

# MD Clarinet News

Maryland Clarinet Society

5/1/20

Edition 2, Volume 1

## Maryland Clarinet Society

*Welcome back!*

Welcome back to the Maryland Clarinet Society Newsletter. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during this global pandemic. The "MD Clarinet News" includes member stories, recitals, upcoming events and other important information. With the help of several of my current UMD students and ICA members I have been able to prepare another volume of our letter. Thanks to everyone that contributed as well as friends that have proofed and read the draft. I look forward to receiving your submissions in the future and working with you. Remember the MD Clarinet Society is member based and members submit everything in the newsletter. We encourage our members to be part of the International Clarinet Association.

As the State Chair for the Association I will also address issues and concerns you may have in the newsletter and hope you will feel free to send me your comments. We were all extremely disappointed that we needed to cancel this summer's ClarinetFest but we believe this was the best option for our member's safety. As many summer events are cancelled please let us know if they are going online or if they are being rescheduled. Hopefully we will see you all next summer in Texas and at the Maryland Clarinet Day in College Park! My email address is: [rdilutis@umd.edu](mailto:rdilutis@umd.edu). Thanks again for all of your support and I look forward to seeing you soon.

*Robert DiLutis*

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## Reed Myth No. 2

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### **Reeds from thick blanks always play softer.**

Clarinet reed strength is controlled by the density of the cane and the thickness of the heart. Very dense reeds measuring .115" in thickness can easily be softer than those thicker reeds measuring .125". Depending on the shape of the vamp and the density of the cane your reed is made from, it could be either soft or hard. Remember, cane near the outer bark is denser than cane near the center of the tube. When making reeds by hand, the reed shape is customized to fit the cane. Adjustments for density are made during the entire making process as we play and test the nearly finished reed. With commercial reeds it is a one size fits all approach and will only allow for random quality and consistency. Each shape and style a reed company makes can only fit to a percentage of cane. Many companies test batches of cane for density before production. The reed style is then fit to the batch. This process would be impossible for each reed when millions are made. All commercial reeds are usually cut to one size then measured after production for strength. This helps to insure reeds are somewhat similar in each box. The variety in each box is limited by the number of sizes available to each music store. Most stores do not want to carry more than 4 or 5 strengths of each brand or their inventory would be enormous. After production, reeds are measured and divided, then placed into boxes according to strength guidelines. Every box will have a large variety depending on the number of sizes.

## Balm for the Soul: Music for Seniors During COVID-19



by Natalie Groom

Living through COVID-19 has been difficult for everyone, but senior citizens have been hit particularly hard as an at-risk and socially isolated population. Even senior residents at Collington, A Kendal Affiliate's close-knit community have felt emotionally isolated by an illness that has forced friends and family to stay away from the gated campus; prevented residents from participating in small acts of independence, such as grocery shopping; and caused anxiety in an otherwise cheerful and care-free community. For two months, Collingtonians have had to cope with confinement, canceled programs, and missing their loved ones.

Though I am a millennial, I currently live at Collington Retirement Community in Bowie, Maryland as their Artist in Residence and clarinetist. Faced with Maryland's new COVID-19 guidance beginning in March, I wondered how I could continue my music programming in a meaningful way during the mandatory campus closure. My response was to launch Mini Music, a series of music

broadcasts meant to be 30–45 minutes in length that residents could enjoy from the safety of their homes. Since mid-March, I have curated three events each week including solo clarinet recitals, music history presentations, virtual interviews with composers, and listening parties. This has been my performer view for the past two months. It's just me and my clarinet—no audience or fellow performers.



I am fortunate that my community's auditorium technology can broadcast events to the residents' local TV channel, and events are archived on the residents association website for people to watch later. In the past, the primary purpose of this system was to serve residents who were room-bound, but now it is the lifeblood of Collington's community engagement initiatives. I am grateful Mini Music can provide residents with something to look forward to at a time when checking the mail has suddenly become an exciting part of the day.

The "mini" model enables me to provide multiple events each week because it is more manageable to prepare several short programs when limited to a turnaround time of one week. It has been challenging to produce

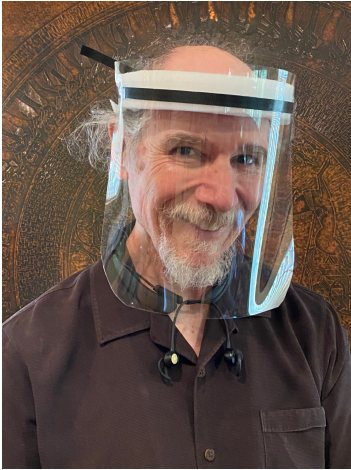
so many events in such a compact time period when I typically prepare one to two months in advance for a recital. This unprecedented situation has forced me to let go of perfectionism and realize that heartfelt and purposeful music-making is something that will carry people through this uncharted territory. As one resident said, "*Thank you so much for the marvelous distraction in these strange times. Believe me, it is a balm on the soul.*"

It is easy to feel like what we musicians are doing does not matter when we are not able to perform in front of an audience, rehearse, or teach or take in-person lessons for the foreseeable future, but I am telling you now that what you are doing is important. You matter. The world appreciates what you do, and hopefully one positive result of this situation will be people realizing just how much they depend on the arts to entertain them, fill their time, and bring richness and peace to their lives. Absolutely anyone can make their community better through music, even if it is just you and your instrument. All you need is the time and drive to do something creative. At the moment, I'm planning a Christmas in June event for Collington residents because why not? I'll let you know how it goes.

*Questions and comments welcome at [www.nataliegroom.com](http://www.nataliegroom.com). You can follow the Mini Music series at [www.facebook.com/CollingtonAIR](https://www.facebook.com/CollingtonAIR).*

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## Rovner Products Helping Local Businesses By Donating PPE



*by Lynn Reeder*

Rovner Products, located in Timonium, Maryland, has been a problem-solver for woodwind players since 1974. Now they have expanded their capabilities and are helping to solve problems for the frontline healthcare workers, first responders and essential workers confronting COVID-19 and in dire need of personal protective equipment. Although Rovner's production department has been idle since Governor Larry Hogan's state mandate closing all non-essential businesses at the end

of March, Rovner owners George and Lynn Reeder quickly realized that some of their manufacturing capabilities could be applied to creating protective face shields. They knew they could come up with the methodology but, as so many people were scrambling to create PPE, finding readily-available materials for executing their design proved a greater challenge. Necessity being the mother of invention, they repurposed marine-grade vinyl and packing and shipping supplies to create their makeshift but durable and reusable shields.

"We're not 'pivoting' the way some companies are," says Lynn Reeder. "This is a temporary thing for us, so we decided that rather than turn the face shields into a revenue stream, we would donate them." Volunteers are assembling 3000 face shields, and distribution began this week. Eichhorn Printing, in Cockeysville, donated the notes of gratitude attached to each shield because, Lynn adds, "We wanted the recipients to really

understand the appreciation we feel toward them for stepping up the way they do." Although the Reederes had initially approached Greater Baltimore Medical Center as a possible donee, they have since discovered that small private healthcare practices like physical therapists and home health providers are also struggling to supply their staff with protective gear. "They're small businesses like us," says George, "and the need for this extra gear puts an unexpected burden on them. The folks we've talked to so far have been extremely grateful for the help." The Reederes will also be reaching out to local nursing homes, dental offices, independent grocers and other places where the staff must come into close contact with the public, donating face shields wherever there is a need. "We're so happy to be in the position to do this," adds George, "but we're really anxious to get back to doing what we do best: making ligatures."

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## Out Front with Buffet Crampon USA

by Kurt Wittstadt

When the pandemic began to fully take hold of our region, I happened to be traveling when schools and cities began closing. Traveling often for various events, meetings with music stores and artists, is part of a normal day as the Mid-Atlantic Division Manager for Buffet Crampon. In fact, I was meeting with a clarinetist selecting instruments for a store. They were unsure about coming to play test due to the reports of the outbreak. Fortunately, we went on as scheduled. This was on a Thursday. By Friday morning, everything changed while returning home. All travel was canceled for Buffet Crampon globally until further notice, all schools were closed in the Mid-Atlantic and it was the beginning of what is our current state of affairs. This has caused ripple effects of negative proportions that the music industry has not experienced before.

With most everything closed, this has been difficult for our local music stores to keep the lights on and keep their

employees taken care of. Most music stores are small family businesses that provide for their local communities, musicians, and educators. Although these last months have been challenging and business is collectively down, there has been some steady movement in a positive direction through creativity. Many stores are offering curbside delivery or shipping to customers and are available via email or phone. Additionally, many stores were able to switch private lessons to online lessons. Some stores have seen only a slight decline in overall business with a steady flow of repairs, music accessories, lessons and maintaining their rentals. They found ways to stay current and connected to their local customer base by adding digital content on their website or Facebook pages. One store has been very savvy developing their own webcast that connects with area musicians and educators as guests.

How can we help? These music stores depend on local support from their community. It is a relationship that is important to maintain from instrument maintenance, school band support, to the

first instrument you buy for starting band, these music stores are the backbone of the music industry. One of the best ways to support your local Buffet Crampon dealer, or any music store, is to buy local. We rely on these stores for music supplies, repairs, and instruments, we need to support them and nurture the relationship within the community.

As one can imagine, this is a different challenge for instrument manufacturers. At the time of this writing, our factories in Germany where B&S, Antoine Courtois, Meinl Weston, Hans Hoyer, Besson, Schreiber, Scherzer and Keilwerth, and Powell Flutes in the United States should be open the last week in May. In France Buffet Crampon, Rigoutat and Parmenon Flutes will be open in June. As a distributor specializing in wind instruments of twelve of the most historic and recognized brands from Germany, France and the United States, Buffet Crampon continues to be connected to all our music community in creative ways.

Currently, Buffet Crampon USA is producing live Q&A webcasts on Facebook every Tuesday and Thursday at

2:00pm EDT as part of our series #TogetherAtHome. Hosted by one of our product specialists, the webcasts are an hour long with a guest artist or instrument maker to discuss our brands and give insight about the process. These are open to everyone internationally and you can have your questions answered in real time. If you have not had the chance to see them, no worries, all are available to view on our Facebook page after the webcast. I encourage you to view the upcoming webcasts and view some of the previous ones. Also like and share our posts.

Additionally, we have #TogetherAtHome live in home concerts being broadcast from the Buffet Crampon Paris Showroom Facebook page. Each one features an artist performing an in-home concert. Tune in to hear some of the finest musicians in the world make music from the comfort of their home (and your home too). Zoom has become part of our lexicon for video conferencing. Teleconferencing and video conferencing are not new, but now we have been forced to do this for school and

work. For myself, it is important to be connected to our music stores and musicians. I have found ways of connecting during this time and providing a different level of opportunity. Offering online trainings, product specialist training and general Q&A sessions via Zoom or Google Hang. Recently I was featured as part of a store's live webcast they are producing. These new ways of providing information is going to continue to grow.

It is true that some places may close or alter for a short time due to this uncertain time. Change and creativity are a constant. Some glimpses of this creative change are being noticed. Going forward, the technology we have will continue to be used to complement our outreach and help strengthen music relationships that will weather unforeseen future downturns through being creative with the tools we have.

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## Historical Facts

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# Principal Clarinetists of the Metropolitan Opera

1883-1914	Antonio Bellucci
1919-1921	Alberto Chiaffarelli
1919-1941	Michele Fusco
1922-1958	Ettore Bendazzi
1939-1940	Attilio Poto
1950-1970	Gino Cioffi
1940-1943	David Weber
1924-1955	Luigi Cancellieri
1980-2003	Joseph Rabbai
1993-2003	Ricardo Morales
2003-2011	Stephen Williamson
2004-2012	Anthony McGill
2013-2016	Boris Allakhverdyan
2016-present	Inn-Hyuck Cho

For more information visit:

[www.stokowski.org/Principal\\_Musicians\\_Metropolitan\\_Opera.htm](http://www.stokowski.org/Principal_Musicians_Metropolitan_Opera.htm)

## Staying Busy and Motivated during the Pandemic

*We reached out to members recently to see what they are doing to stay busy and motivated during this challenging time. In response, we received a note from Lori Fowser.*

To be honest, it's difficult to stay motivated by myself, as music is meant to be shared with others. I am learning a new (to me) unaccompanied piece, Miklos' Rozsa's Sonata, op. 41. I am also trying to start and end each day with practice. Currently, I'm going through the entire Klose' book, cover to cover, to regain pre-pandemic endurance, and also so I'm super familiar with all sections of the book to better help my students.

I'm also navigating the challenges of teaching private lessons online. Although my student enrollment is down about 30%, it keeps me busier than anticipated. There's new technology to learn, music to send and receive ahead of time, and extra time spent reminding people of their lesson times and staying on top of my own calendar and

billing. People are more likely to forget virtual appointments when they're home all the time.

Here is a link to a couple of virtual videos my new quintet, Charm City Winds, produced. <https://www.charmcitywinds.org/media.html>

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the last three concerts of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church concert series in Towson had to be canceled. We were slated to perform March 15 and we are one of the groups featured in their music streaming event on Mother's Day. If folks are interested to see the entire IHM event, it's here: <https://youtu.be/Kd6Msfi4sRk>

We plan to do a couple of other virtual recordings soon. The other members of my quintet are Heidi Dewally (oboe), Denis Karp (flute), Nancy Switkes (bassoon), Michael Holmes (horn). Special thanks to Michael Holmes for the video and sound editing.

I look forward to hearing how other local clarinetists are

dealing with the challenges of quarantine.

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*Lori Fowser, freelance performer and clarinet/saxophone teacher is a Founding Member of both Charm City Winds and Gallery Winds, and a member of Great Noise Ensemble.*

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### Upcoming Events

Clarinet Academy of America Online

July 6 - 12, 2020

Interested in submitting for the next newsletter?

email [rdilutis@umd.edu](mailto:rdilutis@umd.edu)

by

July 28, 2020