



Yi He and Xue-Chun Bi

Austin, Texas. The *Concertino for Eddy* by Willy Soenen was performed (from memory) by his son, Henk Soenen, with technical mastery and a warm sound. This wonderful addition to the clarinet and wind ensemble repertoire is always a pleasure to hear. Next on the program was the *Concerto for Clarinet and Wind Ensemble* by Jeff Beal. With John Masserini as the soloist, the two movements, “Riches to Rags” and “Famines to Feasts,” had jazzy blues lines exploiting the clarinet’s full possibilities. The English horn duos with soloist were a great textural contrast—a feast for the ear of rhythms, orchestration and flashy technique, reminiscent of Copland and Bernstein. The Artie Shaw *Concerto* with soloist Stephan Vermeersch showed that the *Banda* could really swing. The trumpet solo was great and the soloist performed with verve—and totally nailed the high C, of course! The last piece on this concert was a premiere, *Di Rota in Rota*, commissioned by the Stark Quartet especially for this occasion. The piece starts with a brooding, Bruch-like melody, quoting Rota the movie composer. There were individual cadenzas leading to another movie theme, then a lively swing section followed by faux gunshots and don’t forget the mouthpiece and half-clarinet action that wound up to a showy finish! Highlights of Wednesday’s 5:30 concert, accompanied by the *Banda de Música de Espinho*, included a performance of the Weber-ish *Variações Requinta Concertante* of Juvina Alves for E-flat clarinet and band, wonderfully played by Brazilian clarinetist Fernando



The Vintage Quartet with Artur Caldeira (Portuguese guitarist), Ana Barros (singer), Luís Arrigo (drums)

Silveira. The *Banda Militar do Porto* accompanied the soloists on Thursday’s late afternoon concert. Babette Belter gave a beautiful performance of Richard Prior’s *Wudeliguhi*. David Gresham was next on the program with a spirited performance of David Maslanka’s *Desert Roads*. David Campbell gave a fabulous performance of Martin Ellerby’s *Clarinet Concerto*; Keith Lemmons gave an energetic performance of the *Message Solo de Concours* that included a flashy high C at the end; and Jane Carl finished the concert with a very lyrical performance of two movements of Michael Daugherty’s *Brooklyn Bridge* (which was also performed on Friday’s late afternoon concert by Steve Cohen).

The daytime concerts were organized to begin at 9:30, 2:30, and 4:00. The long morning sessions, lasting until lunch, included numerous recitals played back-to-back, without appreciable breaks except to re-set the stage. Some of the most com-

PELLING players and repertory appeared on these concerts. On Tuesday morning the popular Webster Trio (flutist Leone Buyse, clarinetist Michael Webster and pianist Robert Moeling) performed an excellent program, including *Birds of Paradise*, a 2008 work by Robert Sirota. This powerful work certainly deserves many more performances. The Trio (Des) concertante consisted of clarinet, cello and accordion. Clarinetist Sergio Neves was spectacular throughout, as was the entire ensemble. Clarinetist Antonio Rosa and pianist Antonio Oliveira continued the program with convincing performances of two interesting works: *Hipot* by Marco Barroso, and *Sonata Acrílica* by Telmo Marques. Next on the schedule, the Duo Garcia-Estaban (Francisco Antonio Garcia, clarinetist) offered a program entitled “A Century of Spanish Music for Clarinet and Piano.” Most delightful in this program was a

**Rovner Products**  
P.O. Box 4116  
Timonium MD 21094 USA

Phone: 410-252-7750  
Fax: 410-252-7792  
rporders@rovnerproducts.com

Try our NEW  
Next-Generation  
Performance-Enhancing

Ligatures  
Mouthpieces  
Accessories

Look for our web specials  
at  
[www.rovnerproducts.com](http://www.rovnerproducts.com)