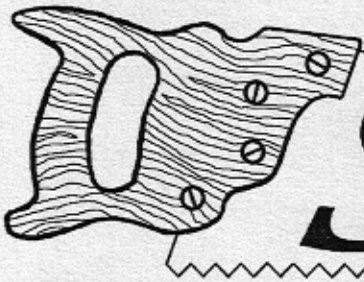


INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL SAW ASSOCIATION



SAW PLAYER NEWS

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25 saw players at the 2006 Chorus of Saws!

(Photo by Ralph McCaskey)

The 2006 Musical Saw Festival

This year's Musical Saw Festival was again a lot of fun for everyone attending! Since the people attending ARE the Festival - each year is different. I was surprised that the number of audience members was so much smaller - especially in Santa Cruz, where the sidewalks are usually packed around the statue of Tom Scribner. The number of saw players was smaller too, but it seemed to me that everyone enjoyed themselves and we all had a good time. I think the reason for fewer people was because of the high cost of

transportation, security concerns, and the general state of the U.S. economy at that time.

However, there was plenty of enthusiasm among the attendees, and we had a younger group of saw players than usual. It seems like our efforts to inspire younger people (teens, 20's and 30's) is paying off, and there were some very good players among them (including the 2nd & 3rd placewinners at the Saw-Off contest). Although the potluck jam Saturday night was smaller, the actual Saw Festival on Sunday was well attended, and we had



1st Place winner Joel Clark from Orem, UT (USA)

(Photo by Ralph McCaskey)



2nd Place winner Caroline McCaskey from San Pablo, CA (USA)

(Photo by Ralph McCaskey)



3rd Place winner Calder Dudgeon from Pittsburgh, PA (USA)

(Photo by Ralph McCaskey)

about 25 saw players on the stage for the annual Chorus of Saws.

As usual, on Sunday there were a variety of bands and saw players on the main stage from about 10 AM to almost 5 PM. We had the 2006 Saw-Off Contest, where eight saw players competed before three judges: David Weiss, Kenny Blacklock and myself. The 2006 First Place award went to **Joel Clark** from Orem, UT - whose presen-

tation included a costume (including a mask) from the "Phantom of the Opera." Second Place went to **Caroline McCaskey** (who has now won 2nd place 2 years in a row) from San Pablo, CA. Third Place went to **Calder Dudgeon** from Pittsburgh, PA. Both of the Special Awards ("Most Unique Presentation" and "Came the Farthest to Participate") went to **Haris Gershom**, of Gujarat, India with an instrument of his own design, the



LONG saw player's Bill Heier and Morgan Cowin (with Ron Saunders on guitar)

(Photo by Ralph McCaskey)



Caroline McCaskey teaching a youngster at the Santa Cruz Jam

(Photo by Morgan Cowin)

"Harishophone." Other Participants were **Roy Maine** from St. Albert, Alberta (Canada), **Terry Bergman** from Ventura, CA, **Sue Davenport** from Fort Jones, CA and **Terri Manning** from Oakland, CA.

The audience's eyes got really big as **Bill Heier** from Pleasant Hill, CA and **Morgan Cowin** from San Rafael, CA got up on stage to perform a "World Premier" of a long saw duet (a blues piece) with their 6' (2 meters) long 2-man crosscut saws.

There were 15-20 people at the musical saw workshop, which was led this year by **David Weiss** and myself. The workshop is a particularly good place to learn about the musical saw (whether you are a beginner or an experienced player) - because it is presented from several viewpoints by experienced players, a lot of topics are discussed, and anyone can just ask a question and get responses. You can also get one-to-one instruction, and try out a variety of saws and bows, and it's all free!



Haris Gershom and his "Harishophone"
(Photo by Morgan Cowin)

The IMSA is a tax-exempt, all-volunteer organization - and we wish to thank a lot of people who contributed to the success of the 2006 Saw Festival. The Master of Ceremonies was **Thomas Spearance**, a past 1st place winner at the competition, and a volunteer MC for the three years in a row. David Weiss again offered his expertise to be a judge, as well as **Kenny Blacklock** (IMSA Secretary and Treasurer, and grandson of Charlie Blacklock). Kenny's father **Kenneth Blacklock** continues to help run the Contest Stage, and do a host of other jobs. **Art Peterson** (IMSA Vice President) and his friend **Vince French** have been bringing and

setting up the sound equipment for about 15 years. My friend **John Bowman** volunteered to actually run the sound on the main stage. **Ralph McCaskey** (Caroline McCaskey's father) used my new digital camera to again record all of the contestants and document many of the performers and the general atmosphere of the Festival. **Charlie Blacklock**



Left to Right: Judge Kenny Blacklock, Haris Gershom, Calder Dudgeon, Terry Bergman, Sue Davenport, Terri Manning, Roy Maine, Caroline McCaskey, Joel Clark, Master of Ceremonies Thomas Spearance, Judges David Weiss and Morgan Cowin

(Photo by Ralph McCaskey)



Amy Zing & her trusty saw "Stella"
(Photo by Morgan Cowin)



A spontaneous jam after the Saw Festival

(Photo by Ralph McCaskey)



Jodi Golden-White, Max Howe, Terry Bergman and
Patrick Weldon (Note Tom Scribner Statue at left)
(Photo by Morgan Cowin)

attended some of this year's Saw Festival, but his health continues to slow him down from participating as much as he would like. **Terry Green** and **Dean Monroe** from **KUSP Radio** have been long-term supporters by donating free publicity on their local PBS station. Last, but definitely not least, we wish to thank **Roaring Camp C.E.O. Georgie Clark** and her generous staff - who continue to be wonderful hosts for the Festival. There are others who offered their time and labor to help run the show, and we thank them and all the **saw players and attendees** for helping make this year's Saw Festival a success. **Thank you also to ALL the IMSA Members!** We couldn't have the Saw Festival without your support!

By the way, we hold each year's Festival on the 2nd Saturday in August (with additional events on the Saturday before) - so the next Saw Festival is on **August 11 & 12, 2007**. We hope to see you there!!!

Saw Tips - HAVE SAW, WILL TRAVEL



By David Weiss

One of the joys of traveling with your saw is that you get to play for entirely new audiences. Often, especially during the first few years of my saw playing, I would arrive at a new city and quickly inquire where the street performers tend to congregate. I'd then set up shop and begin playing. What I found out is that some of the time the local officials would ask "where is your permit?" What I learned to do was to call or write ahead, and get the paperwork going in advance. That way when I arrived, I'd go to the local government office or police station, pick up the papers, and that's it...mostly!

Still, there can be difficulties. After all, the saw is not your ordinary instrument. In these days of increased paranoia, some locations require that the teeth be ground off before the saw can be played in public (the New York subways are one example). Other locations are not suitable for the kinds of crowds a saw can attract. I remember one time in Italy playing in a town square where the crowd spilled out into the street, obstructing traffic. Even though my permit stated I could play there, the police (who were amazed that I even had a permit at all), politely asked me to move to a different area. Another factor: sometimes, other street musicians can get annoyed that you're stealing away their audience (!) This requires a bit of diplomacy on your part, occasionally having to find a less desirable spot.

You never know what might result from being a street performer. When I had only been playing the saw for about a year, I used to go to the Venice Beach Boardwalk to "practice" for an hour once in a while. It was there that one day in 1983 a talent agent from the Tonight Show happened by with his family, giving me his business card. We talked for a few minutes, and he suggested I call the number and make an appointment to play an audition to possibly get on the show. About two weeks later I drove to NBC Studios in Burbank, played for a few people, and soon afterward they had me on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson! That was a really big break for me, which led to making my



Left to Right: Guido Lamell (L.A. Philharmonic violinist), Ularoku Miyakoya and David Weiss inside the famous Suntory Hall in Tokyo in 1994, during a tour to the far east by the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

album, "Virtuoso Saw," a second appearance on the show, and then making my debut as a saw soloist for two sold-out performances at the Hollywood Bowl in 1985. A lot of years have passed since then, but the saw remains a regular traveling companion, and continues to open new doors.

My next important appearance will be December 3rd, at the Museum of Music Making in Carlsbad, CA. Although I've never been there, I am told it is a truly amazing place. Here's what's planned: I'll have over a dozen saws with me, ranging from a hardware-store-variety Stanley to the "Stradivarius." Along with the saws I'll have 3 different types of bows, some mallets, etc. A piano will be available for accompaniments, supplied by my wife, Alpha. I'll be providing a number of "Virtuoso Saw" CDs to give away, and allow for approximately a 45-minute period following the performance for instruction for anyone who wants to play the saw. Should be fun! I'll have a report for you in my next Saw Tips column.

David Weiss www.davidweissgallery.com

A Musical Saw Odyssey To China



By Morgan Cowin

This past February I received an email from **Mr. Li Heung To** - writing on behalf of both the **Hong Kong Chamber of Musical Saw**, and **Mr. Li Yuanqing** (a famous Chinese saw player who tied for 1st place with Petr Dopita from the Czech Republic at the 1999 IMSA Saw Festival), inviting me to come to the first international musical saw festival to be held in China! Finally, on August 29, just two weeks after the last IMSA Saw Festival, I left San Francisco to play my saw at two International Musical Saw concerts in Hong Kong and Shenzhen (a modern industrial city in China about an hour from downtown Hong Kong).

Only a few other international saw players attended, including (1) **Mr. Sylvain Pichet** from France (who came with his wife Madeleine), 1st place winner at the 2001 Saw Festival and the President of A.N.D.I.A.L.S. (the French Musical Saw Association), (2) **Mr. Ian Harris** from England (a fine saw player with a great sense of humor), (3) **Ms. Miwako Kitamoto**

from Japan (a sweet young saw player who I met in 2004 at the IMSA Saw Festival in Santa Cruz, and (4) **Mr. Kam Siu Ling**, the President of the Shanghai Musical Saw Association. Also, "Kazu" - **Mr. Yoshikazu Kawaguchi** (a Japanese saw player friend who has attended several Saw Festivals) came to Hong Kong (hereinafter written as "HK") to meet with us a few days after the HK and Shenzhen concerts. I looked forward to meeting Mr. Li Yuanqing again, as well as Mr. Li Heung To - who had invested a lot of time and energy acting as an interpreter for the Hong Kong Chamber of Musical Saw ("HKCMS"), and helped to organize lodging and other arrangements for us non-Chinese guests.

The direct flight to HK was a long 13 hours, but thankfully I was met by Mr. Andrew Kwok, a member of the HKCMS, and we soon took a bus to meet Mr. Li Heung To - who is the principal/headmaster at a commercial high school for business, art, etc., and also a very good saw player. He was a very nice, gracious and generous host! On my second night in HK, the Pichet's and I visited Mr. Li Heung To at his school in Tsuen Wan (a suburb of HK) where a rehearsal with 8 of the 10 members of the HKCMS was going on. We met **Mr. Hung Leung**



Mr. Li Heung To - our host and coordinator in Hong Kong



Mr. Li Yuanqing practices his "Golden Musical Saw" for the concert (it actually IS gold in color). Note his design to clamp his saw on a stand - there is a built-in microphone holder on the stand (partially visible behind another microphone).



Sylvain Pichet from France smiles from the reaction to his playing at the rehearsal

Musical Saw CD Review

by Kenny Blacklock

At Nancy's House

Nancy Spencer: musical saw, pennywhistle, limberjack

*Rick Meyers: guitar, electric bass, banjo, autoharp,
musical saw, mouth trumpet, vocal*

Lisa Spencer: vocals, acoustic guitars, electric bass



At Nancy's House is a new CD by musical saw player, Nancy Spencer and her band, SeeSaw. The musical selections cover a range of folk styles, including traditional

American, Celtic, and popular tunes. The guitar playing throughout the CD, provided by Nancy's daughter, Lisa, and Rick Meyers, is solid and proficient, adding a full harmonic and rhythmic backbone to the arrangements. The real treat on this CD is Lisa's vocals, which nicely balance and complement her mother's saw playing. Lisa's voice is warm and expressive, while Nancy's saw playing is delicate, precise and always beautiful.

One of the strengths of this CD is the variety of arrangements and instrumentation. Some of the highlights include a few saw duets (certainly a rare event even among musical saw CDs), featuring Rick Meyers on the 2nd saw. On a couple of the Celtic tunes, Nancy switches from saw to the pennywhistle, another instrument that she plays very capably and with a lush, full tone and precise ornaments. The arrangements on this CD are rounded out with a variety of folk instruments, including Nancy on limberjack (a percussion instrument) and Rick on frailing banjo, autoharp and even mouth trumpet. This band produces quite a variety of textures for just three musicians.

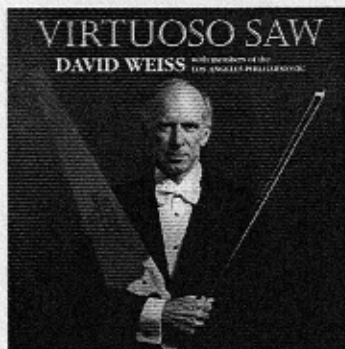
Nancy Spencer lives in Ashland, Oregon. She has been playing the musical saw for 62 years – and this really shows in her playing! She celebrated her 80th birthday earlier this year. She had an album release concert just a few days before her birthday. Nancy plays both a Mussehl & Wesphall and a Sandvik Stradivarius musical saw. She has performed on National Public Radio, notably on *A Prairie Home Companion* with Garrison Keillor. Lisa Spencer is currently a vocalist and bass player with Blue Lightning, an all-woman rock-and-roll band based in Ashland, OR, and Rick Meyers lives in Portland, OR where he is a busy instrumentalist and musical practitioner.

This CD is a really pleasant listening experience! I highly recommend it. Order it directly from Nancy Spencer, 167 N. Mountain Ave., Ashland, OR 97520 541-488-1561 Email: nanspen@mind.net

NOTE: If you have a CD you would like considered for a review, please send it directly to: Kenny Blacklock, 31 South 40 Pier, Sausalito, CA 94965

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David Weiss bends steel in his bare hands, backed by members of the L.A. Philharmonic in this cutting edge CD of pop and classical favorites. "The most beguiling sounds emanated from David Weiss... heavy metal maestro enralls with his handsaw artistry..."

He came, he sawed, he conquered." (Los Angeles Times)

Play List:

Misty, Sweet Georgia Brown, Intermezzo from Carmen, Eleanor Rigby, The Swan, Yesterday, Habañera, Scarborough Fair, When I'm 64, Summertime, Gymnopédie, Bach Arioso, The Rainbow Connection

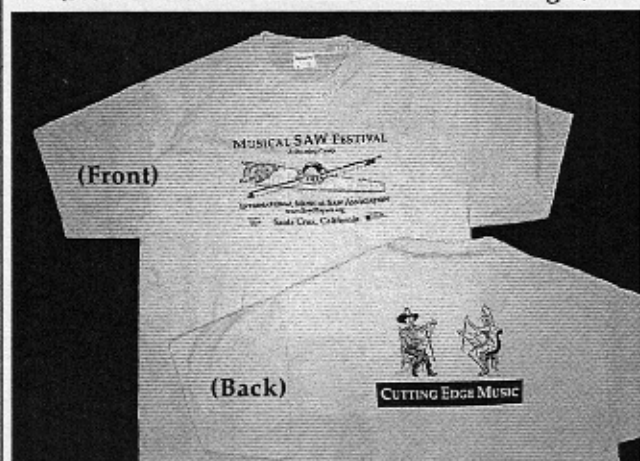
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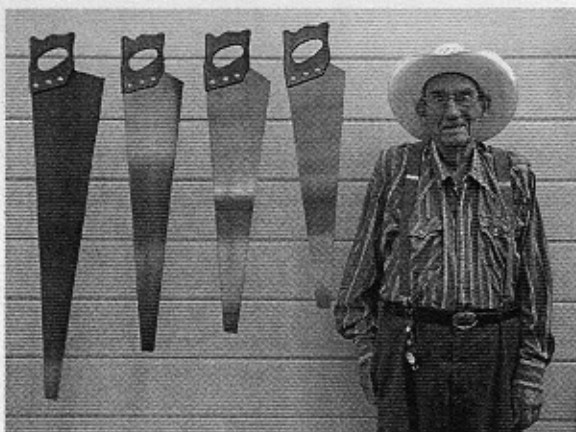
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Left to Right: Chung-pui Lam, Andrew Kwok, Heung To Li, Luk-wan Tam, Hung Leung (President of the Hong Kong Chamber of Musical Saw), Ming-yao Kwan, Paline Lee, Kam Siu Ling (President of the Shanghai Musical Saw Association) and Tyson Leung

(President of the Hong Kong Chamber of Musical Saw) and the other members, and for over an hour we all really had a good time playing along on some "Western" (European/American) pieces and listening to some of their Chinese pieces, trying out each other's saws and bows, etc. It was a highlight of the trip for me.

We all rehearsed on stage at the Tsuen Wan City Hall on Saturday, (September 2) and got to know each other. Some of us took photos at the sound check, and a few of mine are included in this newsletter. We soon became a friendly family of people who all loved music and the musical saw... it was a great feeling! There were some excellent saw players, and the audience of 250-300 people seemed to enjoy the 2.5 hours of saw playing by the various participants (we international players, the 10 HK Chinese, 2 from mainland China (+ 4 playing traditional Chinese instruments with Mr. Li Yuanqing). Each of us played 4 or 5 pieces. I played 2 Solos: the musical saw standards "Edelweiss" (from the film "The

Sound of Music"), and "Over The Rainbow" (from the film "The Wizard of Oz") - and then two Classical pieces played with a CD: "Largo from Winter from "The Four Seasons,"" (Concerto No. 4 in E minor by Vivaldi), and "Minuet" (from String Quintet in E, Opus 13, No. 5. by Boccherini).



Hung Leung - President of the Hong Kong Chamber of Musical Saw

After the concert ended (about 11:00 PM) we hauled our baggage to a bus stop for the ride to the border with "mainland China" (actually, much of HK is on the mainland, but the border is about 35 miles North of "downtown" HK). Going across the border was a physically challenging adventure, but we stayed together as a group so no one would get lost (and offer help to the 3 people among us who are in their 80's), and we were fortunate to have Mr. Li Yuanqing along to guide us. Mr. Li Yuanqing was in charge of the concert and our stays in China, and did a wonderful job. After all the stress and worry about having everything in order and worrying about bringing our saws across the border, we finally arrived in China!

Shenzhen is a big city (I think I heard 11 million), with an incredible variety of BEAUTIFUL, creative architecture. Tall skyscrapers lined the streets for miles, in all colors and amazing styles from traditional to modern to futuristic. McDonalds seemed like they were on almost every block in town, and Starbucks, FedEx/Kinkos and other American, Japanese and European investments are going on here. There are some beautiful city parks, lots of high-rise apartments, office buildings, hotels, and shopping malls.

Sunday during the day we went to see the stage at the outdoor concert site, and then over to Mr. Li Yuanqing's offices at the "Luohu (district) Chinese Cultural Center," where we saw his big collection of musical saws from China and around the world, including various sizes of

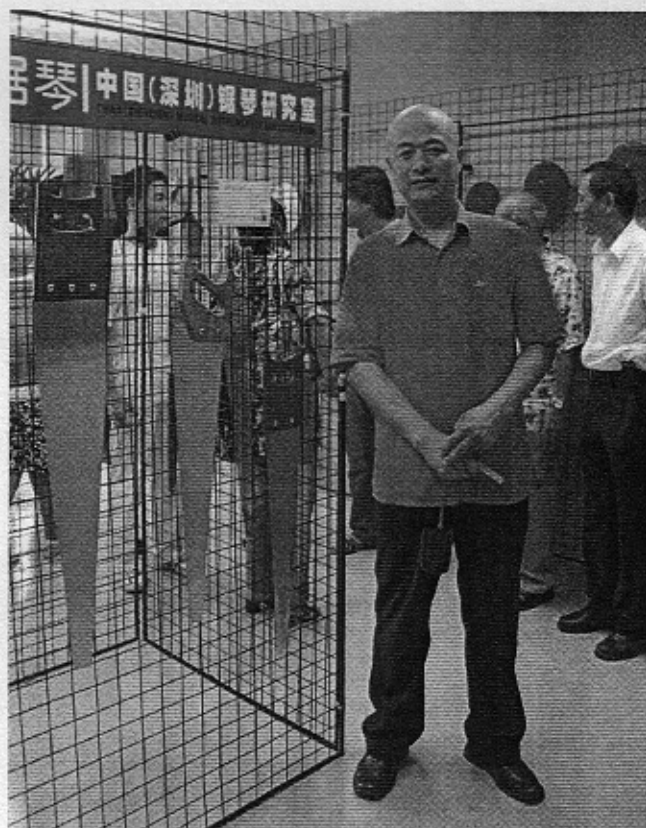
circular saw blades that (when suspended on a string and struck by a stick) played a scale of notes like tuned gongs or bells. He also had numerous kinds of bows. Mr. Li Yuanqing is the Chairman of the musical saw part of the Cultural Center, and I had mentioned to him that I wanted to purchase one of the rare "Sea Gull" Chinese musical saws, ("Sea Gull" saws have a very narrow tip, so it's range is greater than most saws) as well as a Chinese bow. The next day he presented me with a smaller one and the middle sized one, as well as a nice bamboo bow! Mr. Li Yuanqing and his wife Xu Dun generously cared for us and made sure we were comfortable and well fed, drove us around sightseeing and shopping, and really treated us VERY well. When they come to San Francisco (some day) I'm going to have to do some serious hosting!

The Concert in Shenzhen was a HUGE affair, in a big downtown plaza area with about 400 seats set up in a fenced off area, (and lots of open space left for several thousand more that came by to listen). Professional sound and lighting was done by TEAMS of technicians, and there was a stage

Right: Mr. Li Yuanqing with part of the collection of musical saws in the Saw Study Room

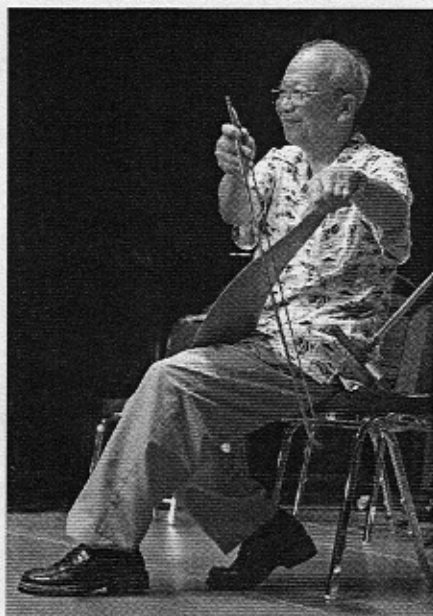


Shenzhen Concert Dignitaries L-R: Ian Harris (England), Morgan Cowin (U.S.A.), Ming-yao Kwan (Hong Kong), Kam Siu Ling (President of the Shanghai Musical Saw Association - China), Sylvain Pichet (France), Miwako Kitamoto (Japan), Xu Dun (China), Madeleine Pichet (France) & Li Yuanqing (China - principal organizer of the Shenzhen Concert).





Ms. Miwako Kitamoto from Japan at the rehearsal



Mr. Kam Siu Ling, President of the Shanghai Musical Saw Association



Ian Haris from England at the rehearsal

about 5 feet off the ground, and a huge billboard-sized graphic behind us with our photos enlarged much larger than life, (with Chinese text explaining who we were and what we were doing, sponsors' names etc.). We were videotaped by one of the TV stations and a photo of Sylvain Pichet was on the cover of one of the newspapers the next morning. It was really hot that night (85 to 90°F/30-32°C) I'd guess, and I was sweating so much that my arms glistened in the lights and drops of sweat fell off my forehead onto my saw(!). I was a little intimidated by the whole spectacle, and distracted by the sounds of cars, trucks and buses on the streets nearby,

but it was a GREAT experience anyway. We were not aware of it, but the HKCMS had videotaped the whole show in HK the night before, and presented it to us as a 2-DVD set that evening in Shenzhen! All of us musicians supported each other and felt that we were one big happy family - everyone shaking hands and hugging and signing each other's copies of the DVD's and concert programs, smiling and generally having a great time together.

After the concert we said goodbye to our HKCMS friends, who had to get back to go to work Monday morning, and the rest of us went out to another FEAST at a nice restaurant. I finally was able to relax a bit as the "official" part of our visit was finally over. We again got back to the hotel about 1 AM (exhausted, as usual). But it was a GREAT time overall!

The next day was our last in China, and we all met Mr. & Mrs. Li Yuanqing for a final meal together. Then we said our final, sad goodbyes and Mr. Li took us to the train station and escorted us to Customs, where Ian and I got onto the train back to HK. It was sad as we realized we would probably never meet most of our new musical saw friends again. The long flight home was uneventful, but I was glad to be back home - speaking English with everyone, eating familiar foods, sleeping in my own bed... but my memories of a very special time in my life will last a long time.



Spontaneous jam in Hong Kong - L-R: Luk-wan Tam, Sylvain Pichet, Tyson Leung and Chung-pui Lam.

"Big Apple" Saw Players Of Today - The 4th Annual "Saw Lady Salon"

(Part II of the article 'Famous Big Apple Saw Players of the Past', SPN spring 2005)

By Natalia 'Saw Lady' Paruz



The other day Pennsylvania sawyer Calder Dudgeon called the saw players' gatherings at my home the "East coast chapter of the IMSA". Funny, I thought, but not so far fetched, as our gatherings grew to include sawyers from PA, NJ and MA in addition to the NY initial core.

It all started because I receive countless e-mails from sawyers asking to meet me. If I met each one separately, it would be a full time job... so when CA sawyer David Weiss announced his visit to NYC a few years ago I decided to invite all the other local sawyers to meet as well. This started a tradition - every time we meet the sawyer who travels the farthest in order to attend is the guest of honor. We've since had Robert Minden of Canada, and Yoshikazu Kawaguchi of Japan be our guests of honor. This year the guest of honor was Dr. Haris Gershom of India, inventor of the Harishophone and mind machine which are based on the musical saw, and next year it might be Chen Zhikang who holds the patent for the Chinese musical saw.

Who are the 'Big Apple' sawyers of today?

Irving Francis of Brooklyn, NY (winner of 3rd prize at the 2005 'saw-off') first encountered a man playing a saw on his porch in the Virgin Islands, when he was 4 years old. By age 11 Irving started playing himself. Irving plays for church gatherings and even for funerals all over NYC. His favorite saw is the 'Trophy', but he also has a M&W and a CB. His music of choice for playing at the last gathering was 'Till'.

Moses Josiah of Brooklyn, NY (winner of 1st prize at the 1978 'saw-off') has been playing the saw for 59 years, since he was 17 years old, in Guyana. He first encountered the musical saw by reading about it in a magazine. Moses plays a lot at church gatherings but also as a busker at Washington Square Park and in the NYC subway under the banner of Music Under New York. In

1947 he won 3rd prize at an amateur talent competition and proceeded to perform in schools throughout Guyana as well as on radio and in concerts. In 1967 Moses won first prize at the Guyana Music Festival. He played for the Queen of England and produced a few saw gospel albums. Moses carries his saw in a hard Yamaha Porta Sound case. His music of choice for playing at the last gathering was 'The Holy City', a classical gospel tune.

Natalia 'Saw Lady' Paruz from Astoria, New York, is the hostess of the "Saw Lady Salon" gathering of saw players.

Nicki Jaine of PA has been playing saw for a little less than a year. A singer/songwriter who plays guitar, she was inspired to pick up the saw by Marlene Dietrich. Her piece of choice for playing at the last gathering was 'You Are My Sunshine', which she sang as well as played on the saw.

Dr. Haris Gerhom from Gujarat, India, is not a regular attendee

Dutch Kopp of NJ first encountered saw playing in articles in Pop-Mechanics and in Pop-Science magazines. 40 years later he picked up a \$3 saw and taught himself to play, after gaining much experience playing spoons, bones, jaw harps, tin whistles, etc. Dutch is an ethnomusicologist who today owns 15 saws. Even though he has played saw for 10 years, he only encountered one other saw player, Moses, two years ago. Then he almost met me in Israel, where he played various folk instruments at local pubs and as a busker. His music of choice for playing at the last gathering was 'Four Green Fields', an Irish tune he plays on the saw (M&W with the logo on BOTH sides) accompanying himself on harmonica!

Li Ming Chen, formerly of Flushing, NY and now a resident of NJ, is following in his father's footsteps as a saw teacher. Li Ming who also plays cello, has been playing saw for 15 years and his saw playing won an award from the American Guild of Musical Artists. He plays the Chinese saw invented by his father, Chen Zhikang, who has been playing the saw for over 50 years and who left NY to return to China.

Chen Zhikang had thousands of saw students in China. Li Ming Chen's music of choice for playing at the last gathering was 'My Beloved Country'.

Bernie Dascendis of PA has been playing spoons, harmonica, washboard etc, and 30 years ago he added saw. He is left-handed so he places his M&W with the logo facing his leg. His saw has an extra engraving on it 'A Cut Above the Rest.' As a baker he traveled a lot and while in Florida he met a guy with 5 saws that gave him a toothless saw. Not having had a bow, he first played with a mallet then progressed to the bow. Two years ago he played with a jug band, using the saw on the slow tunes. Bernie's music of choice for playing at the last gathering was the Beatles tune 'Yesterday'.

John Kinghorn of NJ has been playing saw for one year and has managed to make himself bleed on the teeth - an artist suffering for his art! He first kept his saw playing a secret from his family in order to impress them at a family talent get-together, which he very much did! John remembers his mother telling him her father used to play saw. His music of choice for playing at the last gathering was 'Our Prayer to Thee'.

Art Scholtz of Long Island, NY, has been sawing since 1984. Moses was his inspiration for picking

up the saw. Art also plays many other instruments, such as spoons, mandolin, jaw harps, nose flute, foot tambourine, bones and washboard. He plays a CB baritone and he bows with a special mallet-bow (it's both a mallet and a bow) made by sawyer

Ralph Flowers of Michigan. Art uses a tip bender and a leg grip for his saw. Art is a walking encyclopedia of unusual musical instruments.

Vicki Ma is our youngest saw player. She started playing at age 8 as a student of Chen Zhikang. Vicki played 'Edelweiss', the piece she played on a talent show on TV last year. Vicki plays a Chinese saw that has a tip bender, a leg grip so the saw wouldn't touch one's legs and a strap to attach the leg grip to the body. Vicki's brother, Victor Ma who is now in college also plays saw, and they both use an erhu bow with their saws.

Dale Stuckenbruck of Long Island, NY, his father Dr. Earl Stuckenbruck and his son all play saw. Dale is a very talented sawyer and violinist playing full time for Broadway shows, concerts, films, recordings and TV commercials. His saw can be heard on the Grammy nominated album of George Crumb. Dale learned to play saw from his father, who first encountered the musical saw performed by a traveling evangelist in Topeka, Kansas in the late 1930's.

Violet Walker of MA works as Pozey the saw-playing Clown. She also conducts stress management workshops with music (including the saw). She plays both a Sandvik and a M&W.

As you can see, the 'Big Apple' attracts saw players from all over the East coast. If you wish to participate in a future saw players gathering in NYC, please contact me.

www.SawLady.com



Pictured Left to Right: Irving Francis, Moses Josiah, Natalia 'Saw Lady' Paruz (kneeling), Nicki Jaine, Dr. Haris Gersbom from India, Dutch Kopp, Mr. Li Ming Chen (kneeling), Bernie Dascendis, John Kinghorn and Art Scholtz. Not pictured, but regular attendants at the gathering are Vicki Ma - who had to leave early, Violet Walker and Dale Stuckenbruck had to work that day.

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



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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:

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