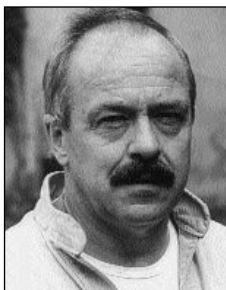


Obituaries

Koen van Slogteren

(1922 - 1995)



It is with a great deal of surprise and sadness that we must report the tragic accidental death of former IDRS Second Vice President (1993-1995), Koen van Slogteren, on December 14, 1995, in Essen, Germany. Koen, who was one of the driving forces behind last year's 24th Annual Conference of the IDRS in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, was a revered and legendary Dutch oboist performer and teacher. Born in 1922, Koen studied music in the Hague and philosophy of education in Tilburg. He performed as principal oboe in the Dutch Broadcasting Corporation, Hilversum; the Netherlands Opera, Amsterdam; and the Concertgebouw Orchestra. He was a founding member of the Danzi Wind Quintet, with which he made many recordings and international concert tours. Since 1968, he has

Koen van Slogteren at a recent IDRS Conference.



been strongly involved in teaching at the Conservatories in Amsterdam, Maastricht, and Zwolle. From 1981 he taught chamber music at the Musikhochschule in Köln, and the Folkwang-hochschule in Essen. It was while teaching in Essen that the fatal accident occurred. According to reports from Dutch sources, Koen entered a darkened auditorium looking for a music stand and fell into a sunken orchestra pit, where he struck his head and never regained consciousness. The IDRS mourns his untimely loss and joins with his family and colleagues in honoring his memory. In the words of his colleague and co-host of the recent conference, Erik Langefeld: "At least he saw his dream - the Rotterdam Festival - come true."

To the Memory of Koen van Slogteren by Pauline Oostenrijk

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

"It all went wrong through that stupid accident." Those were the words of Koen's nine-year-old daughter, Elena, during the funeral ceremonies, and after all they seem to me the best words to describe the fatal fall that made a sudden end to a very productive life which was lovingly dedicated to music until its last minute. We lost a man whose influence on oboe-playing, oboe-teaching, and chamber music in the Netherlands has been immense.

Koen van Slogteren was 73, but active and energetic as though he were twenty years younger. According to Dutch law, he had resigned as a teacher at the Sweelinck Conservatory of Amsterdam at the age of 65, but to his great pleasure, he had the possibility to keep sharing his enormous experience with students as a chamber music teacher at the German conservatories of Cologne and later Essen. In this city he died on December 14, 1995.

But teaching in Germany was not all he did in his last years. Koen had to be active and creative every minute. He had the great wish to bring about an organization which would enable especially young double reed players in the Netherlands and other countries to communicate, and therefore took the initiative of founding the Dutch division of the IDRS with great success. The eminent highlight of his activities in this field has been the IDRS Festival in Rotterdam that took place in August and September last. Koen, who in the meantime had become second vice-president of the IDRS, wouldn't have been Koen if he hadn't taken up the idea of making the 1995 IDRS conference a "different" one, which had to feature double reed instruments from all ages and cultures, in all musical disciplines: classical music, folk instruments, period instruments, jazz, improvisation, and electronics. A hard job for the organizing committee, but the result was a real musical treat, full of variety and color.

In an interview in 1995 in *Entre'Acte*, one of the leading Dutch music magazines, Koen marked three important periods in his career:

- 1940-45: the second World War and his college years;
- 1945-1970: twenty-five years of playing chamber music with flautist Frans Vester, who had a great influence on him and with whom he played in the famous Danzi Quintet for 13 years
- the period after 1970; his development as an educationalist.

Koen studied at the Royal Conservatory of the Hague with Jaap Stotijn, the famous founder

of the Dutch oboe school, with its clear, open, flexible sound. His college years unfortunately coincided with the years of German occupation. Like many young men being forced to work in Germany, he never completely finished his studies at the conservatory. This didn't prevent him from becoming first oboist in the Dutch Radio Orchestra immediately after the war, where he met the flautist Frans Vester, (whose book about the interpretation of Mozart's music for wind instruments has been published posthumously in 1995) in the beginning of the fifties. This was the beginning of Koen's chamber music career.

He played with Vester in an ensemble called Arte Fiato, which was already very much interested in trying to find an authentic way of interpreting 18th century compositions. In 1955, they founded the Danzi Quintet, with bassoonist Brian Pollard, clarinetist Piet Honingh, and hornist Adriaan van Woudenberg, which would be famous for its interpretation of many modern works. Many composers dedicated works to the Danzi Quintet, and it made tours throughout the world. The Danzi Quintet has played an important role in the development of Dutch chamber music culture. In this time, Koen gathered the knowledge and experience that would make him a great chamber music teacher. He acquired the skill of analyzing very complex scores in a short time.

Koen's analytic qualities turned out to be very valuable for him as an oboe teacher as well. After 1970, Koen became interested in teaching. He decided to study pedagogy and threw himself upon the oboe methodology. He developed very clear and useful ideas about breathing and breath support, embouchure, vibrato, reed-making, and the analysis of technical problems. As a teacher at the conservatories of Amsterdam, Maastricht, and Zwolle, he had a large number of students to whom he passed on the principles of the Stotijn tradition. Many of them are now to be found in the various Dutch orchestras and ensembles, and as teachers at several conservatories and music schools.

In his "spare time", Koen continued playing, eager as he was to find and play new pieces. He gave chamber music courses in the USA and, among others, in Welkersheim, Germany. He was a jury member of the oboe competition on the Isle of Wight in England. And still he found the time to do what, finally, gave him the deepest musical and spiritual fulfillment, playing Bach cantatas. He had chosen this to be the last aria he wanted to play if his playing wouldn't match

his own standards anymore. This would never happen.

*"Endlich endlich wird mein Joch
Wieder von mir weichen müssen.
Da fahrt ich auf von dieser Erden
Und laufe sonder matt zu werden."*

*"At last my yoke will have to yield
I shall ascend from this earth
And go without growing faint."*

Cantata #56

We wish Koen's wife, Marian, and his daughter, Elena, much strength to bear this loss.

Norman Thurston

Norman Thurston, founder and administrator of the biennial Isle of Wight International Oboe Competition, and a sustaining member of the IDRS, died suddenly on October 2, 1995. He had suffered from a heart condition for many years. It was with the collaboration of Lady Evelyn Barbirolli (in her capacity as President of the Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra) that Mr. Thurston developed the idea of this competition. An amateur viola player and an avid patron of the arts, his administrative skills brought the idea to a successful realization, which by now has developed an impetus of its own. Members of the IDRS send his family their sincere condolences.



Erwin Burger (1938 - 1995)

Owner of Woodwind and Brass Woodshop in San Francisco, died at his home in Inverness on June 14th after a brief illness. He was 57.

Mr. Burger was born in Zurich, Switzerland, the son of Willi Burger, a bassoonist with the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra and Barbara Klotz

Burger. Growing up in a musical family, he studied violin and flute. At fifteen he left home to apprentice in the Schreiber factory in Nauheim, Germany where he graduated as a flute maker. After working in Geneva, Switzerland and Stockholm, Sweden, he emigrated to the United States where he worked in New York City before being drafted into the U.S. Army. He served with the 6th Army in Korea, playing flute and piccolo in the band. On release from the service he settled in San Francisco, working for a music store as a band instrument repairman. Erwin opened his own music store on Jones Street in San Francisco in 1965 and has continued in business since then as the Woodwind and Brass Workshop, first on Taraval Street and later on 10th Street.

As an adult he took up the bassoon and had played in a variety of groups throughout the Bay Area.

He is survived by his wife, Wendy, a daughter, Elsa Burger of San Francisco, a son, Christopher Burger of Petaluma, and his sisters Ursula Burger of San Mateo, Gret Nabholz of Bassersdorf, Switzerland and Lore Nestler of Zurich.

Peter Angelo

(1934-1995)

The IDRS was surprised and saddened by the news of the sudden death of oboist and double reed products supplier, Peter Angelo on December 16, 1995, at his home in Bradenton, Florida. Peter was a supplier to the double reed world for over 25 years. Born on August 1, 1934, Peter studied at the Manhattan School of Music and performed on oboe and English horn with such professional organizations as the Canadian National Ballet and the Saint Louis Symphony. Because he was an accomplished artist on many wind instruments, he was an important free lance musician in New York, where he was in the orchestra for 23 Broadway shows. According to his sister, Valdine Plasmati, the remainder of his double reed supplies are being bequeathed to the double reed section of the West Coast Florida Symphony in Sarasota. The IDRS joins his family and friends in mourning his loss. ❖