

# CUWinds

The Wind Ensembles of Cornell University



Uniting Cornell University students who seek remarkable music making through the process of preparing and performing established and emerging wind repertoire in both large and chamber ensembles.

The 4-1-1  
Semiannual Newsletter  
Volume 1, Issue 2  
Spring 2009  
Funded by the SAFC

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As the school year comes to an end and the relentless Ithaca winter shows signs of waning, we present the second issue of the biannual CUWinds newsletter! If you are reading this in print, we encourage you to send your email address to our alumni relations chair so that we can communicate with you electronically in the future. Also, please be sure to check out the NEW alumni connection blog page at [www.cuwinds.com](http://www.cuwinds.com). We are eager to hear from you on the web and we welcome your comments.

In this issue of *The 4-1-1*, you will find updates on recent CUWinds activities, a preview of next year's agenda, and articles by conductors Cynthia Johnston Turner and Timothy Reynish. A few highlights from the bustling spring term include the wind symphony's continued partnership with local Boynton Middle School; coffee, birthdays, and music shared with our beloved guest conductor Timothy Reynish; skiing adventures at Greek Peak; and performances of established and emerging repertoires in beautiful Bailey Hall.

While this newsletter is an opportunity for us to look back on the CUWinds events of this year and forward to the challenges of next year, I wonder what the current state of music is in each of your lives. We are often reminded that the vast majority of students in the Cornell wind bands are not music majors. Yet, I would find it hard to believe that any student in our ensembles would not consider music one of the defining and most pleasurable aspects of his Cornell experience. But where does the music go when life leads us from the hill? Where does the wind band music go?

I hope that wherever it goes, it goes with you.

Thank you for staying in tune with CUWinds.

Sincerely,  
Colette Kopon '09  
President, CUWinds

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#### DATES TO REMEMBER!

##### Fall 2009:

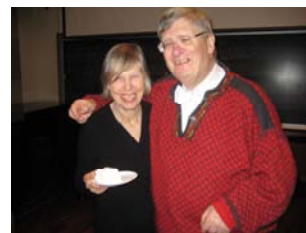
**May 23, 2009:** Cornell Commencement!  
CUWinds will play their annual Senior Week concert at 2:30pm on the Arts Quad.

**October 2009:** Cornell Homecoming!  
**Saturday, October 17:** CUWinds will present an open rehearsal in Lincoln B20 at 3pm for returning alumni. Bring your instrument!

**Sunday, October 18:** Joint CUWinds concert featuring the music of Steven Stucky

**Sunday, December 6, 2009:** Joint concert with the Cornell Symphony Orchestra

Visit [www.cuwinds.com](http://www.cuwinds.com) for details.



Tim and Hillary Reynish enjoy a CUWinds concert reception celebrating Tim's birthday.



Tim talks with Joshua Lubner '09 and Dan Nelson '06

### AN ODYSSEY BACK TO ITHACA

Since "retiring", I seem to have made a mini-career of deputizing for colleagues who are on a sabbatical, an Odyssey that has had me voyaging to Waco, Lexington, Ithaca, London, Fredonia, and now Ithaca again. Everywhere I have had wonderful hospitality and music-making, but none to rival Ithaca. Somehow both IC and Cornell seem to populate their wind ensembles with rare characters and personalities, so that the performances are especially vibrant, except for "Happy Birthday to You". For my wife's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, I explained carefully...key F concert pitch, start on C. Cornell's finest engineering and scientific minds launched into a performance which must have been scripted by Stockhausen. Wow, but the birthday cake was good, and they did play better for my birthday.

Our first concert was quite an experience, shared with the Glee Club and Chorale and celebrating Lincoln's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday with Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*. Coming as it did shortly after the inauguration of the new President, it was impossible to be unaware of 200 years of history and democratic evolution, an emotional performance. Our second concert was given jointly with the Wind Symphony; our half echoed Paul Revere's desperate message to the Minutemen, "The British are Coming", with four works which I had commissioned and of which I am especially proud, by Kenneth Hesketh, Tim Jackson, Richard Rodney Bennett and Adam Gorb. Adam's *Awayday* is especially tough technically, but all four provide challenges which the Ensemble met with good humour (that is humour with a "u", we do have language problems!) skill and I think success, well deserving their Post-concert Pudgie's Pizza Party.

Our last is another Odyssey, Round the World in Eighty Minutes: France-Croatia-Nashville-Hong Kong-Australia-Spain-New Zealand-Luxembourg. French orientalism-wild primordial Croatian legend-Southern States impressionism-New Orleans funeral-a massive paean to democracy- a concerto for saxophone and jazz trio-variations on a Mediaeval drinking song- a march which keeps going wrong... I don't usually programme (mme) such light fare but the Ithaca winter is over, thank goodness, and it's still musically taxing. I hope they are enjoying it, I certainly am. Then home. I shall miss Ithaca, and especially Cornell and its players will remain a special memory. See y'all in UK sometime.

-Tim Reynish, conductor



Matthew Marsit and Tim Reynish at a concert reception.

### SENIOR BITES

Although I've waited until my last semester at Cornell to join Wind Symphony, the experience that I've had over the last few months will stick with me for a long time. I've been in marching band and pep band since I got to college, but some part of me has always yearned to play "real music" - and now I can certainly say that I have! I've been challenged as a musician by genres I've never played before (some of that 20th century music is just plain crazy!), I've honed my musical interpretation skills, and I've had fun under Matt Marsit's conductorship the entire time. Thank you, CUWinds, for giving me the opportunity to develop an appreciation for and to play such a wide range of music!

-Angie Wolfgang

### SENIOR BITES

I have greatly enjoyed my time as a percussionist in the Wind Symphony over the past four years. Every Tuesday and Thursday, I would look forward to rehearsal as a chance to play great music, spend time with my friends in the ensemble, and enhance my instrumental skills. The talented conductors have helped me improve my musicianship. I know that my Cornell experience would not have been the same without participating in CUWinds.

-Steve Sachs

I have been pleasantly surprised with my experience in Wind Ensemble. My high school band director told us that unless we went to a music college, our college band would likely be of lower quality than our high school ensemble. I've found that not to be the case at Cornell, which is remarkable considering that very few of us are music majors.

-Tom Jackson

As a current senior in the Wind Symphony, I've watched the band grow and morph through the years-back in my day, it wasn't called the Wind Symphony but rather the Wind Ensemble. Before Bailey Hall was finished, we had to play at Ithaca College, and we had to walk all the way there and back, in the snow, uphill both ways! (Hey it's Ithaca, I'm used to it.) I'm very proud of what the ensemble has become over the years, and what I have become as a result.

-Mitch Wynnyk

### BOYNTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT

In the fall of 2008, the members of the Wind Symphony began a partnership with the bands at Boynton Middle School of Ithaca, NY. The Boynton students, under the direction of Michael Allen, were eager and smiling as we joined them at Ithaca High School during the fall semester. We rehearsed all afternoon in sectionals before combining into one very large ensemble and rehearsing as a group under both directors. Later that week, we performed a joint concert at Ithaca High School for all the proud parents. The repertoire included "Encanto" by Robert Smith and "West Highland Sojourn" by Robert Sheldon. In the spring semester, the Boynton students joined us in our very own Lincoln Hall, and we performed another successful concert after a hard day's rehearsal in Bailey Hall. Our repertoire included "Odysseus and the Sirens" by Dana Wilson, Ithaca College Composition Faculty, and Stuart Duncan's "Off Time", a modified version of the grad student's commissioned piece for the Philadelphia tour. The Boynton students were so enthusiastic and fun to work with, and so far, the partnership has been highly successful.

-Rachel Brenc '09, Secretary



Rachel Brenc '09, Secretary plays with trumpets from Boynton Middle School during a rehearsal.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Be sure to check out the article about our Philadelphia Project in the *Ezra* magazine for Cornell Alumni!
- Our CD *Razing the Bar* is NOW AVAILABLE on the website- be sure to download it and make a donation to CUWinds!
- **CONGRATULATIONS** to Cindi on her 2009 Kaplan Family Distinguished Faculty Fellowship and congratulations to Cindi and Matt on receiving a Faculty-in-Service grant for the Philadelphia project.
- **BEST OF LUCK!** to our 22 graduating seniors!
- For Alumni old and new: Our **ALUMNI BLOG** is now up and running! Visit the website and click the link on the left for details about how to start reconnecting with old friends!
- We are going green and will only send the newsletter online, if you are receiving this in the mail please send your email address to yq24@cornell.edu to be added to our email list!
- I am both excited and sad to say goodbye to you all after my tenure as Alumni Relations Chair. I look forward to seeing you at future CUWinds events, and hope that you are excited to hear from our new Alumni Relations Chair Elaine in the Fall!



Cake for the final reception of the semester.



Colleen Cassidy '09, Historian and Wyatt Honse '10, Incoming President pose after the final concert of the year.



Jeannine Altavilla '09, Alumni Relations Chair and Brin Rosenthal '09, Committee Chair after the final concert of the year.

## COSTA RICA PROJECT

At the time of writing this, I am just a few weeks away from visiting Costa Rica. I've been invited to guest conduct the National Band of San Jose and the University of Costa Rica Wind Ensemble, in addition to giving a week-long clinic to conductors as part of the new SINEM program. SINEM is Costa Rica's answer to "El Sistema" in Venezuela, a music pedagogy system that produced the likes of Gustavo Dudamel. It's a very exciting time for music education and performance in Costa Rica and I'm honored to be asked to contribute. I'll use the opportunity while I'm there to speak with our Costa Rican friends and make plans for CU Winds/Costa Rica Project III. I'll be meeting with the Principal and Executive Assistant at the San Isidro Conservatory where CU Winds visited last year, as well as making a trip up to Poas to check in on the Liceo de Poas. I just received the news from our friend Lyn Statten who lives in Costa Rica and helped organize our 2008 tour that, "a small wind ensemble from Liceo de Poas played at the Canadian Ambassador's home. They were playing with the instruments Cornell students left as a donation and they were very good! Olman Chaves, the musical director, was most complimentary as he told the story of [our] visit and what a surprise it was to receive 30 instruments. Again, not a dry eye in the place!" I love that. I'll see Olman and his students when I visit in May.

As far as specific plans for Costa Rica 2010, I only know that it seems we have the biggest impact when we travel into the rural areas and interact with music students and teachers there. Although there are many opportunities for music in San Jose, it is very difficult to find similar resources outside of the city. That is why it is critical that we start collecting as many instruments as possible, as soon as possible! If you have an instrument to donate or can help us in other ways, please contact me (cpj6@cornell.edu) or our new **CUWinds** President Wyatt Honse (wah25@cornell.edu). One of the more creative ways you can help is to download our music "Razing the Bar" from [www.cuwinds.com](http://www.cuwinds.com) and contribute to the project directly on the site!

Our dear friend Ronni Lacroute will be accompanying us again in 2010, and we cannot begin to thank her enough for her ongoing support of the project.

Of course the very sad part about being in Costa Rica in late May is that I will miss Senior Week and Commencement—two of my favorite times of the year at Cornell. Mostly, I will miss celebrating with our Seniors; making music with them one more time in rehearsals and performances, watching their faces as they walk proudly in their Commencement gowns, applauding their achievements, and thanking them for their commitment to excellence in music-making while with CU Winds.

Congratulations to all of the Seniors. My deepest respect and affection always.

-Cynthia Johnston-Turner, Director **CUWinds**

## SENIOR BITES

My first concrete memory of wind ensemble is from the first few weeks of my freshman year. I chose to tag along to dinner after rehearsal with the older, social saxophone section (Dan Nelson, Emily Looney, Tim Vadas, and Dave Lifson) plus horn player Mark Sandeen. Slightly bewildered by our repertoire (which included Gregson's electronic effects-filled piece *Metamorphosis*), I asked Dave when we would start playing the band classics of Grainger or Alfred Reed. Dave's eyes widened in a mixture of surprise and amusement, gave me a funny look, and with faux-seriousness explained, "You're not in high school anymore, Katie. You're in the *wind ensemble*."

I left dinner that night thinking I had made a horrible mistake, wondering if I would ever play the songs that I loved most in high school, and cursing Cindi's seemingly strange musical tastes. Yet when all is said and done, one of the things I cherish most about my four years in the wind ensemble is playing music that expanded boundaries, challenged assumptions, and forced us to grow as musicians.

-Katie White

After being in the wind ensemble for 4 years, it's hard to think of a specific memory to sum up my experiences. Musically, this is certainly the most talented ensemble I've been a part of and it has been a thrilling experience to be able to play such beautiful music with close friends. The repertoire has challenged me from both a technique and an appreciation standpoint as I've gained a new understanding of classical and contemporary ensemble music. Most importantly, I've personally experienced how the act of making music with people can touch their lives, and mine. It's been a wonderful, enriching journey and I thank you all.

-Joshua Lubner