

IDRS Elects Two New Honorary Members

At the recent Conference of the International Double Reed Society in Madison, Wisconsin, the members present unanimously elected two new Honorary Members. Joining the ranks of IDRS' most distinguished citizens were **Willard Elliot**, former principal bassoon of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra from 1964 to 1997, and **John Minsker**, former English horn soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Willard Elliot grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, and studied at North Texas University, Denton, and the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, where he earned a masters degree in composition by the age of 19! Prior to the Chicago Symphony, he spent three years with the Houston Symphony and eleven years with the Dallas Symphony. He joined the CSO in 1964 and enjoyed 32 uninterrupted years there as principal bassoon until his retirement on January 1st, 1997. He has appeared as a soloist with the orchestra under Sir George Solti, Seiji Ozawa, Jean Martinon, Antonio Janigro, Carlo Maria Giulini, Morton Gould, Lawrence Foster, and Claudio Abbado. He recorded the Mozart *Concerto* for Deutsche Grammophon under the baton of Abbado. He was also a member of the Chicago Symphony Chamber Wind Players, Chicago Symphony Winds, and the Chicago Pro Musica, which won a Grammy Award in 1986 for the best new classical group. As a composer he was co-winner of the Koussevitzky Foundation Award in 1961 for his *Elegy for Orchestra*. His *Concerto for Bassoon* has been performed at both Orchestra Hall and Ravinia Park in Chicago. His *Concerto for Two Bassoons and Orchestra (1950)* was performed by him and his student, **Maria Garavito**, at the Conference in Madison this year. In 1986, Willard and his wife, Pat, founded Bruyere Music



Publishers to publish and popularize his many compositions and arrangements. Besides his life-long interest in fossil collecting, Willard now has time to enjoy his two young sons, Joseph and Peter. He continues as part-time instructor of bassoon at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, where he has returned to live since his retirement. The IDRS is thrilled to have Willard join the ranks of Honorary Membership in the Society.

John Minsker, oboe, was born on January 23, 1912 in Charleston, West Virginia. John Minsker began studying the violin as a pupil of Franz Kneisel and performed in the National High School Orchestra in 1926. In 1929 he began oboe study with George Crumb, Sr. John



entered the Curtis Institute of Music as a student of Marcel Tabuteau in 1931, but left before graduating to play English horn in the Detroit Symphony in 1934. In 1936 he was named solo English horn of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Leopold Stokowski, conductor, a position he held with great distinction for 25 years. Mr. Minsker held teaching positions at the Philadelphia Musical Academy, the Philadelphia Conservatory, the New School of Music, and was appointed to the Marcel Tabuteau Chair for Woodwind Studies at Curtis, a position he held from 1979-1985.

IDRS would like to thank the 1999 Honorary Membership Committee for their excellent work. Members of the committee were Lowry Riggins (chair), Laila Storch, and William Winstead. ❖