

USM Faculty Concert

If the world's goings-'round don't quite suit you, give the globe a spin of your own. That's sort of the idea behind this Friday's University of Southern Maine Faculty Concert, which features woodwind professor Tom Parchman in a concert of mostly classical works that have been given a clarinetist's twist.

The program lists several of the classical genre's usual marquee names — J.S. Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Georg Philipp Telemann — but the pieces themselves aren't the old familiar chestnuts and most were not even written for the clarinet. Tom has edited, rearranged and rewritten these and several other compositions.

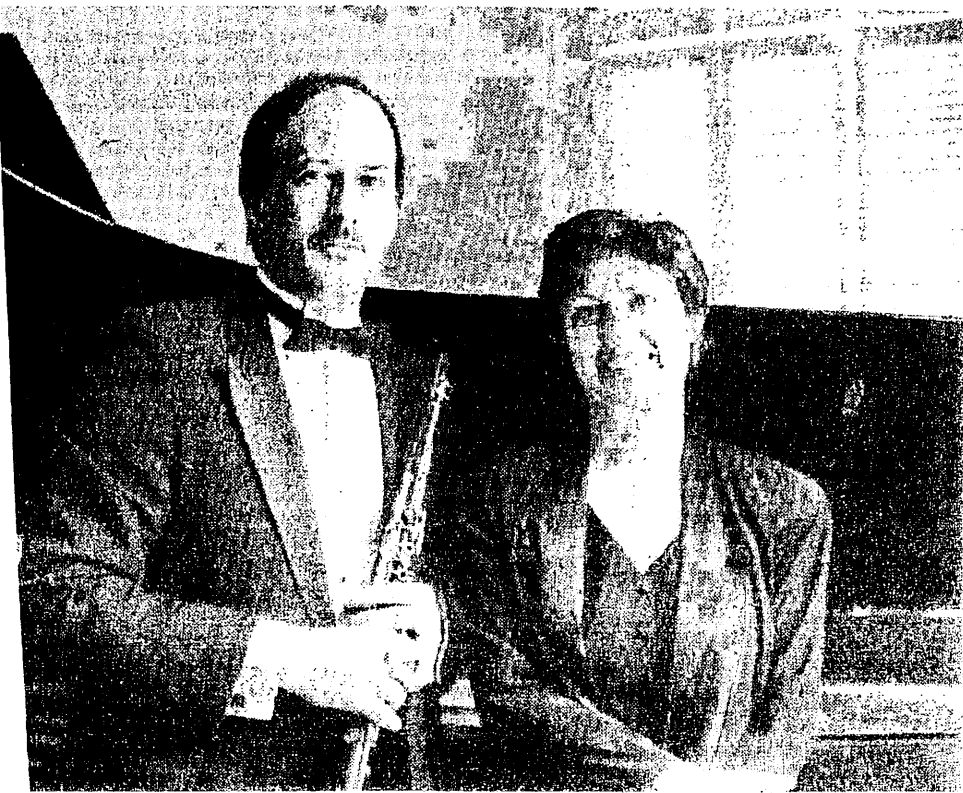
Plus there are a number of interesting selections by lesser known composers that might never be heard in Maine if Tom hadn't researched them in libraries and exchanged info with fellow professors around the world. "I Masnadieri" by Giulio Briccialdi, plus Tom's e-mail note of explanation, gives the flavor: "The Briccialdi work is fairly obscure. It is one of the genre best described as 'opera fantasy.' The composer took the best tunes of a Verdi opera and recast them in a highly ornate and virtuosic way.

"I found it in an early edition in a library in Spoleto, Italy. Originally for flute and piano, I have changed the key and rewritten the flute part to take advantage of the lower range of the clarinet, as well as rewriting the ending to make the range possible on the clarinet." Or take Franz Krommer's Clarinet Concerto No. 2 (Op. 86): "I have had an interest in Krommer's clarinet works since I performed the Op. 86 with the Portland Symphony Orchestra. In my search for this work, I have found manuscript copies of the parts in a library in Brno, Czech Republic, and a manuscript score in the New York Public Library. Using these sources, I have created a piano reduction of the orchestra parts and an edition of the solo clarinet part.

"I have always liked the works of Krommer because of his use of melody. Most of the concertos I have studied in the period are flashy, note-laden things with little melodic interest. In this late classical period there are two composers in Vienna capable of writing melodically for the clarinet: Mozart and Krommer."

And the performers. Tom is the principal clarinetist with the Portland Symphony Orchestra, and is also professor of

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Mary Snell photo
Parchman and pianist Judith Quimby present a concert of classical music as part of the University of Southern Maine Faculty Concert Series.

Recent dramatic productions dealing with Wilde have emphasized his trial rather than the genius of his writing," the professor explains. "This production gives a sampling of not only his life, but

of his work. I wanted to praise him more for his work than his downfall."

Written as a piece of Readers' Theater, the style draws directly from the source material, including plays, letters, court documents, fairy tales, news reports, novels, lectures and poems. Through interweaving of texts, the full story of Wilde's remarkable life and lifestyle emerges. Five student performers act in ensemble fashion, flowing in and out of multiple scenes with minor costume changes. University of Southern Maine theater department presents "The Importance of Being Wilde" Oct. 5 through 14 in Russell Hall on the USM Gorham campus. Call the theater box office at 780-

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