

DOUBLE REED NEWS OF INTEREST *(cont.)*

a work for oboe solo, for oboe and piano, for oboe and cembalo and finally, for oboe and string orchestra.

During these two days the four oboe manufacturers; Howarth, F. Lorée, Püchner and Rigoutat, were also present with their stands, exhibiting instruments for the public and students of the conservatoire.

This was a very intense festival for us all, the performers, including students from the conservatoire (Marta Hernandez Santos, oboe, Lisa Stockner, bassoon and Camilla Baraldi, piano) who also took part in the festival, public and exhibitors. We were able to share and learn so much from each other by listening to the different oboe sounds and styles of playing but also by relaxing with some good food and wine from the region. With Arnaldo de Felice's charming hospitality we all felt at home in such a beautiful part of Europe. It seemed that the fantastic view of the mountains from the town had a very relaxing and inspiring effect on the whole event.

We thank the organizers and the oboe companies for supporting this wonderful festival and hope that it was the first of more to come...

This One Time, at Band Camp . . .

Amy Gallick | Topanga, California

The Idyllwild Summer Arts program in the San Jacinto Mountains of Southern California kicked off this year with sunny blue skies, the scent of pines in the air, and the euphoric hopefulness that always comes with the start of summer camp. That all changed at the end of the first day when a wildfire started, just a few miles away from the campus. For the first two days of camp, the fire kept its distance and burned comfortably away from the town. We watched it warily, not really believing that it would come near us. Then, without much warning, the winds shifted in our direction. On the third day, a massive cumulonimbus smoke plume hung menacingly over the campus, and for the first time since the fire had started, we could smell smoke in the air. The ridge glowed nearby, backlit by the fire at night, and we wondered if the flames would crest it and overtake the town.



DOUBLE REED NEWS OF INTEREST (cont.)



Idyllwild symphony bassoons



Idyllwild symphonic band bassoons

DOUBLE REED NEWS OF INTEREST *(cont.)*



The Refugee Octet

As we were getting ready to head to dinner, breathless counselors went from room to room, announcing an assembly in a half hour. The kids packed expectantly into the auditorium, not really sure what this was all about. Every seat was full, the back of the house brimmed with instructors and staff, and conductor Larry Livingston's orchestra watched the crowd from the stage, their rehearsal interrupted abruptly by the assembly (ironically, they were rehearsing Stravinsky's *Firebird*). Steven Fraider, the summer program director, addressed the crowd: "Idyllwild is under mandatory evacuation orders from the fire department. We will board the buses and leave as soon as everyone is packed. Your counselors will assist you in getting your things from your rooms. You may only take one bag—either your luggage or your instrument. We don't have enough room for both" This last statement caused a ripple of disbelief, as gasps and whispers moved through the crowd. Now that's a decision you hope you never have to make: clean underwear or your instrument! Texting fingers flew, students trying to find a cell signal to let their families know the news. They were told that the entire staff and student body would be evacuating to a Red Cross Shelter that had been set up at Hemet High School in a neighboring town. Dedicated teachers filled their cars with students' instruments to follow the evacuating buses down the mountain. Bassoonist **Kathleen Moran** of El Segundo, California promptly put on several layers of clothing (obviously, she chose to take her bassoon!), unsure if her parents might be away for several days on a business trip. Jars of cane were left soaking in the bassoon studio, music and scores still on the stands, reed tools left as they lay.

Despite the stressful situation, the kids really did an amazing job of staying calm and leaving in an orderly manner. The camp directors were cool under pressure and kept everyone focused and calm. Claire Ko, from Northern California, was amazingly picked up by her incredibly dedicated parents the same night—they had an eight-hour drive and had not been notified until after 6pm. Many students had to sleep on the concrete floor at the high school, having their first "refugee" experience that night. Kahayla Rapolla of Diamond Bar, California, described the shelter as "very uncomfortable." In a room with many strangers, students drifted off to sleep wondering what would become of the beautiful mountain town of Idyllwild, the school (not to mention their reed tools), and wondering if and when we would be able to return. No one could predict the fire's path with any certainty and we waited hopefully to hear any definitive news.

DOUBLE REED NEWS OF INTEREST (cont.)

So what do Idyllwild music students in this situation do? I'm sure you can imagine! Horn quartets echoed through the halls of Hemet High School. Bassoonist, **Isaac Ebury** of Fresno, California seized upon the free time to write a bassoon concerto! Frederick Tan of Denver, Colorado and Ebury also formed a group called the "Refugee Octet", performing a selection from the band Imagine Dragons. The Refugee Octet consisted of two violins, percussion (an open book, an empty bassoon case, and a soda can shaker filled with coins), two cellos, and bassoon. Idyllwild Arts Academy, one of only a couple year-round arts academies in the U.S had a sudden outpouring of support from their students on holiday abroad. Youtube videos popped up overnight of students all over the world doing rain dances in the hopes that the predicted showers would help extinguish the fire.

After the first night at the shelter, the students whose parents were not able to pick them up moved with the staff and counselors to a Motel 6 in Rancho Mirage, near Palm Springs. The music never stopped. Counselors coached chamber music, and the kids enjoyed free ice cream after impressing the staff at a local Denny's Restaurant with an impromptu performance. The students made the most of their evacuation, also taking a trip to the mall, going to the movies, and enjoying a pool party and barbeque at a board member's home in Palm Springs. Despite the fun, they all could not wait to get back to camp!

Finally, after four full days of evacuation we returned! The rain dance worked and we returned to a misty and drizzly mountain. It was really astounding to have rain in the middle of July in the San Jacinto Mountains. We did not know how many parents would be able to bring their kids back. Would we have enough students to fill the ensembles? Amazingly, ALL TWELVE of the bassoon students came back. Claire's parents made the long drive from Northern California. Other students rode back with teachers or carpooled with their friends. Somehow it all worked out! We threw a huge potluck party for the firefighters, our new heroes. The orchestra (with high school students) managed to pull off an incredible *Firebird* performance with only one week's rehearsal. The wind ensemble, conducted by Steve Piazza and the Symphonic band, led by Steve Acciani, both sounded incredible. **John Steinmetz** joined the studio for the second week of instruction and taught some wonderful creative composition master classes and coached chamber music. **Cory Barger** brought her baroque bassoon and shared her reed making expertise with us. Many students finished their very first bassoon reeds that week.

I was so proud to be on the faculty at this wonderful school and a teacher to these amazingly resilient students. The 2013 summer session was an adventure of a different sort than any of us had ever imagined and one that we will never forget!

The Palma Oboe Festival is an international oboe course where **Thomas Indermühle**, **Dudu Carmel** and **Petar Hristov**, three brilliant oboe soloist of the moment, gave classes to high level students who come from around the world. The Festival is celebrated in the Conservatory of Palma de Mallorca (in the Balearic Islands). Apart from classes the teachers give two concerts, and the students one more to complete the Festival. Also we have an exposition of the trademark Rigoutat that offer to the students the possibility to try oboes, English horns and oboes d'amore.

This is the fourth time that the Palma Oboe Festival is celebrated, this year between the 8th and the 13th of April. The concerts will be the 10th (Thomas Indermühle and Dudu Carmel), 11th (Petar Hristov) and the 13th (students).

For more information you can visit our website: oboefestival.wordpress.com or search for us on Facebook—Palma Oboe Festival.