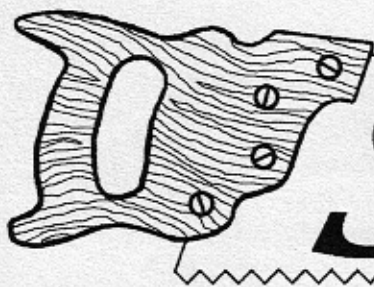


INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL SAW ASSOCIATION



SAW PLAYER NEWS

Vol.10, No. 3 www.SawPlayers.org Email: Info@SawPlayers.org (415)331-9661 Designer: Ken Ball Spring 2005

Come to the 2005 Saw Festival



The Japanese musical saw group "Saw Happy" (L-R: Miwako Kitamoto, Takuji Arasuna, Yuko Yamakawa, Hajime Sakita, Asami Taniguchi & Toshihiro Yoshioka) perform at the 2004 Saw Festival.

Photo: ©David Weiss 2004

For great music that's a cut above the rest, come to the 27th annual International Musical Saw Festival, Saturday and Sunday, August 13 and 14, in beautiful Santa Cruz County, California.

The cutting edge music starts Saturday, August 13, 2005 at 1:00 PM, with a free acoustic jam at Bookstore Santa Cruz, located at 1520 Pacific Avenue. Next comes a free potluck dinner and jam at 6:00 PM in the outer parking lot of Roaring Camp in Felton, just seven miles north of Santa Cruz.

The main event happens Sunday, August 14, at Roaring Camp when the world's greatest saw players come out of the woodwork to join other acoustic musicians in a variety of musical

performances. You'll hear bluegrass, country, folk, gospel, blues, classical, and even show tunes (believe it or not, no heavy metal) throughout the day. Festivities start at 10:00 AM, with spontaneous acoustic jams throughout the day. There's a Saw-Off competition from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and a Chorus of the Saws at 3:00 PM., with up to 50 saw players trying to play in unison.

And for those who want to learn how to play music that really has some teeth in it, there's a free Musical Saw Workshop at 4:00 PM.

The entire event is FREE, and fun for the whole family. For more information, check out: www.SawPlayers.org, or www.RoaringCamp.com.

Held by the International Musical Saw Association, this event is sponsored in part by *KUSP Radio* and the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County. Come to the 27th annual Musical Saw Festival, and say you saw it here first!

More Information About the Saw Festival:

The Santa Cruz area is a popular tourist destination, so if you will need a hotel or motel close by, it would be a good idea to make your reservations as soon as possible, as Summer weekends may be sold out. Do a Google Search at www.google.com and type in "motels in Santa Cruz, CA". Lodging may cost less in smaller towns around Santa Cruz, such as Scott's Valley. If you are camping there are more options close by, and if you have a self-contained van or camper or recreational vehicle - you are welcome to stay overnight in the outer parking lot at Roaring Camp with us.

Join us Saturday night at Roaring Camp in the small town of Felton, which is about 15-20 minutes north of Santa Cruz - where the REAL fun begins! We have again been given permission to meet in the outer parking lot at Roaring Camp to have an informal pot-luck dinner and jam session - which generally lasts from about 6-10 PM and has attracted some GREAT musicians, and their families and friends. It's a relaxed event that enables people to eat and socialize and play music without time pressures or expectations of any kind. It is personally my favorite part of the weekend! For contributing to the pot luck, there is a big grocery store, pizza parlor etc. a short distance down the road from the parking lot, and we rent our own Porta-potty (portable toilet) for our convenience.

San Francisco International Airport (SFO) is by far the biggest airport with the most air traffic in the area, but the closest major airport to Santa Cruz is "SJO" (San Jose, CA), which is about a 45-60 minute drive away. I don't know, but there MAY be an airport connection to Santa Cruz. But you'll probably have to rent a car anyway, and I think it would be best to do it at SFO or SJO.

If you are planning any other trips around Northern California while you're in the area, I would suggest (1) The Monterey Bay Aquarium (about 45 minutes South of Santa Cruz), (2) driving up the coast from Santa Cruz to San Francisco (about 2 + hours), (3) San Francisco of course, (4) "the wine country" of Napa and Sonoma valleys (about an hour North of SF), and (5) going East to enjoy world-famous Yosemite Valley (4-5 hours from Santa Cruz and the SF Bay Area).

Note: You can go to www.SawPlayers.org to download a PDF file of both the Saw Festival Flyer and our Press Release, so you can print out and distribute copies to help us promote the Saw Festival.

If you have any questions not answered above, I will try to find answers for you. Email me at: Sawman@DistinctivePhotos.com or call me at 415-459-7722. We hope to see you at this year's Saw Festival!

Get your own T-shirt!

MUSICAL SAW FESTIVAL

(Orange with black text & graphics printed on both sides)



Limited Sizes & Quantity Available - **ORDER NOW!**
(Only Large and Extra Large still in stock)

ONLY \$20 US each (includes shipping)

Send your check and size to:

IMSA T-shirt

31 South 40 Pier

Sausalito, CA 94965 USA



Sylvain Pichet

Photo: ©Morgan Cowin 2000

News from France

By Sylvain Pichet, President of A.N.D.I.A.L.S. (Association Nationale Des Interprètes et Amis de la Lame Sonore - The National Association of the Interpreters and Friends of the Singing Blade)

News from France on the Saw Players of ANDIALS and their festival on October 16 & 17, 2004, as well as the activities of the Association.

Thanks to the Internet, indications are that young people are being attracted toward the "Singing Blade." They are joining us on line, asking numerous pertinent questions about its use, its place in contemporary and classical music, and its future. We need to respond to their curiosity by giving them good instruction about proper technique and the correct classical position, so that they can acquire the maximum results. During the performances of some players, we are seeing certain movements that we fear might tend to discredit the saw, after we have taken much care to have the saw be respected as an instrument in its own right.

The international festival of 2004 was warmly welcomed and was a great and beautiful success with numerous spectators in attendance. Several continents were represented: Japan by M. Shimoda, China by Mr. Li Yang Qing, Italie by Felipe Pantone, the United States by Natalia Paruz, and France by Mr. Marty, Mr. Bataillon, and Mr. Suchail, with Adam and myself not competing.

The winners of the competition were: 1st Prize: Li Yang Qing, 2nd Prize: Felipe Pantone, and

3rd Prize: René Suchail with Michael Bataillon

We took the opportunity offered us to show that our instrument could be utilized in diverse musical formations: an orchestra of harmony accordions, Stick Chapman(?), the Barbary Organ; and, especially, that it can be given a privileged place at the heart of a large symphonic orchestra. I had the honor to play three different pieces accompanied by the Orchestre Royal Air Maroc. This performance elicited thundering applause.

Thanks to this festival, we made a world-wide premier: I played a melody created especially for the Musical Saw and string orchestra. This piece, the first to be composed especially for our instrument, was written by Denis Barbier, and is entitled "Beyond the Stars." Mr. Barbier is one of our members, and he has composed music for films and has won awards at the Cannes Film Festival. Natalia Paruz also played compositions by her husband. Natalia is a very good ambassador for us - she is very enthusiastic, and she has great love for our instrument, as do I.

Our regional delegate is now preparing for the annual meeting of ANDIALS. This year it will take place in the South of France near Beziers. We change the location of our meetings each year in order to better attract our members.

I close extending our sincere friendship to the members of the International Musical Saw Association. Sylvain Pichet, www.andials.com

P.S. To obtain the music for "Beyond the Stars" by Monsieur Barbier, write directly to:

M. Barbier, Denis 8 rue Jules Valles 75011 Paris, France

ADVERTISE In The Saw Player News!

We are now accepting both Classified and Display advertising for music-related and Musical Saw-related merchandise and services. You can now reach hundreds of saw players at a reasonable cost!

Terms and Prices for Display ads: Display ads should be "camera ready" (ready to print without resizing or editing).

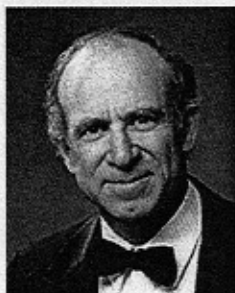
- Full Page.....(7.5" wide by 10" high) - \$ 200
- Half Page.....(7.5" wide by 4.75" high) - \$100
- Quarter Page.....(3.75" wide by 4.75" high) - \$ 50
- Business Card.....(3.75" wide by 2" high) \$ 25
- Flyer Insertion.....(8.5" wide by 11" high) - \$ 200

Terms and Prices for Classified ads: Classified ads should be typed or printed to eliminate errors.

There are 36 letters and spaces per line with a two line minimum for \$13/issue. Additional lines are \$3.50 each. Space must be left between words and punctuation marks require a space also. If the word does not fit on the end of the line, please use the next line. Your area code and phone number must be included in your ad information. The Saw Player News reserves the right to refuse any ads. Send payment in U.S. Dollars with your ad payable to IMSA, 31 South 40 Pier, Sausalito, CA 94965 U.S.A.

“How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, Practice!”

— Jascha Heifetz



By David Weiss

I have had the good fortune of performing in Carnegie hall on numerous occasions – but up until now only on the oboe. Saturday, April 2, 2005 marked my debut performance on the saw, in an

orchestral piece called “Dreams and Whispers of Poseidon” by the young Russian composer, Lera Auerbach. The orchestra was the American Youth Symphony, which is based in Los Angeles, and features instrumentalists age 15 to 25 (except for me — I was the youngest saw player they could find who could cut the part!). In this work, which was inspired by the recent devastating tsunami, Auerbach attempts to recreate the color, mystery, magnitude, and awesome power of the ocean. The expanded 100-piece orchestra includes not only the musical saw, but a theremin, triangle, tam-tam, cymbals, temple blocks, tubular bells, crystal glasses, bass drum, vibraphone, xylophone, glockenspiel, celesta, 2 harps, harpsichord, organ, and piano — each bringing a different color, flavor, texture to the music, in an attempt to portray all the creatures of the deep!

The saw part requires playing an eerie melody of distinct pitches, often in unison or in octaves with the theremin or alto saxophone or violins, moving fairly rapidly, with several large interval leaps. Most of the exposed solos occur during the first couple of minutes of the piece (when the ocean begins to wake up from its slumber — high saw wailing over onerous bass rumblings. The “world premiere” was given in Los Angeles on March 27th, and the East Coast Premiere was April 2nd. Both performances were sold out!

It was a great couple of weeks which I'll never forget.

Here are excerpts from the reviews in the LA Times and the New York Times

--- first the New York Times:

www.nytimes.com/2005/04/06/arts/music/06youth.html

Next the Los Angeles Times:

www.calendarlive.com/music/swed/cl-et-youth29mar29,2,5810834.story

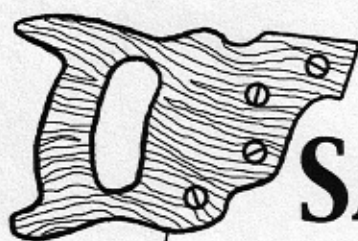


“David Weiss playing his musical saw at Carnegie Hall”

Presented by The



International
Musical Saw
Association



SAW PLAYERS

(And Friends)

PICNIC & MUSIC FESTIVAL

To be held near Santa Cruz, California at

SINCE 1978!

Roaring Camp

International
Musical Saw
Contest

Musical Saw
Workshop

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2005

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

ALSO, join us for a pot-luck dinner & jamming Saturday night, August 13 at the Roaring Camp outer parking lot (6-10 PM). Come on down & PLAY!

▶ ALL MUSICIANS INVITED! ◀

Jamming all day - Open mike throughout the day

Old-Time Fiddlers • Bluegrass • Classical • Country • Folk

Acoustic Instruments • Musical Saws • Harmonicas • Accordians • Singers

Guitars • Banjos • And MORE! (Bring YOUR Instrument!)

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

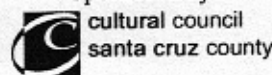
IT'S FREE!

(there is a small parking fee)

Sponsored by:



Sponsored by:



For Festival Information:

www.SawPlayers.org

Call: Morgan Cowin
(415)459-7722

Write: 31 South 40 Pier
Sausalito, CA 94965



For Directions to
Roaring Camp & Big Trees
in Felton (just North of Santa Cruz)
Call: (831)335-4484
www.RoaringCamp.com

Take the Mt. Hermon Exit off Hwy. 17 to Graham Hill Rd., Then Left 1/4 mile to Roaring Camp.

2005 "SAW-OFF" COMPETITION INFORMATION

The International Musical Saw Association (IMSA) produces the "Saw-Off" contest each year as part of our annual **Saw Players Picnic & Music Festival** at "Roaring Camp", located in the town of Felton, about 6 miles North of Santa Cruz, California. The date will be Sunday, August 14, 2005.

Each year, Saw Players from around the world come to play and compete for the opportunity to receive an award in recognition for their skills, and a chance to play one piece with their saw on the main stage. Everyone entering the contest must be a current IMSA member.

So that we can fit everything into the program, we prefer that everyone that is planning to enter the contest to pre-register. To assure your place in the contest, please **complete the entry form below and mail it to us As Soon As Possible.** There is an entry fee of \$5 (U.S. Dollars) in addition to current membership dues) to help out with our expenses. Those planning to enter the contest should **register by 10:00 AM near the main stage, and be ready to play by 11:00** at the smaller contest stage (you will be directed to the contest stage area when you register). The time allotted for the contest will depend on the number of contestants.

Each contestant is to play two songs. You may play one piece with accompaniment of any kind, and then you are asked to play "Auld Lang Syne" without accompaniment. "Auld Lang Syne" is known all over the world, but in some places it is called "Friendship Forever."

Also, at about 3:00 PM, ALL saw players attending The Festival are invited to come up on the main stage to play a few pieces together (we call it the "Massing of the Saws")

INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL SAW CONTEST ENTRY FORM

NOTE: You **MUST** be a current IMSA Member to enter the contest.



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country (if you live outside the USA): _____

Be prepared to (1) Play any one piece with (or without) any kind of accompaniment, and...

(2) Play "Auld Lang Syne" (also known as "Friendship Forever") **without** accompaniment.

Note: you may listen to the melody of Auld Lang Syne on our website: www.SawPlayers.org

Mail this form (or a copy) with a check or money order for \$5 US by August 1, 2005

to: _____ (You may also enter and pay at the Saw Festival)

I.M.S.A. c/o

31 South 40 Pier

Sausalito, CA94965 (U.S.A.) Email: info@sawplayers.org

The First Musical Saw Festival in Japan!



"Kansai Nokogiri (saw) Orchestra" led by Hajime Sakita (First Place Winner at the 2004 IMSA Saw Festival)

Hello! All SAW LOVERS! I am Hajime Sakita. I am a member of Japan Musical Saw Association, Kansai branch (west part of Japan). There are more than 200 saw lovers in Japan and 50 members are in Kansai branch. On November 12, 2004, we had the 10th anniversary of our Kansai branch and celebrated it by holding "Musical Saw Festival in Japan." I'd like to write about the first musical saw festival in Japan, which was a joyful success, with many guest performers and of course, our members.

Our first "Musical Saw Festival in Japan" was held in a large hall with a capacity of 500 people. To introduce the fascinating world of the musical saw, we tried various ways in stage effects with lots of performance, talk and visual images. We also had so many guests: from Tokyo - Utaroku Miyakoya (the president of Japan Musical Saw Association), Kazuo "Sawyer" Tanimura (the leader of the Japan Musical-saw Club, which Yoshikazu "KAZU" Kawaguchi belongs to) and TITI Matsumura (a member of popular guitar duo "GONTITI," also known as an enthusiastic saw-lover), and from Osaka - "Yokoyama Hot Brothers" (a popular musical vaudevillian trio).

"Yokoyama Hot Brothers" especially, has been very popular in Kansai area for more than 50 years with their comical performance with a musical saw and mallet, and has contributed a great deal to spread the joy of playing the musical saw. Thanks to "Yokoyama Hot Brothers," the musical saw sound has been known widely to the people in the Kansai area, but it was mainly with a comical image. However, we also would like people in Japan to know the elegance of

the sound of the musical saw. Therefore, we organized "Kansai Nokogiri (saw) Orchestra" with more than 50 members of Kansai branch. We wanted everyone in Japan to be surprised and impressed as well as to enjoy its beautiful sound. That's why we planned to have our "Musical Saw Festival in Japan" in the Kansai area. We think the Kansai area (including Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto) is the hottest place in the Japan musical saw world!

In the first part of the festival, I introduced our members and guest players with their solo and group performances. I also brought a member of the audience up on the stage and asked him to try to play the musical saw, showing how hard it is to play our favorite instrument (It always works well).

In the second part, we showed the video of "Saw Picnic at Roaring Camp," introducing a lot of unique and wonderful players from all over the world. Many Kansai people can now recognize Morgan, Mr. Hedge and Mr. Weiss!! Finally, the performance by "Kansai Nokogiri Orchestra!!" This time, we played "SABRE DANCE" from GAYNE (Khachaturian), "CANON" (Pachelbel), "CARAVAN" (Ellington?) and "BRAZIL" (Barroso) with piano, ukulele, percussion, violin, cello, bass, and so on. It was the most difficult part of the festival, but we were so pleased to hear a lot of audience say: "We really enjoyed the harmony!" We also enjoyed playing in front of the large audience!

We did our best to introduce the charm of the musical saw to the audience in Japan, and we will continue to show how wonderful the world of the musical saw is!! We love saw music !!!

Famous "Big Apple" Saw Players of the Past

By Natalia 'SawLady' Paruz



New York City is renowned as the place where anything can be found. If it's saw players you are looking for - you can find them in New York, too.

Once when I performed at a senior citizens home, a resident there (about 80 years old) told me that when he was a kid he attended many vaudeville shows because his father worked at one of the big vaudeville houses in NYC (New York City). Each show had 'walk-in' music provided by a saw player, accompanied by other instruments. The saw player always played while the audience was finding their seats. I find these sawyers of yore to be very inspiring. They are our "roots". They are OUR history as sawyers. I think it is important to know the past in order to grow in the present.

The "Greenwich Village Follies" ran for many years on Broadway at the beginning of the 20th century and was noted for great taste (except for its low comedian) featuring daring new art costumes and sets, top directors, classic nudity, etc.). The 'Musical Saw' act was the big hit of the show. Ford Henford used a mallet on a carpenter's saw and played "My Old Kentucky Home."

He recorded for the 'Victor' label and the 'Grey Gull' label in the 1920's.

Even the famous Ziegfeld Follies had a saw act! The program of the 'Ziegfeld Midnight Frolic' show of May 6th, 1920 lists as its 5th act Miss Anna Maria De Milita, harpist, and Mr. Sam Moore, the "Handsaw Wizard". He played 'The Swan' by Saint Saens accompanied by the lady on harp. This was a real classy act, not a clown act. His act was in the Ziegfeld Follies for two straight years (1920-21).

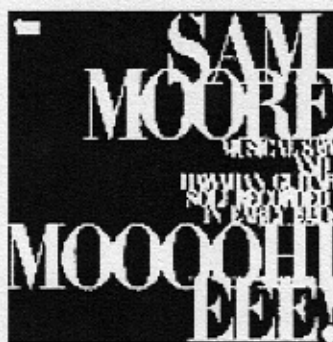
Sam Moore (1887 - 1959) was a well known musician who played the musical saw from the twenties into the thirties. For a number of years he played at the New York City Winter Gardens theater. He was so well known that Clarence Mussehl used his name in early advertisements of the Mussehl & Westphal saws, to promote their sales. A 1920s newspaper article reported that Moore's hand saw was "the same

kind you see carpenters use every day... The saw has to be pulled with great strength - measures show the pulling strength exerted to be 200 pounds - before the metal is in the exact condition, or tension, to give the marvelous results produced by Mr. Moore." Moore recorded the hand saw on the Columbia label (1922) and in 1923 - 1924 on the Brunswick and Vocalion labels.

The "Sawing King of the Bronx" was Jerry Lama (b. 1914), who switched from violin and bass to musical saw. In the 1920's his novelty



Ca. 1921 red Vocalion #14403, Sam Moore & Horace Davis with 2 instrumentals. Side one: hand saw & guitar, 'Mother Machree'. Side two: guitar duet.



Mooohiee - Musical Saw (Sam Moore) And Hawaiian Guitar Solos Recorded In 1920s,

act included the musical saw (he played a Mussehl & Westphal), the automobile tube,

bicycle pump, toy balloons (I tried this - it's much more difficult to be on pitch on a balloon than on the musical saw) and rubber gloves. His musical saw career bloomed when he performed with the Lehigh Serenaders and the Frank Dennis Orchestra. He played on many



Charles J. Guglieri
("Guggie")

radio programs and even on TV - a novelty gadget at the late 1930's.

Unfortunately he suffered a stroke at a young age, which left him with little use of one arm, so, he could no longer play the saw in his late 50's.

Charles J. Guglieri ("Guggie") started as a concert violinist but

switched to the musical saw. He was featured in the 'Home News' magazine as a "Bronx man, pioneer soloist on musical saw." He Appeared on N.Y. Radio stations, at Our Lady of Solace Church of NY during high mass and on Broadway in the 1920's. Guggie formed and led a band which constantly changed their name but played all over the N.Y. area in dances. Guggie performed dressed in a tuxedo and played a golden Mussehl & Westphal saw, and he was also one of the first people to play the theremin.

In 1937 sawyer Stanley Davis was recorded by CBS in NYC, playing "Rima's Song" in Louis Gruenberg's radio opera 'Green Mansions', and received very favorable press.

And of course there was the inimitable Marlene Dietrich, who lived in the Upper West Side and played a Feldmann saw. I was fortunate enough to meet three people who were soldiers during WWII. They remembered Marlene Dietrich playing the saw at their camps in Europe. They all said the same thing about her playing: she used to play the same style songs as she sang, and her playing wasn't the best in the world, but who cared when the

sounds were played by such a gorgeous lady... I was told the same thing by a fellow who was her neighbor and friend. He was often invited to gatherings she held at her home. He told me that she loved to cook for people, and always insisted on playing the saw for her guests, whether they were interested or not. I guess that makes her a typical sawyer, doesn't it, always eager to play for people. You may listen to two recordings of Marlene Dietrich playing the saw on the 'What is the Musical Saw' page of www.SawLady.com.

As Shakespeare said in 'The Tempest': "The past is but a prologue" (sic.). In a future article I will write about the sawyers in New York City today.



Marlene Dietrich

NOTE: If a green dot appears next to your name, your membership has expired. To continue to receive the SAW PLAYER NEWS, please send a check and a completed Membership Application. Thanks for your support!

International Musical Saw Association

IMSA, c/o
31 South 40 Pier
Sausalito, CA 94965
www.SawPlayers.org



Application for Membership to the International Musical Saw Association

Annual Membership Fees (in U.S. Dollars only) are \$20/Individual, \$25/Family.

Dues entitle Members to 3 issues of the Saw Player News, and eligibility to enter (with \$5 entry fee) the "Saw-Off Competition" at our annual Saw Players Picnic and Music Festival.

Please send your check with completed application to: IMSA, , c/o 31 South 40 Pier Sausalito, CA 94965 U.S.A.



International Musical Saw Association

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

9-Digit ZIP code: _____ Country: _____

Phone #:(_____) _____ Email: _____

In the future, would you be interested in receiving the Saw Player News by Email (PDF)? _____

Saw players frequently contact us to look for fellow saw players in their areas, but we don't want to give out your name and contact information without your permission. We do not intend to share your information with anyone but fellow saw players.

Please check the box or boxes that best represents your privacy preferences:

- I do not wish to share any of my contact information
- It is all right to give out my name and telephone number only
- It is all right to give out my name and Email address only
- It is all right to give out my name and address only
- It is all right to give out any or all of my information