



The Bill Horn Show, USA, 2008

Here are the final days of the Bill Horn Show.

Tuesday. Up for Breakfast at 7:00AM and ready for today's events.

The Tuesday workshop started at 9:00 AM with Bill Horn again as the instructor. This morning's class covers a "Broadway Melody". The songs involved are "Another Opening, Another Show", "No Business Like Show Business", "Sound of Music" and "That's Entertainment".

Bill introduced us to "Cut Time" for the three songs "Another Opening" and "No Business Like Show Business" and "That's Entertainment". The "Sound of Music" is in 4/4 time. Suggested Styles were March, Broadway Style (if one has this style on the organ) or last choice, a Polka beat.

We were given ideas for registrations with tips on registration changes and blending these songs together. Great lessons to improve your playing.

After Bill's class, O'Lyn Callahan took the 10:30 AM Class which was about the "Blues". Many Blues progressions were printed out for practice and again, counting is of great importance when performing these exercises. O'Lyn, after playing these different Blues progressions, put them together to show how this would make playing the Blues interesting and varied. I loved this class on Blues because it's one of my favorite styles of playing. Lunch time and Garfields was right next door. They had a nice varied menu from Burgers and Fries to a very nice Buffet.

The afternoon showrooms were well attended with mini concerts by all the artists. One could sit down to an instrument and play between concerts and this created interest in the various kinds that were present. Very glad to say that all the dealers in attendance made sales because this is why the dealers participate.

Bill has kept this show going for 29 years. When others quit, Bill kept going thank God. The organ industry owes Bill for continued interest in a wonderful hobby and pastime.

After a rest in our room, it was dinner time and again we chose Garfields.

Time again for the evening concerts with Jean Martyn and Sean Fielder. Ollie Case from Canada was supposed to be on the docket for this evening's concert but a herniated disc sent him to the hospital a couple of days before he was to arrive. Sean was asked last minute to play. Sean is a Technote dealer and a very good musician.

Jean Martyn was a delight, playing a Hammond Elegante, a Digital Piano and a Tyros 2 keyboard. She handled all with ease, bringing out the best of each instrument she played on. Jean told a couple of stories about her embarrassing moments that I will not repeat. Her concert was over too quickly- She is such a great talent. Standing ovation? You bet!

Sean Fielder surprised everyone with a great concert consisting of western tunes, pop music plus his two young daughters sang for us, a real treat. Sean dedicated the piece "Stardust" to his good friend and mine, Hal Vincent, who has been ill for some time with heart and

breathing problems. Hal has played around the world and has worked for Hammond, Kimble, Wersi and Roland companies. Happy to report he is doing a bit better now.

Great concerts, great day but the bed is calling after a busy and enjoyable day.

Wednesday has arrived with the usual workshops at 9:00AM.

Today, classes are taught by Bill Horn with special guest, Ric Iannone of the Roland company. "Phantom of the Opera Medley" is the chosen music for today's classes. The music consisted of three songs from the Phantom: "This is all I ask Of You", "Music of the Night" and of course, the "Phantom Theme". Bill went thru the music with key changes, styles and voices that work very well with the songs. Bill has a good brain for arranging and passes that skill along to all who attend.

Next Bill and Ric put together a Samba Medley consisting of "Brazil", "El Cumanchero" and "Amour". Both playing together it was simply beautiful.

This brought us up to 12:00 noon so off to lunch we go.

Busy showrooms in the afternoon with music by all the musicians. Snacks were in all the rooms for people to "nibble" on.

The concerts tonight include dinner before so tables are set up and numbered to make it easy for us to find where we sit. (Tickets have the table number on them). This is in the concert room so after dinner we can relax and enjoy the artists perform.

After the "You Are The Star" performers play for us, the main concert starts with Ric Iannone playing the Roland 900 console and a digital piano. Ric is certainly one of the top artists to perform each year for Bills show. His concert consisted of classical, jazz and pop music, bringing out the best in each category.

After the standing ovation Ric received we all took a break for essentials, then back to our seats for Tommy Johnson, the second performer. Tommy loves stride piano, honky tonk and whatever one wants. Tommy's right hand is lightning fast and is just a joy to watch play. He truly loves every minute, pleasing the audience. Tommy brought the house down and what a nice way to end Wednesday's concerts.

Wow, **Thursday's** here and the show is just about over. At 10:45 we sat down to the same tables as Wednesday evening to partake in a wonderful brunch. Again, very fast service with two tables set up with all the food you could ever want. Coffee and Iced Tea were served by waiters.

The Bill Horn show following with his guests musicians including Glenn Ferracone, Drums; Bob Fanelli, Sax; and Rose Hudson, a Blues Singer. These guys really rocked with Bill "Cookin" on his Wersi Spectra with the MX1 expander attached. What a great ending to a wonderful 5 days of music, classes and friendly people. Some have attended all the 29 shows and have become "family". I include myself and my wife Betty as we have missed only a couple of shows.

Bill is already committed to next years show and plans lots of fun and special guests for his 30th year. If you live here in the USA or would like to travel from across the "pond" this is a wonderful place to be if you love organ music and great people. Hope to see ya come 2009.

Best regards to all, Lloyd Erickson.