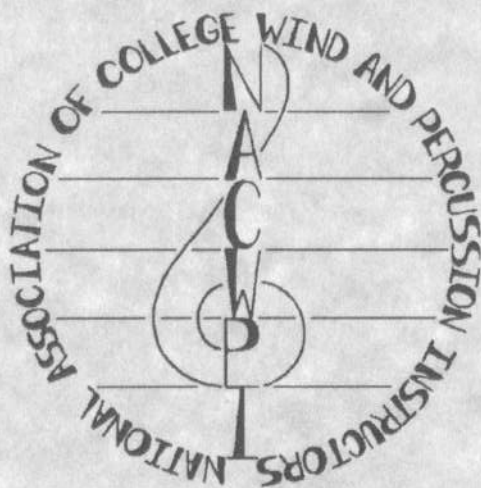


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BOOK REVIEW

Klickstein, Gerald. *The Musician's Way: A Guide to Practice, Performance and Wellness*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009. Softcover, three hundred twenty pages, illustrations, photographs, Music Examples. Price \$24.95.

Author Gerald Klickstein is a professor of music at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and a classical guitarist. He performs and teaches throughout the United States and internationally. His percussion colleague at NCSA is John R. Beck, a strong marimba player who performed in the United States Marine Band like his father, John H. Beck, a former *NACWPI Journal* Columnist.

This good book is divided into three sections titled Artful Practice, Fearless Performance and Lifelong Creativity. It is geared toward a freshman music student at the university level. Chapter subtitles include Getting Organized, Practicing Deeply, Musical Collaboration, Unmasking Performance Anxiety, Becoming a Performing Artist, Performing like a Pro, Injury Prevention, and Succeeding as a student. Following the book's text, there are endnotes, an index and bibliography.

The author is a very good writer, with a friendly approach that is full of valid information. The topics, practicing and wellness, are of utmost importance to today's teachers and students. There is an author photo on the back, and photographic illustrations demonstrate proper posture and holding technique for violin, guitar, violoncello, keyboard percussion, computer, piano and oboe. Directions to the reading student are well stated by an experienced teacher of three decades. Comments about the book include quotes from the director of the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver, the president of the American String Teachers Association, a piano professor at Salem College, a medical doctor who teaches at the Northwestern University Medical School and is founding director of the medical program for performing artists there in Evanston. I highly recommend this excellent book to NACWPI members as a cover all text that is especially good with practicing one's instrument.

REVIEW BY GEARY LARRICK, DMA, STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN

COMPACT DISC REVIEW

Atmospheres. Double Take: Don N. Parker and Sheryl Linch-Parker. DL Productions DT002. P.O. Box 40633 Fayetteville, NC 28309-0633. www.parkerlinchmusic.com

Contemporary chamber music can be a bit daunting to all but the most committed audience. The duo Double Take, consisting of percussionist Don Parker and trumpeter Sheryl Linch-Parker have taken it as their mission to promote new music in a manner that makes it accessible and even enjoyable to a broad audience.

Their latest CD, *Atmospheres* introduces us to three major additions to the repertoire for trumpet and percussion. The first piece on the program is a 2005 composition by Howard Buss titled "Atmospheres." Each of the three movements of this substantial work is given an evocative title. The first is "The Awakening" which starts simply with the trumpet and explores all of the colors at the musician's disposal. The trumpet part calls for mutes and the use of high and low registers along with a virtual catalogue of

percussion sounds. The second movement: "One Sunday, Long Ago" makes use of a plaintive, hymn-like melody featuring the flugelhorn. The third and final movement titled "On the Edge" is, well, edgy rhythmically and shows this duo to be sensitive to rhythmic and stylistic complexities.

Next is the 2006 composition by William L. Cahn titled "Where Sirens Dwell." This piece for percussion, trumpet, and prerecorded CD is described by the composer in notes: "The Sirens of ancient Greek Mythology were maidens whose songs were so alluring that mariners, upon hearing their singing, became spellbound leaving their ships to be dashed to pieces on the rocks." Cahn does an excellent job of evoking the ominous sound of the Sirens with various gongs, bells and vibraphone accompanying the trumpet singing the hypnotic tune. The members of Double Take do a fine job with this moody yet colorful score.

The final piece on *Atmospheres* is Gary Powell Nash's 2003 "Six Interlocutions for Trumpet and Percussion." This is an often witty series of conversations with descriptive titles such as: "Light Banter" and "Be Correct or Be Happy" among others. Nash uses timpani to great effect lending greater harmonic interest and underpinning to the trumpet's melodic lines.

Atmospheres is a wonderful collection of repertoire that deserves greater attention. Don N. Parker and Sheryl Linch-Parker as Double Take do a fine job of bringing to life scores that are complex rhythmically and coax a world of colors from their respective instruments.

REVIEW BY DR. LEE J. WEIMER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC, LAMBETH UNIVERSITY, JACKSON, TENNESSEE.

New American Masters, Vols. 1 and 2, Palisades Virtuosi (Albany records), Margaret Swinchoski, flute; Donald Mokrynski, clarinet; Ron Levy, piano

While many chamber ensembles today commission composers to write for them, seldom does one group have an enormous effect on the chamber music repertoire as the Palisades Virtuosi. Flutist Margaret Swinchoski, clarinetist Donald Mokrynski, and pianist Ron Levy, making it their mission to add to the repertoire for flute, clarinet, and piano, struck gold in their choice of composers. Their *New American Masters* compact disks on Albany Records, featuring no less than twelve recent works written for the group, have already received rave reviews from *Fanfare* and *American Record Guide*, and the group continues to perform, commission and record with no slowing in sight. Their website lists thirty-three compositions to their credit, all performed between 2003 and 2009, and they promise more to come. The most striking thing, upon listening to the two CDs back-to-back, is the depth of quality and the sheer number of lyrical and interesting works presented within a short time frame. Most are tonal although many have contemporary flare. The pieces are varied with perhaps one common denominator, the expressive and vocal qualities of the lines. The group plays beautifully so we can appreciate the works of the composers they have chosen.

Performers interested in this new repertoire will want to know that piccolo and bass clarinet make a frequent showing and one work (Newman) has alto flute. Both disks have works college chamber groups will enjoy performing although the works on the second