



**26 June, 2008**

***Report from Lloyd Erickson on the Bill Horn Show, 2008***

**Part 1**

Hello Everyone,

Just arrived home from the fabulous Bill Horn Show in Lancaster, PA. where the show took place from June 15th till the 19th. It was held at the Eden Resort Hotel located on Rt. 30. This hotel has been completely renovated with all rooms done over. The rooms have LCD TVs, wireless access with a printer. New carpet, new baths, beds etc.

Now for the show and what a show it was. Sunday evening was the start of the show and we enjoyed a buffet dinner in the concert hall. Fast service with two tables set up to speed up the process. Delicious food and plenty of it. Lancaster County is home of the Amish where food is just wonderful.

After the Buffet, Bill Horn welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Gas has gone up here in the USA and with bigger cars, it was an added expense to drive. (I came from Florida, over a thousand miles by car).

The first concert artist to play was Bill Ryder, a local talent who has been in the business his whole life. Bill is now working for Roland and we got a chance to hear the new Roland 900 series console organ.

Mr. Ryder had a varied program of pop, classical and jazz music, something for everyone. He of course, received a standing ovation at the end of his program.

The second artist of the evening was Seth Rye who brought his White Wersi Atlantis with the EX1 expander unit attached. Along with the Wersi, Seth has a Leslie speaker, two Wersi speakers and two Yamaha speakers which are dedicated to styles only. What an impressive sound that gives.

Seth always pleases the crowd with good music and humor. His concert did not disappoint. The standard standing ovation followed his concert.

With Sundays buffet and concert over, we looked forward to Mondays full day of music and events.

Up and at them first thing Monday morning. After breakfast in Arthurs, the hotels main dining room, it was off to Classes that began at 9:00 AM.

Bill Horn had this day's class entitled "Salsa Rhythm". Bill described the Salsa Rhythm which is diverse and predominantly Spanish Caribbean genre.

Using the song from Kismet, "Stranger In Paradise", Bill played the tune using voices that complimented the song. We all had "playbooks" with the lesson materials for each day. He also described what rhythm instruments are used in the Salsa. Counting is an important part of any of Bill's workshops and Bill says "If you can't count it, you can't play it". True.

The workshop included "Improvisation" to the song. This was a very informative workshop and everyone came out with new stuff to practice.

A short break followed, then O'Lyn Callahan stepped up to lead the second class. O'Lyn is from Florida. She has worked for Yamaha, Technics and now is a Roland artist.

Her workshop started out with the title "All about Girls Medley". The idea behind this theme was to play three songs, "Once in Love with Amy", "Sweet Lorraine" and "Lulu's Back in Town", going from one song to another continuously with key change between each song to smoothly blend one tune with another. Great workshop which O'Lyn played and demonstrated. Printed music to each workshop gives one something to bring home and to practice.

Each workshop lasted an hour and a half so now it was lunch break.

One o'clock came quickly and the showrooms opened featuring dealers from Wersi, Roland, Hammond and Technotes. Roland was represented by two dealers, one with the organ line and another with the keyboard line.

Mini concerts took place all afternoon in the rooms. The artists performed in the dealers' rooms and we had a ball listening to them.

Time now for dinner on your own, choice of Arthurs or Garfields, both located in the hotel. No need to go out which is very convenient.

After dinner it's time to attend Monday evening's concert starting at 7:00 PM.

Tonight the artists are O'Lyn Callahan for Roland and Mark Whale for Wersi.

Both concerts were excellent. Mark Whale's concert was the highlight for the evening. He played one of the best concerts I have ever heard and many others agreed with me. We left with our heads full of music.

Forgot to mention that Bill has a program each evening before the main concert of people who volunteer to play. We had 21 players and Bill divided them up with four players each evening with five players the last day.

This is a nice event and there is talent and participation for the home and novice player. Bill gives each one a plaque as a token to remember.