

THE HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CLARINET ASSOCIATION

On the 40th Anniversary of the Association: 1973-2013

“The Evolution of a Good Idea”

The history of the International Clarinet Association chronicles countless individuals, fabulous annual conferences, one of the most outstanding and scholarly of all single instrument journals, and much more. The birth of our organization began as a “Good Idea”.

The University of Denver’s (DU) National Clarinet Clinic contributed much to our history. Ralph Strouf, then professor of clarinet at DU recalled how planning for the university’s centennial in 1964 resulted in a call for national conferences on their campus. The university’s president said he would fund qualified conferences. Ralph’s “good idea” to have a clarinet festival was proposed, funded, and clarinet enthusiasts gathered for a five-day clinic at DU in July 1964. Ralph asked his teacher and mentor, the late Keith Stein, to serve as the artistic director so that he could coordinate the logistics of such a conference. Keith was enthusiastic and immediately suggested that the new clarinet teacher at Michigan State University, Elsa, be invited. [Elsa Ludwig-Verdehr was the clarinet professor at MSU from 1964-2007.] As a Denver native I attended some of those early clinics and was fortunate to meet and hear some of the world’s greatest performers of the day, rub elbows with pedagogues, play in a clarinet choir for the first time, peruse clarinet methods and music collections provided by Wells Music of Denver and soon thereafter, Luyben Music of Kansas City, and sample the instruments and accessories of local music vendors and the major manufacturers of the day - Selmer, Leblanc, Buffet, and Conn. In 1967, Strouf resigned for a new position at the new Metropolitan State College in Denver. That summer, Ramon Kireilis, having just finished his doctorate at the University of Michigan, was invited to interview for the open position during the 1967 National Clarinet Clinic. The DU School of Music administration wanted their prospective clarinet professor

Ralph Strouf (1926-2002)

**Ramon Kireilis, Founder I.C.S.
President 1973-1978**

At the 1973 National Clarinet Clinic Ramon gathered clinic participants to form what was to be known as the International Clarinet Society (I.C.S.), with a mission statement, officers, committees, and an official quarterly journal, *The Clarinet*. Later, by-laws were written and adopted. The Society’s mission statement has evolved into the following:

***“The International Clarinet Association is a community of clarinetists and clarinet enthusiasts that supports projects that will benefit clarinet performance; provides opportunities for the exchange of ideas, materials, and information among its members; fosters the composition, publication, recording, and distribution of music for the clarinet; encourages the research and manufacture of a more definitive clarinet; avoids commercialism in any form while encouraging communication and cooperation among clarinetists and the music industry; and encourages and promotes the performance and teaching of a wide variety of repertoire for the clarinet.*”**

To these ends, the association is dedicated to fostering communication and fellowship of clarinetists on a worldwide basis through publishing a quarterly scholarly journal, The Clarinet, producing an annual clarinet festival, ClarinetFest®, supporting a research library with materials available to all members, and promoting a variety of other endeavors related to the clarinet and clarinet playing.”

FIRST OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY:

Ramon Kireilis was the first President of the new society. Quoting from *The Clarinet, Vol. 1, No. 1*, “It should be noted that although Kireilis, director of the Clinic, was elected president of the Society, the latter is a completely autonomous and independent group. The presence of Kireilis in the Society will be of great value to the Society, and it is to be hoped that the Society will in its turn be advantageous to the Clinic.” From 1974 on,

the Society was invited to hold its annual business meeting during the Clinic. In other words, Kireilis organized the Clinic each summer at the University of Denver and the Society held its annual business meeting at the Clinic. Lee Gibson, Kireilis' mentor from North Texas State University, volunteered to be the editor of the Society's publication, *The Clarinet*. Lee became President in 1978 when Kireilis wanted to devote his full energies as director of what had now become, the International Clarinet Clinic.

Lee Gibson, I.C.S. President 1978-1980
First Editor of *The Clarinet* (1973-1978)

Robert Schott (1924-2005)
First Secretary/Treasurer 1973-1975
Research Chair 1974

Other officers included Leon Russianoff of the Juilliard School in New York as Vice President, Robert Schott of Kansas State College of Pittsburg, Kansas as Secretary/Treasurer and Research Chair. H. James Schoepflin of Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho was Publisher. Regional Chairmen for the United States and National Chairmen for eastern and western Canada, Australia, Austria, England, and Mexico were named. A Vacancy Service was established for aspiring university teachers and symphony positions under the directorship of Harold Ashenfelter of Antioch College. In 1974 and continuing until 1977, Jack Snavelly of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee coordinated the Vacancy Service.

H. James Schoepflin
Publisher *The Clarinet*
(1973-1983)

Leon Russianoff (1916-1990) with
Michele Zukovsky & Hans Rudolf-Stalder
at an early Denver Clinic

Jack Snavelly with Lee Gibson
Vacancy Service Coordinator
1974-1977

Drafting our legal incorporation documents was attorney, Harry "Bud" Rubin from York, Pennsylvania. Quoting from Julie DeRoche, a past I.C.A. president, "Bud Rubin is the most important volunteer we have ever had. His generosity has been equaled only by his expertise. Consistently refusing to even allow the I.C.A. to pay his conference registration, he is to our organization what a good reed is to a clarinetist, a rare and cherished find."

Harry (Bud) Rubin
I.C.A. Attorney since 1976

Jerry Pierce (1937-1994)
I.C.S. President 1980-1986

Jerry Pierce was the third I.C.S. President. One of the last of Daniel Bonade's students, Jerry had a "deep interest in the repertoire of the clarinet". His *Pierce's Potpourri* in *The Clarinet* magazine detailed many obscure and hard-to-find clarinet compositions - real treasures for clarinetists everywhere. After his death in 1994, the Association purchased his extensive clarinet library for the I.C.A. Research Center at the University of Maryland. Jerry's wife, Linda, coordinated the Society's Commissioning Project for several years.

The officers met annually at clarinet clinics to discuss the business of the society. During Pierce's tenure the officers felt a longer time away from the exciting performances and clinics was needed in order to devote our energies to the future of the organization. The first mid-year meeting was held in Chicago the fall of 1983. Such mid-year meetings continue to be held as the association matures. Initiation of and funding for projects was discussed, updating sections of the *Conference Handbook* were hashed out, proposals for upcoming conference sites were discussed, and ideas for growing our membership were paramount.

I.C.S. Mid-Year Board Meeting in Chicago
Henry Duckham, Jerry Pierce, Betty Brockett, Alan Stanek,
Jim Schoepflin, David Etheridge, and Jim Gillespie

In 1981-82 another clarinet organization made its appearance - ClariNetwork International, Inc. (C.I.) Reasons for this competing organization are many. A perceived notion that membership and the organization's officers were primarily from the academic world (college/university professors), it appeared that there was a need for an organization that included and/or paid more attention to professional (symphony orchestra) performers, and that

annual meetings and conferences, having been held mostly in Denver (no east or west coast meetings of I.C.S. had yet been held), needed more varied locations. John Mohler as I.C.S. President, along with Ed Riley President of C.I., and Gerry Errante (the only person to have been President of both organizations at one time or another), dealt mainly with getting the two organization merged as one, Prior to the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Clarinet Conference (Richmond, Virginia) in 1988, “a meeting of members of both boards of directors was held in Des Moines, Iowa and subsequent articles were published in *The Clarinet* explaining to the members the plan of merger. Harry Rubin, legal counsel to the Society, explained how the corporate merger was to take place and moved that the merger be approved by the members in attendance at the meeting. The motion was seconded by Leo Chak and unanimously approved by the 59 members present.” At the VCU conference John Mohler and Chuck West, with Bud Rubin from I.C.S. and Gerry Errante, Ed Riley and Daniel Levy from ClariNetwork International, Inc. and others, facilitated the merger. The merged organization had the unwieldy name - International Clarinet Society/ClariNetwork International, Inc. In 1991 the name was changed by a vote of the membership to International Clarinet Association (I.C.A.).

John Mohler, President 1986-1988
International Clarinet Society/ClariNetwork International

Charles West, President 1988-1990
I.C.S./C.I.

THE OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENTS:

Ramon Kireilis	1973-1978 (I.C.S.)
Lee Gibson	1978-1980
Jerry Pierce	1980-1986
John Mohler	1986-1988
Charles West	1988-1990 (I.C.S./C.I.)
Fred Ormand	1990-1992 (I.C.S./C.I.)
Howard Klug	1992-1994 (I.C.A.)
F. Gerard Errante	1994-1996
Alan Stanek	1996-1998
Robert Spring	1998-2000
Julie DeRoche	2000-2002
Robert Walzel	2002-2004
Michael Galván	2004-2005
Lee Livengood	Acting President 2005-2006 - President 2006-2008
Gary Whitman	2008-2010
Keith Koons	2010-2012
John Cipolla	2012-2014
Maxine Ramey	2014-2016

Fred Ormand encouraged the formulation of regional clarinet festivals and the recognition of those whose lifetime achievements had meant so much to the clarinet world and was intimately involved with the merger of I.C.S. and C.I.. Howard Klug, host of the 1987 Conference at the University of Illinois, in Urbana-Champaign, separated the High School and Young Artist Competitions, encouraged the formation of regional clarinet clubs, and established the Composition Competition. His pedagogical column was a welcome addition to the journal. He, *tongue-in-cheek*, declared himself “the Education President.”

Fred Ormand, President 1990-1992
I.C.S./C.I.

Howard Klug, I.C.A. President 1992-1994

Gerry Errante encouraged the membership in the Adopt-A-Member Program to help enlist clarinetist from underdeveloped countries, established the I.C.A. Research Committee with Keith Koons as Chair, organized the purchase of Jerry Pierce’s library for the I.C.A. Library (coordinating with the University of Maryland), and

proposed putting the Clarinet Anthology online (a compilation of articles from the older *Clarinet* magazine, and new research articles from the “Paper & Poster Presentation” Competition). Alan Stanek, as president-elect under Gerry Errante, made contact with Stan Geidel to get our website established. During his presidency, the association celebrated its 25th anniversary at the 1998 ClarinetFest® at Ohio State University and acknowledged the 4,000th member of the association, a feat not reached again until 2011. The results of a Member Questionnaire gave the Board of Directors information and guidance to direct and improve the association and the journal. Requests included the desire for an east coast conference (resulting in the 2004 ClarinetFest® at the University of Maryland near Washington, D.C.) and conferences on other continents (Tokyo, Japan in 2005), more jazz related articles, and educational materials in *The Clarinet*, and a request to get the Research Library Catalog online.

F. Gerard Errante, President 1994-1996

Alan E. Stanek, President 1996-1998

Bob Spring’s administration authorized the funds to get the **RESEARCH LIBRARY** Catalog online. The online catalog is very easy to use and a valuable resource to all I.C.A. members. Bob also hosted the ‘97 ClarinetFest® in Tempe, and we were given a “warm” reception (temperatures averaged 100° - 114°). Julie DeRoche, the first female I.C.A. president, hosted the ‘94 Chicago ClarinetFest®, one of the largest conferences up that point in our history. Newly released (2013) photos from the ‘94 Chicago ClarinetFest® appear under the *Annual Conventions* heading. Julie’s board initiated a Grant Competition in 2002, which funded regional clarinet gatherings, research projects, etc. Discussions at Board meetings focused on controlling all aspects of ClarinetFests, such as organization, artistic considerations, exhibitors, advertising and finances. The association’s control of ClarinetFests had been a long-term goal of several presidents going back to at least Fred Ormand and is now a reality.

Robert Spring, President 1998-2000

Julie DeRoche, President 2000-2002

Robert Walzel, hosted the ‘97 Texas Tech ClarinetFest® in Lubbock, served as Treasurer 96-98, and is credited with convincing Kathy Pope to put in a bid for a future conference at the University of Utah at the 2000 mid-year Board meeting. This was two years before Bob even knew there would be an administrative position for him in the University of Utah School of Music.

Michael Galván’s presidency included furthering of the concept of total control of ClarinetFests and presiding over the Tokyo/Tama, Japan conference. In December 2005, Michael resigned, as President and Lee Livengood became Acting President for the remainder of Michael’s term.

**Robert Walzel
President 2002-2004**

**Michael Galván
President 2004-2005**

**Lee Livengood
President 2005 to 2008**

During Gary Whitman’s term of office the I.C.A. website was revamped. The Board hired Brian Covington as our web master and charged him with the task of creating a new user friendly website. Brian created a **Members Only** section to place back issues of the magazine on the website, as well as pedagogy articles, master-classes, and videos. It was also at this time that I.C.A. joined **Facebook** and explored the use of social media to promote membership and attendance at ClarinetFest® conferences. Electronic voting for officers began in the spring of 2010. The Board brought back the Composition Competition and entered into a joint commissioning project with our sister organizations to create a woodwind quintet, N.F.A. (National Flute Association), I.D.R.S. (International Double Reed Society), and I.H.S. (International Horn Society). The process started in 2009 and resulted in a performance of *Hardwood for Wind Quintet* by Lansing McLoskey at ClarinetFest® 2012 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Gary Whitman
President 2008-2010**

**Keith Koons
President 2010-2012**

**John Cipolla
President 2012-2014**

Keith Koons' presidency culminated with the departure of So Rhee from the Executive Director's position and the transition to a professional management company (Madeleine Crouch & Co., Inc.) in December 2011. The establishment of a **National Chair Coordinator** brought Belgium's Eddy Vanoosthuysse on board. Several new initiatives include:

- An **Online Store** for I.C.A. members and a quarterly electronic newsletter
- The initiation of an *International Access Initiative* - a program to offer Associate Membership to interested clarinetists outside the U.S.A. who cannot afford regular membership.
- A signed agreement with EBSCO to include *The Clarinet* in their library database.

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Leon Russianoff (1916-1990)	1973-1976
Philip Aaholm	1976-1978
Glenn Bowen	1978-1980
Dan Sparks	1980-1982
David Etheridge	1982-1986
Alan Stanek	1986-1988

(After 1988 the Bylaws eliminated the office of vice president and incorporated the position of president-elect.)

SECRETARY/TREASURER (1973-1978) AND TREASURERS:

Robert Schott (1924-2005)	1973-1975
David Randall	1975-1978

(At the 1978 Toronto, Canada Conference, the Secretary/Treasurer position was split.)

David Randall	1978-1981
H. James Schoepflin	1981-1986
Charles West	1986-1988
Ted Jahn (1939-2001)	1988-1992
Konrad Owens	1992-1996
Julie DeRoche	1996-1998
Robert Walzel	1998-2000
Kelly Burke	2000-2004
Diane Cawein-Barger	2004-2010
Kathy Pope	2010-2012
Ted Kersetter	2012-

SECRETARIES (from 1978):

Alan Stanek	1978-1984
Norman Heim	1984-1986
David Pino	1986-1988
Patricia Kostek	1988-1996
Maurita Murphy-Mead	1996-2002
Michèle Gingras	2002-2004
Kristina Belisle Jones	2004-2008
John Cipolla	2008-2010
Maxine Ramey	2010-2012
Caroline Hartig	2012-

Keeping track of the membership was the responsibility of the Secretary until our membership grew to the point that it was becoming unmanageable. Upon the merger of I.C.S./C.I. in 1988, Robin Ulman-Anderson became Membership Coordinator. Elena Lence-Talley was appointed in 1990. Rose Sperrazza put together a new Membership Brochure, authored a new and interesting column in the magazine (*Reed All About It*) and was proposed as the first Executive Director in 2003. So Rhee was hired full-time as Executive Director in September 2005. Madeleine Crouch or Madeleine Crouch & Co., Inc. began a new relationship in 2011.

THE CLARINET:

The official quarterly journal - *The Clarinet*, Volume 1, Number 1 was a Xeroxed, loose-leaf issue that introduced the clarinet world to a new organization - the International Clarinet Society. Lee Gibson edited the journal for its first five years and Jim Gillespie celebrated his 35th year as editor in 2013. The photograph of clarinetist David Shifrin was the first to grace a cover of *The Clarinet*, Vol. 1, No. 2. Publisher H. James Schoepflin was responsible for my involvement with the association. As consecutive Chairs of the Department of Music at Idaho State University, we enjoyed our association with Betty Brockett, as our adult student and as *The Clarinet's* Publishing Associate. Galleys of the early issues of the magazine were proofed and after printing in Idaho Falls, the magazines were inserted into manila envelopes on the floor of the chairman's office at ISU and mailed from the university's post office.

The journal has had several Editors of Reviews and an Associate Editor of Reviews for Recordings. Jim Sauers' *Record Rumbles* complimented Jerry's *Pierce's Potpourri*. Together one could learn about the clarinet repertoire and hear those who recorded it. Joseph Messenger was Editor of Reviews from 1988 to 2008. Gregory Barrett assumed this responsibility in 2009 to the present. The Editor of Reviews receives and distributes music sent by publishers for review. Brad Wong and Bill Nichols served as Audio Review Editors. Together, these gentlemen have distributed new music and recordings for review by a variety of individuals to be included in *The Clarinet*. A complete listing of all Association affiliates appears on page 3 of every issue of the journal.

Comments about *The Clarinet* appeared on various ICA brochures through the years:

- “*The Clarinet* gives one a wealth of information...from aspiring student to the seasoned professional.” **Michele Zukovsky** - Principal Clarinetist, Los Angeles Philharmonic
- “*The Clarinet* is truly an international resource of information on the clarinet.” **Alfred Prinz** - former clarinetist, Vienna Philharmonic
- “*The Clarinet* is a good reed. If you must ask why...donax.” and “*The Clarinet* is a mellifluous magazine contemplating a colloquy of clarinetists.” **Richard Stoltzman** - International Clarinet Soloist and Recording Artist

**James Gillespie, Editor *The Clarinet*
1978 to present**

**Jim Schoepflin & Betty Brockett proof-reading *The Clarinet*
at Idaho State University. Betty was the publisher, 1983-1985.**

**Joseph Messenger, Editor of Reviews
1988 to 2008**

**Brad Wong (1988-1996) William Nichols (1996 to present)
Audio Review Editors**

Advertising Managers have helped keep the journal on a financial footing and the association solvent. Bob Luyben, of Luyben Music in Kansas City, Missouri made phone calls to potential businesses in the beginning and Jim Schoepflin handled all the details of magazine advertisements the first ten years of the Society. Gary Whitman was employed by the Board to coordinate exhibitors at all ClarinetFest®s since Jim Pyne's OSU conference in Columbus, Ohio where he was sent by the board to observe the process. This has relieved the conference host from this overwhelming task. This was the board's first small step in gaining financial and organizational control of the entire ClarinetFest® event. The Executive Director in conjunction with ClarinetFest® hosts now has this responsibility.

Editor Jim Gillespie has convinced many outstanding individuals to write special columns over the years. *Mazzeo Musings* by Rosario Mazzeo, former bass clarinetist in the Boston Symphony, offered discussions of repertoire. Michael Webster followed Howard Klug, offering pedagogical articles in the magazine; Michael is the current author of a series entitled *Teaching Clarinet*. His *Webster's Web*, an email Question/Answer feature, has generated considerable interest from readers. International Reporters have informed the membership of clarinet happenings around the world from Australia to Zimbabwe. Tsuneya Hirai did this for Japan before his passing in 2010. Tsuneya and the late Neville Thomas from Australia were our most consistent correspondents.

Australia and Japan have well over 300 members of their respective national clarinet societies. More recently, we hear quarterly from Paul Harris of the United Kingdom, Jean-Marie Paul of France, Ricardo Dourado Freere for Latin America, and others around the globe.

ANNUAL CONVENTIONS:

There has been an evolution of annual convention titles from Clinic to Congress, to Conference, to ClarFest, to ClarinetFest®. Note that ClarinetFest® is a registered name of the association. Reports of each conference with numerous pictures are published in *The Clarinet*, usually in the November-December or December issue of each volume.

At those early Denver clinics, Frank Stachow of Lebanon Valley College, Pennsylvania, recorded all performances on reel-to-reel tape. Kireilis related this humorous story about Frank. Frank stood up at one of the conferences and said, “ After 10 years hearing the same ‘BS’ about practice, I want to know the real secret.” Kireilis ventured the thought that “perhaps all we needed to do was change the way we spelled our name.” For example, Bill Jackson changed his name to Bil; Greg Smith changed his to Gregg. Early performers and presenters at Denver included Leon Russianoff, Michele Zukovsky, and Hans Rudolf Stalder.

Frank E. Stachow, early Northeast Regional Chair Frank tape-recorded many Denver Clarinet Clinics

One of the features of those early Denver meetings was the networking of professional performers, high school and college/university teachers, amateurs, and industry personnel. There was often a banquet for all participants held in the DU Student Union or a local hangout near the campus - a beer, pizza, and Italian sausage sandwich place called *La Fontanella* where entertainment was provided by conference attendees. A photo of participants at one early annual meeting included: Jim Schoepflin, Jim Gillespie, the late Betty Brockett, Alan Stanek, Dan Sparks, Stephen Clark, David Etheridge (another Denver native and founder of the Oklahoma Clarinet Symposium), Michael Bryant and Pamela Weston from the U.K., Henry Duckham, Glenn Bowen, Phil Aaholm, John Mohler, Jon Anderson, John Scott, and many others - names synonymous with the early organization.

**Entertainment for Banquet @ *La Fontanella*
John Denman, Jerry Pierce, Lee Gibson, Alan Stanek**

Early I.C.S. Business Meeting in Denver

Early on there were clarinet choirs of clinic participants that continue today. Don Ambler, Bass Clarinetist of the Denver Symphony helped organize these early ensembles. Conductors included Russell Howland, Frank Stachow, Lucian Calliett, and others. In recent years ClarinetFests® have included a *Festival Choir* and a *College Choir*. Conductors have included Harvey Hermann, Julie DeRoche, David Etheridge, Mitchell Estrin, Charles West, Raphael Sanders, and Robert Walzel and Alan Stanek in Lincoln in 2012.

Clinic Participants in Clarinet Choir University of Denver

After the Toronto Congress in 1978, the first Congress outside of North America was held in 1981 in Paris, France. Guy Deplus and the Paris Clarinet Quartet, especially Michel and Anne-Marie Gizard, were our hosts. Going through the Buffet factory was a special event for Congress attendees. Pamela Weston was our host for the London meeting in 1984. Her books, *Virtuosi of the Past*, etc. are must reads!

**I.C.S. officers in Paris, France - 1981
International Clarinet Congress
at Cité Universitaire**

**Paris, France - July 1981
Alan Stanek, Kathleen Jones, and Dan Sparks**

The 1985 conference at Oberlin was highlighted by the appearance of Artie Shaw. We heard recordings made in the 1940's by the movie studios (they had better recording equipment than RCA according to Mr. Shaw) that had never been released - many are now available. We also saw a documentary video entitled *Time Is All You've Got*, an autobiography of Shaw's very interesting life. For those who have read his *The Trouble With Cinderella - An Outline of Identity*, might also want to peruse his short novel: *I Love You, I Hate You, Drop Dead*. In the preface he offers "Five Simple Steps to Become a Genius". Here are the steps: 1. Find yourself a genius. 2. Make friends with him. 3. Following him around. 4. Watch what he does. 5. Do it. He goes on to say, "The first rule is, of course, the toughest one, and to make it even tougher, there's no guarantee you'll ever be a genius. One thing you can bet on, though: if you keep at it long enough, you'll get pretty good at whatever it is you're trying to do. And you'll certainly know quite a lot about what it takes. Remember, I said five *simple* steps, not easy ones."

Artie Shaw at Oberlin, 1985

**Robert Marcellus (1928-1996)
Master Class at Oberlin, 1985**

The first of large group music events was also held at the 1985 Conference at Oberlin College, Ohio. *Black Box Music* by Conrad Cummings involved all conference attendees in an outside performance. Bill McColl hosted the '86 conference in Seattle where William O. (Bill) Smith's *Line Up* music may have set the Guinness World Record for the longest line up of clarinetists. Approximately 150 fellow clarinetists in Cincinnati with Erich Kunzel and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra performed *Clarinet Polka*. 280 ClarinetFest® participants set a new record performing *When the Saints Go Marching In* with the Columbus Symphony at Jim Pyne's ClarinetFest® in Columbus in 1998. Jim personalized his 1998 ClarinetFest® with a festival and symposium entitled *Vienna and the Clarinet*. Hearing basset horns in Mozart's *Requiem* was inspiring. Guido Six, will be remembered for his conferences in Ghent, Belgium in '93 with Freddie Artel, and again in '99 in Ostende, the "Claribel Clarinet Choir", and, of course, his late evening "Biermeister" duties with Belgium chocolates and that delightful liquid refreshment. Each conference has had memorable moments too numerous to include here.

**Black Box Music by Conrad Cummings
1985 Conference at Oberlin College, Ohio**

**Performance of W.O. Smith's *Line Up*
at Seattle Clarinet Conference, 1986**

Photos from '94 Chicago ClarinetFest® - Julie DeRoche, Host

Attendees at '94 ClarinetFest® in Chicago?

Ron Odrich, Eddy Daniels & Mike Garson

Richard Stoltzman in Chicago

Anthony Gigliotti & Alfred Prinz

Sabine and Wolfgang Meyer

Chicago Host – Julie DeRoche

**280 ClarinetFest® participants set a new record
Columbus, Ohio 1998**

**Guido Six, Biermeister
Co-Host ClarFest '93 - Ghent, Belgium
Host ClarinetFest® '99 - Ostend, Belgium**

**Julian Bliss age 11 years
ClarinetFest® 2000 at Norman, Oklahoma**

***Vienna and the Clarinet: A Festival and Symposium*
1998 ClarinetFest® at Ohio State Univ.**

CONFERENCE LOCATIONS:

1974-1977	U.S.A. - Denver, Colorado
1978	CANADA - Toronto
1979-1980	U.S.A. - Denver, Colorado
1981	FRANCE - Paris
1982-1983	U.S.A. - Denver, Colorado

1984	ENGLAND - London
1985	U.S.A. - Oberlin, Ohio
1986	U.S.A. - Seattle, Washington
1987	U.S.A. - Urbana-Champaign, Illinois
1988	U.S.A. - Richmond, Virginia - A joint I.C.S Conference/ClarFest with C.I.
1989	U.S.A. - Minneapolis, Minnesota
1990	CANADA - Quebec City
1991	U.S.A. - Flagstaff, Arizona
1992	U.S.A. - Cincinnati, Ohio
1993	BELGIUM- Ghent
1994	U.S.A. - Chicago, Illinois
1995	U.S.A. - Tempe, Arizona
1996	FRANCE - Paris
1997	U.S.A. - Lubbock, Texas
1998	U.S.A. - Columbus, Ohio
1999	BELGIUM - Ostende
2000	U.S.A. - Norman, Oklahoma
2001	U.S.A. - New Orleans, Louisiana
2002	SWEDEN - Stockholm
2003	U.S.A. - Salt Lake City, Utah
2004	U.S.A. - Washington, D.C.
2005	JAPAN - Tokyo/Tama
2006	U.S.A. - Atlanta, Georgia
2007	CANADA - Vancouver, B.C.
2008	U.S.A. - Kansas City, Missouri
2009	PORTUGAL - Porto
2010	U.S.A. - Austin, Texas
2011	U.S.A. - Los Angeles, California
2012	U.S.A. - Lincoln, Nebraska
2013	ITALY - Assisi
2014	U.S.A. - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
2015	SPAIN - Madrid

A great help to ClarinetFest® hosts/organizers have been several association coordinators, member volunteers that have taken on the responsibilities of making our organization and its many functions run much more smoothly and efficiently. These coordinators now plan and run five competitions, organize volunteers (often college/university students) during ClarinetFests®, serve as editor for Program Booklets, and coordinate various I.C.A. activities. A complete list can be found at [Coordinators](#) on the I.C.A. website.

Comments such as the following about our annual conferences have appeared on recruiting brochures:

- “As represented in *The Clarinet* and at the sessions of the *ClarFest International* conferences, the ‘hands-on’ approach of today’s players/teachers is consistently awesome.” The late **Mitchell Lurie** - former Principal Clarinetists with the Pittsburgh and Chicago Symphony Orchestras and noted pedagogue at the University of Southern California
- “The *ClarFest International* conferences give teachers the opportunity to share and discover new teaching techniques, repertoire and equipment...and return to their students refreshed and energized.” **DeeDee Hamlin** - Cincinnati area private clarinet teacher
- “It is a source of inspiration to me to hear performers of this caliber at the *ClarFest International* conferences, and playing in the clarinet choir gives me a real feeling of participation.” **Keith Skelton** - Brownstone (IN) clarinetist and repairman.

Elsa Ludwig-Verdehr	2007	East Lansing, Michigan
James Gillespie	2008	Denton, Texas
Fred Ormand	2008	Lawrence, Kansas
Larry Combs	2008	Evanston, Illinois
Buddy DeFranco	2010	Panama City Beach, Florida
H. James Schoepflin	2010	Spokane, Washington
David Etheridge	2011	(1942-2010)
Béla Kovács	2011	Budapest, Hungary
Frank Kowalski	2012	Tallahassee, Florida
Ben Armato	2012	Ardsley, New York
Hans Rudolf Stalder	2013	Switzerland
Milenko Stefanovic	2013	Serbia
Michele Zukovsky	2014	Los Angeles, California

COMPETITIONS:

1974 marked the third annual National Clarinet Competition, open only to high school students. This competition was eventually split between the **High School Competition** and the **Young Artist Competition** (YAC) for competitors up to age 27. The later two have been international in scope for many years. For the past several years the president-elect coordinates the Young Artist Competition. Coordinators of the High School Competition have been Gerald King, Michael Galván, Diane Cawein-Barger, Kathy Pope, Marguerite Levin, and Elizabeth “Libby” Crawford.

In 1997 the **Orchestral Audition Competition** (OAC) was founded and coordinated by Raphael Sanders, a member who wanted something to happen and made it happen. Raphael coordinated this from 1997 to 2007. Peter Wright stepped in from 2008 to 2011, followed by Jeremy Reynolds in 2012. Michèle Gingras coordinated the **Composition Competition** for many years. It attracted hundreds of entries of outstanding compositions for a variety of works that included clarinet, solo works, chamber works, etc. Performance copies of all entries are in the I.C.A. Research Library at the University of Maryland. During Gary Whitman’s term as President, the Composition Competition was reinstated. Eric Mandat coordinated from 2010 to 2012. Michael Norsworthy will begin for the 2013 competition.

An often unnoticed addition to ClarinetFests® is the Paper and Poster Presentations - **Research Competition**. Keith Koons was the initiator of this important addition to our conferences. After Keith, John Cipolla, Jane Ellsworth, and Douglas Monroe volunteered to coordinate these very interesting sessions over the years.

COMPETITION WINNERS: The Clarinet.org website has a complete listing of all competition winners.

YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION REPERTOIRE LIST: In 1974, the Third Annual National Clarinet Competition was open to high school and junior high school students, including graduating seniors. For 1975, the International Clarinet Competition was open not only to high school players in the United States, but anyone 19 years of age or under not yet having entered the college level - including the United States and all foreign countries. Eligibility ages changed considerably during the years following. From 1982 to 1984 clarinetists up to age 30 or under on January 1st of the competition year were eligible. The age was lowered to 22 from 1985 to 1987, raised to age 23 from 1988 to 1992, and set at age 27 since 1993. Robert Walzel and Alan Stanek compiled the list making it readily available to coordinators.

WEBSITE: WWW.CLARINET.ORG:

Stan Geidel got our website up and running in c1995, and Mark Charette and Kevin Jocius followed as Webmasters. David Neithamer served as our Internet Liaison for several years. Rachel Yoder currently serves

as Website Links Coordinator. Roger Garrett produced an ICA Electronic Newsletter for those enrolled through the Klarinet Discussion List, an Internet discussion list started in 1996 and hosted on Mark's server. The Electronic Newsletter was an attempt to recruit younger clarinetists to the association. Unfortunately, the newsletter was dropped. Under President Keith Koons, the groundwork for a new e-newsletter was laid using Constant Contact. E-mail "blasts" for I.C.A. announcements have been used, online voting, and membership surveys have helped organization officials define membership demographics, attitudes, and preferences.

Stan Geidel

Mark Charette

ADVERTISERS and EXHIBITORS:

Without the support and backing of advertisers and conference exhibitors there would probably be no magazine or ClarinetFest®. They provide the necessary financial support, exchange of ideas, and materials through their advertising in the journal and conference program booklets, exhibitions, and the sponsorship of clarinet artists and teachers. The association is indebted to their generosity and cooperation.

Robert (1916-1993) & Annette Luyben (1916-1991)
Luyben Music, Kansas City, Missouri

Marion and Bob Lorenzini (1918-2001)
Sounds of Woodwinds

'94 Chicago ClarinetFest® Exhibit Space

STATE CHAIRS, REGIONAL CHAIRS, and NATIONAL CHAIRPERSONS:

State Representatives (50)

Regional Chairpersons (9) - no longer in effect

National Chairpersons (43)

FIRST NATIONAL CHAIRMEN from *The Clarinet*, Volume 1, Number 2:

Avram Galper	Eastern Canada
Melvin Cooksey	Western Canada
Neville Thomas	Australia
Roger Salander	Austria
Jack Brymer	England
Christie Lundquist	Mexico

RELATED ORGANIZATIONS, REGIONAL CONFERENCES AND FESTIVALS:

Clarinet and Saxophone Society of Great Britain
The Japan Clarinet Society
National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors
Atlanta Clarinet Association
ARIA International Summer Academy
Bowling Green Contemporary Clarinet Conference
Eastern Kentucky Clarinet Festival
Michigan Contemporary Clarinet Festival
Nebraska Midwest ClarFest
New Mexico Clarinet Club
Northern Illinois Clarinet Cornucopia
Ohio Clarinet Gala
Texas Tech Clarinet Symposium
Oklahoma Clarinet Symposium
Montevallo Clarinet Symposium
Montana/Idaho Clarinet Conference
Southern Appalachian Clarinet Retreat

Wisconsin Clarinet Celebration

OTHER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS:

Australasian Clarinet and Saxophone Conference
Beijing International Clarinet/Saxophone Festival
Belgian Clarinet Academy
CASS Festivals - United Kingdom
Domzale, Slovenia Clarinet Seminar
EuroCass Clarinet/Saxophone Festival & Course
German Clarinet Symposium in Düsseldorf
Hungarian Clarinet Camp
Icelandic Clarinet Festival
Japan Clarinet Society Conference
Le Domaine Forget, Quebec, Canada
Xi'an International Clarinet and Saxophone Festival

The International Clarinet Association's evolution from a "good idea" to this 40th Anniversary is an indication of the dedication and devotion of the instrument's many students, performers, teachers, and aficionados. The following quote succinctly states who, what and why the International Clarinet Association is what it is today and what it will be into the future:

"Foremost among the numerous benefits of I.C.A. membership are the yearly conferences and the superb magazine...loaded with wide-ranging information about the clarinet, its repertoire, and clarinetists, past and present." **Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr** - Professor of Clarinet, Michigan State University

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