

made and thus rather expensive.

Berliners Frank Meyer as director and Ludwig Frank as master craftsman have dedicated themselves to once again making Markneukirchen the force it once was in the bassoon world. They were showing the latest Oscar Adler & Co. model 1361 and the brand new thick-walled Gebrüder Mönnig model 214.

Guntram Wolf had brought his prototype of the Contraforte, a radically new design. It is an all wood contra with an upturned bell, extended range and simplified fingering. **Arthur Grossman's** enthusiasm in demonstrating its qualities – you can actually talk about dynamics - was infectious. Best of all, we were promised that, when it soon goes into production, you need not rob a bank to afford it.

By coincidence (?) Heckel were also showing a contra with an upturned bell but to my eyes it looked like something drawn by a cartoonist.

I will conclude by saying that the high point of the

week for me was the recital full of grace by **Masahito Tanaka**. Others more eloquent will celebrate his life and work. I knew him only from his many LPs and CDs. The programme, with originals by Noël Gallon and Choji Kaneta as well as his own transcriptions of the Noblot *Melodie* (for cello ?) and the Doppler *Fantasie* (for flute ?), demonstrated his sovereign mastery of the instrument. It was interesting to note that the key work was just the basics without any extra keys or rollers. During the most impossible passages for co-ordinating tonguing and fingering the tone colour still retained its nobility. The encore, a “Hungarian” czardas by the Italian Vittorio Monti, also gave more than a hint at his sense of humour.

Masahito was to be seen everywhere during the week, listening intently to all the performances and the competition. Fortunately for us, his recordings will form a legacy of this true gentleman of the bassoon.

IDRS Sponsor-a-Member Program

Nancy Ambrose King
Ann Arbor, Michigan

The IDRS established a Sponsor-a-Member program in 1995 for the purpose of enabling double reed players from around the world to participate and enjoy the opportunities of membership in our organization through the sponsorship of current members. The primary purpose of the Sponsor-a-Member program is to attract to our society double reed players who because of economic circumstances would not otherwise be able to join the IDRS. This is an important outreach mission of our society. Since the program's inception, sponsored members from the Peoples' Republic of China, Vietnam, Lithuania, Ecuador, El Salvador, Romania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Ukraine, Tartarstan, Russia, and South Africa have become IDRS members through the generosity of sponsors. This coming year, a special effort will be made to assist our fellow double reed players in Argentina, whose hospitality was so enjoyed by all at our Buenos Aires conference, but who have been unable to sustain membership due to the economic crisis in their country. An additional aspect of the program has been the exchange of letters and com-

munications between sponsors and new members.

In coordination with Norma Hooks, Executive Secretary, I will be pairing sponsors with potential adopted members. IDRS will honor sponsors' requests for specific adopted members as well. Anyone may become a sponsor by requesting an adopted member and paying one year's dues for that individual. Sponsors may elect to pay an additional fee for first-class postage so that publications arrive more promptly.

IDRS is thankful to all sponsors who have participated in this worthwhile project in the past, and looks forward to new sponsors becoming active in the program. If you are interested in sponsoring a member, or know of a potential member who needs assistance, please contact me for more information at:

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