



The Taylor Times

The Newsletter with "Schmaltz"



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Holiday 2011

Volume 17, Issue 1
Seattle, Washington

INS AND OUTS, UPS AND DOWNS

This has been a year of stresses, expenses, accomplishments, roadblocks, frustrations, pains, and pleasures... among so many other things. We won't be reporting every-

thing here, but will try to concentrate on the highlights. People may learn a lot from the bad things that happen, but it's the good that keeps us moving forward in spite of it.



Rialto Beach, Olympic National Park, Washington

MUSIC PUBLISHED

Early in the year Jeff completed another piece for brass quintet, ultimately called *Jesu Impressions*, an addition to the collection of pieces intended for inclusion in the *Black Diamond Brass* holiday CD, should it ever see the light of day. About that time he also decided to make some contact to see what, if anything, could get published. The mainstay of brass ensemble music for many years has been *Solid Brass Music* in San Rafael, California, so he contacted the owner to see if he would be interested. To Jeff's surprise he was eager to publish five of his pieces, four brass quintets (including "*Jesu*") and the *Incantations for Tuba and Brass Band*. So at least some of his music is now out and available to the public, even if the public doesn't know what's good for them.

With the dubious 10th Anniversary of

the 9/11 attacks and the previous year's discussions with the *Everett Symphony* to possibly play Jeff's *In Memoriam 911* during this upcoming season, he set about finishing the orchestration to the piece he'd written just days after the terrorist events. By the end of May, the music was complete and ready for performance, but as it turned out, the *Everett Symphony* was not. It had morphed into something that, while still technically alive, needed to be reborn as a creature that actually had a voice. The director had resigned, the orchestra was to be renamed, and the programming would turn more toward "show tunes" and the like. After all, this is *Everett*, land of a somewhat more rudimentary culture than might be found in most other nearby urban areas (i.e. think *Cowboy*). This would obviously no longer be an option.

Jeff began approaching other local orchestras, but by that time they had virtually all set the following season's music pretty much in stone, and him without his chisel. He had hoped the piece could actually get played in 2011, but after finally presenting it to Alexei Girsch, music director of the Eastside Symphony, (where Jeff is tubist), he was happy to let him program it for the March, 2012, concert. It may not be the right year, but at least it's still the right season.

2012 will also see world premieres of at least two other pieces of Jeff's. Washington Statements, A Northwest Suite for Brass Band, will be performed by Brass Band Northwest in June of 2012. And in May, a new piece called Prairie Winds Fanfare will be presented by the Highline Symphonic Band. The conductor of that band had approached him during one of their rehearsals in September, about writing a fanfare to be included on a

program of Western-style music later in the season. After making all kinds of excuses for his lack of available time to even consider such a thing, Jeff headed home that evening with the challenge on his mind. Ideas began to take shape and by the time he got home there were some things he needed to write down. And of course, he couldn't stop there. Within three days the piece was complete except for some orchestration, and was actually rehearsed the following week.

Also completed this year was a second movement to the Symphony for Strings, started quite a few years ago, but still awaiting completion. There remains one more movement to write, after which Jeff hopes to get another local orchestra to play it, but he's been sidetracked by other work, in particular, finalizing the orchestration for Washington Statements. Nevertheless, that last movement is under way.

BRASS BAND ACTIVITIES

Seems like toward the end of every holiday season it gets more and more difficult to avoid getting totally burned out on all the holiday music, probably most notably Christmas Festival and Sleigh Ride, tunes which made Leroy Anderson quite famous while leading the rest of us to wonder why (or maybe why didn't we think of that!). Brass Band Northwest now has a professionally recorded holiday CD available through CD Baby called "Deck the Halls". But, of course, to have a CD available for the holidays means recording in the middle of summer. So this year was even more intolerable than usual. Just when we finally had last year's holiday music out of our systems, along came the recording sessions and a whole new "Christmas in July". Then just as we were over that, the new holidays pounced upon us. Why don't they just leave us alone!? Well, the CD did turn out quite well, and if anyone wants to hear a rather creative version of the Nutcracker Suite you can purchase a copy. (<http://www.cdbaby.com/>) For a version of the Chinese Dance for tuba (with Jeff as soloist) there is a link at

[http://www.artsndsounds.com/music/Tea for Tuba.mp3](http://www.artsndsounds.com/music/Tea%20for%20Tuba.mp3). It's also on the CD.

BBNW also played the national anthem at a Seattle Mariners game in August. The band actually played TWO anthems, being as this was a game against Toronto and so the Canadian National Anthem was on the docket. The trick was in memorizing both, as Jeff has found memorization and age somewhat incompatible.

TRAVELING PHOTOGRAPHER

Travels this year were somewhat average with bursts of unusual thrown in. In August, we decided to take a weekend at the Worldmark in Birch Bay, WA. We've always enjoyed that location, across the street from the water, good walking, and several nice local restaurants. We also stopped at Boxx Berry Farm in Ferndale, where we picked about 14 pounds of absolutely luscious blueberries!

When BBNW plays Washington Statements, the band will be simultaneously showing photos of the areas depicted by the music. In an effort to gather some of those photos Jeff went on a couple of "missions" seeking them out. The



Out on the Palouse of Eastern Washington

first movement of the piece is called "Palouse", so over the Labor Day weekend he grabbed his Nikon and headed for eastern Washington and the hills of this unusual landscape. Donna's tolerance for heat and dust is rather low, so Jeff struck out on his own, ironically, on his 60th birthday. The scenery, painted by huge brushstrokes of harvested fields, was quite remarkable, especially in early morning and late afternoon when the shadows would bring amazing richness to the hills.



Hoh Rainforest, Olympic National Park, Washington

Another of the movements is the "Hoh Rainforest". In early October, we found a very quaint and comfy cabin on the south end of Forks near the Washington coast. It was a great base for Jeff to get to the Hoh for his second photographic search. He had never been to the rainforest before, but Donna had, and since his purpose was photography and she is not very patient with his excursions of that type, he headed out on his own once again. While he was a bit disappointed with the national park's offering, he did manage to gather quite a few really interesting moss-covered shots. The next day on a whim, Jeff suggested we take a side trip to Rialto Beach, part of the coast unit of Olympic National Park, and La Push, just south of

there. He'd been to La Push before, but never Rialto. As it turned out, the scenery along the beach was both pounding and astounding. Whole trees washed up on the beach, the spray coming off the waves as they bore down on the land, rugged island backdrops offshore, and unexpectedly sunny weather led to some excellent shots. Too bad he did not write music about this place. Maybe someday he will have to create a new version of "La Mer".

Our final vacation was a return to Puerto Vallarta over Thanksgiving week. We managed to find a lot of wonderful restaurants, enjoyed walks and the beach under continuously sunny skies, and staved off the traditional Montezuma's revenge until after our return home, but we also got to experience the frustration of Time-Share Mexico and the Room from Hell. Three years earlier we had purchased this vacation membership (read "time share") but the circumstances did not result in an easily usable system. We couldn't actually use the location where we'd purchased in Nayarit and so ended up at the "in town" location. The overall resort, Villa del Palmar, was very nice, but our studio condo proved to be nothing but challenge after challenge. The first morning the bathtub faucet handle fell off and water sprayed out the side of the showerhead, which ended up breaking off completely the second morning. When the showerhead got replaced Donna proceeded to take a shower during which one of Mexico's famed cockroaches decided to appear from the ceiling and jump into her hair. This did not make for a pleasant shower. Missing or burned out lightbulbs, non-functional hairdryers, and missing dishware rounded out the in-room prob-

lems, but then there was the "owner update" which was, of course, another sales pitch. As it turned out, the only way we were going to be able to get a system that we would be able to use the way we wanted, was to buy more. And the biggest frustration of all was to find out that we had not been told the whole truth when we originally purchased, making the truth somewhat questionable this second time around. For those of you heading to PV, you can find rooms at Villa del Palmar without buying into the vacation club. We would strongly recommend you stay that course.



In case you had not heard Jeff was laid off again in February, but by the end of April had secured another position, ironically with the former partner of the guy who laid him off. These pictures are of Jeff and Donna at the E3 Energy Partners Christmas party.

House Repair and other expenses

This year heard the pitter-patter of little feet in our house. No, it was not some errant delivery by a misguided stork. It turned out to be a family of rats that had decided to take up residence in the attic. There was no food or water up there for them, but the shelter from the cold, wet, winter weather was apparently an invitation they could not pass up. The exterminator we called pointed out a number of locations where the critters were gaining access, but also noted the probable need for a new roof. It was not an expense we wanted to take on, but with Jeff having walked the roof on numerous occasions, he was well aware of the risk of ending up in the attic through an unintended entrance. \$10,000 later we will attest to Guardian Roofing's first-rate job along with silenced footsteps.

Over the last couple of years Donna needed to have two teeth removed. As luck would have it they were right next to one another. It's actually fairly easy to

tolerate one missing tooth with teeth on either side, but two together is another matter. Since Jeff also had a tooth missing we decided it was time to investigate implants. Donna's bone structure (we both were dealing with uppers) was sufficient for her to have the implants with minimal bone grafting. Unfortunately, Jeff's bone is too thin to support the graft without a major procedure, something his tuba playing could not handle. (He will be looking at a bridge sometime in the new year.) But we went ahead with Donna's work, (about \$5000 worth after insurance). It proved to be a very easy process, especially with her taking one Valium an hour beforehand and another immediately upon arrival in the dentist's office. She said afterward it was probably the best dental procedure of her life, though admittedly she pretty much slept through the whole thing. And she did raise a few eyebrows when, after all was said and done, she started telling people she'd had implants, rather quickly having to clarify what she meant.

DILBERT

