

Twin Cities Bass Club

Wednesday, October 24, 2007, 7:00pm

Started with enthusiastic socializing. John Casey called the meeting to order at 7:24pm.

Introductions

- Vladimir Zabezhinsky – owner of All Strings Attached
- John Casey – private bass instructor, Bloomington Symphony, South Dakota Symphony, studied with Clute, Sankey, Levinson
- Marian Casey – Bloomington Symphony, South Dakota Symphony, studied with Jim Clute
- Cheryl Nordquist – student of John Casey, 3rd season with Northeast Orchestra
- Natalie Zabezhinsky – All Strings Attached
- Jennifer Rubin – freelancer and private bass instructor
- John Kaplan – Northeast Orchestra, Roseville Strings
- Dylan Woodman – student of Dave Williamson, just joined St. Paul Civic Symphony
- Nick Gaudette – started at on cello-tuned-like-bass, studied at Cleveland, piano bass violin trio called Bluegrassical, Cedar Cultural Center programs, Clute student from grade 2 through grade 12, came to TCBC on Clute's suggestion, is curious about tuning-in-5ths
- Bob Scoggin – full-time jobber on bass – rock, latin, jazz
- Libby Voigt – started age 10, studied with Cliff Biggs, Murray Grodner, played in Indianapolis Symphony
- Jennifer Rubin – freelance bass player and teacher, klezmer music, studied with Homer Mensch at Juilliard
- Nancy Smith – attended original TCBC in the 70s, carried a bass in an old VW Beetle, retired orchestral bass player, currently bass hobbyist who loves the bass, plays duets with Sara Thompson, plays in a classical piano/bass/violin trio, went to ISB this year
- Colin Jacques – bass player, student of John Casey, going into 3rd year of playing bass (currently 7th grade)
- Julie Jacques – driver/mother of a bass player
- Steve Bulwicz – student of John Casey, various community orchestras, rock bass, jazz combo
- Michael Watson – string teacher at Coon Rapids High School (3 groups, 120+ students), UW-RF adjunct, Hamline adjunct, MN Opera, originally from Kansas, enjoys encouraging bass students and future teachers, manages websites for MN-SOTA, TCBC, Suzuki Association of Minnesota
- Reid Hegland – lives in Plymouth, plays with Golden Valley Orchestra, First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, jazz group, heard about TCBC from bassoonist in GVO

Discussion

- How do we get the word out about TCBC?
 - Posters at Groth and such.
 - Invite (not necessarily bass-playing) teachers to bass club, have them invite their students, including students who aren't bass players but might consider starting or switching?
 - If our meetings are mostly about playing great music, not of as much interest to non-bass teachers. If covering how-to-teach-young-bassists then more interesting.
 - Publicize focus topics in advance for particular meeting dates so people can come to the meeting that they're most interested in.
- Possible topics
 - How to help get more young bass players?
 - One bass player in GTCYS?! Very concerning.
 - Have 1/8, 1/10 basses now, don't have to be a certain age or a certain size to start bass.
 - Virginia Dixon will do presentation on May 28, 2008 about Suzuki bass instruction.
 - Getting students who play other instruments to also play bass (You're bored, want a challenge, try bass in orchestra!) or to switch to bass
 - How do we get teachers to feel comfortable starting students on bass?
 - Parents are concerned about lugging around a big bass
 - If they actually saw these fractional-sized instruments that might help
 - How different vehicles work with basses – add list to website?
 - Inviting big-name bass players to TCBC meetings?
 - Edgar Meyer when he's performing nearby in April?
 - Injury prevention – Janet Horvath?
 - How to get younger people more involved – how to keep bass students engaged when school/youth orchestras are boring for bass players
- Would like to emphasize one discussion idea each meeting
- What else do we want TCBC meetings and/or website to accomplish?
 - Signup for group rates for tickets
 - MN Orchestra – Harbison bass concerto
 - Tell us about bass recitals
 - Bass teacher studio recitals
 - College student/faculty bass recitals
 - Bass in chamber music recitals, i.e. Trout Quintet
 - Upcoming bass master classes
 - How to apply to play?
 - Will Edgar Meyer be doing a master class when he's in the area?
 - List of civic orchestras looking for bass players

- Small group gigs – players looking for jazz combs, groups looking for bassists, etc.
- Churches often need bass players for special events

Program

- John Casey
 - Sonata for unaccompanied viola da gamba, 1st mvmt. by Telemann, transcribed by Stuart Sankey
 - John first encountered this piece when he studied with Sankey for two summers at Aspen
 - bass has no label, has been appraised as Lawrence LaMay, probably 1950s, was once in a Wisconsin school system
- Nick Gaudette
 - Lento & Zapateado by Harold Johnson, adapted by Nick Gaudette
 - Nick played this in master classes
 - Gary Karr when Nick was in 3rd grade (original edition)
 - Edgar Meyer a few years ago (Nick's adaptation)
 - bass is a Kolstein Fent model, willow

Announcements

- Upcoming meeting dates:
 - Wed. November 28, 7:00pm
 - All Strings Attached
- St. Paul JCC Orchestra needs bassists – Wednesday night rehearsals
- Dakota Valley Symphony always needs basses
- Allegro Sinfonia could use more basses
- Michael Watson is selling bass practice CDs
 - all the scales and arpeggios in 2 octaves
 - CDs and downloadable scale sheets are available on his website – mwatsonmusic.com
 - \$15 on website including shipping, or \$10 if you get them directly from Michael at TCBC

Refreshments and socializing

– notes submitted by Marian Casey, 10/24/07