**, oboist (of the United Kingdom), and bassoonists **Klaus Thunemann** (of Germany) and **Milan Turkovic** (of Austria). Details are available from Internationaler Musikwettbewerb, Bayerischer Rundfunk, Rundfunkplatz 1, D-80300 Munchen (Munich). Telephone: 89 - 5900-2471; FAX: 89 -5900-3573; Email: ard-conc@br-mail.de; Website: www.ard-musikwettbewerb.de

On March 25, 2000, the Akron Symphony premiered a new work for oboe, English horn and orchestra by Brazilian composer João Guilherme Ripper in the E. J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall in Akron, Ohio. The new work, entitled *Abertura Concertante* is dedicated to the 500th anniversary of the founding of Brazil. The soloists were **James Ryon** and **Cynthia Warren**, principal oboe and English horn respectively, of the Akron Symphony. Brazilian conductor Roberto Duarte conducted, and Brazilian soprano Gilda Ferrara also performed on the program. The commission of this work was made possible by a gift from Ets. de Gourdon (F. Lorée) of Paris. Professor Ripper,

Dean of the School of Music of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, attended the performance. James Ryon, who is also associate professor of oboe at the University of Akron School of Music, organized an entire concert of Brazilian music for this subscription concert of the Akron Symphony. Other works on the program included Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasilieras #5* and *Choros #6*, the W. Burle Marx *Samba Concertante*, and the M. Camargo Guarnieri *4 Poemas de Macunaima*. Dr. Jose Neistein, Director of the Brazilian American Cultural Institute in Washington, DC, represented the Brazilian Embassy at the event.

Oboists who really plan ahead (especially those living in Northern California) will want to mark March 30 and 31, 2001 on their calendars. **William Bennett**, principal oboist of the San Francisco Symphony will appear with the Modesto Symphony Orchestra, Darryl One, conductor, on those dates. He will perform the *Oboe Concerto in G Minor* by Handel, and *L'Horloge de Flore (The Flower Clock)* by Jean Francaix. Ticket information from the Modesto Symphony is available at 209/523-4156. ❖



William Bennett