



# The Taylor Times

The Newsletter with "Schmaltz"



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## A QUIET YEAR... SHHHH!

*Finally, a year of fairly reasonable peace and quiet. And another year closer to retirement should it ever happen, though if it did happen it would simply mean full-time work in art and music. The best kind of retirement, I think. I keep waiting.*



*Jeff and Donna at the Parker, Messana Christmas Party*

### MUSICAL MOMENTS

Music was again the big focus over the year. I finally had the opportunity to play the Concertino for Tuba and Symphonic Band with the Highline Band. Originally written in 2005, I raced the clock to finish the orchestration so that we could have enough rehearsal time to play it in our May 3 performance. I want to thank our director, Dan Kexel, for taking the time to give me some good suggestions to help with the process. Unfortunately, as is often the case with unfamiliar music, the band struggled a

bit in places. Nevertheless, the overall final result was not bad. I learned a lot and certainly enjoyed playing the solo.

The previous summer (2009), after performing Incantations with Brass Band Northwest, I had begun a

new piece for that group called Washington Statements, A Northwest Suite, but I had also been trying to finish Suite Holidays for the brass quintet, which was ultimately part of the details of our wedding preparations. Since I moved on to the Concertino after that, Washington Statements languished for almost a year, only

the first 16 bars or so written down. But I had a grand scheme for the whole thing and as soon as the May 3rd concert was behind me, set to work on it in earnest.

Washington Statements is a big piece. It is a musical travelogue through the state of Washington, with each of five movements depicting a different area or feature of our beautiful landscape. The music traverses the rolling hills of the Palouse, the mighty waters of the Columbia River, ancient rainforests of the Hoh River, diverse cultures of the

cities around Puget Sound, and culminates with a climb to the top of majestic Mt. Rainer. Completion of the piece was again interrupted when I spent some time scoring Suite Holidays for full orchestra, but was finally completed (barring some final orchestration edits) just after Thanksgiving. It is a full half hour in length and will no doubt prove to be a big challenge for the band. With the process under way within the band of finding a new conductor, we may not actually play it for awhile, or possibly play excerpts from it, but you can hear the software version at my website, [www.artnsounds.com](http://www.artnsounds.com)... click on the MUSIC link. Detailed descriptions of each movement are included there.

I'd mentioned Suite Holidays again. After a long time of not having performed the original brass quintet version (except for the last two movements used at our wedding), and having been given the chance to do something with the Eastside Symphony, I chose to rescore it for full orchestra, then was handed the baton to conduct it in concert. I'd directed the brass band in concert the previous year, but this was my first chance with a full symphony

orchestra. The performance was not perfect but it was a blast to do. As I learn more and get more comfortable on the podium I hope to be able to do more of this in the future.

Musically, the year ended with its typical flurry of concerts and rehearsals. There were seven concerts during the first two weeks of December, including one by the Black Diamond Brass Quintet in which we



*Black Diamond Brass (That's me with the red ribbon beard.)*

actually DID play the complete original version of Suite Holidays. (That makes two world premieres for that piece within ten days. No way I could have planned that!) It's always good to get the holiday music behind us so we can relax for the remainder of the year..

## TRAVELING TAYLORS

Travel was fairly minimal this year. In early August we drove to Vancouver, B.C., stopping first for a couple days in Birch Bay on the U.S. side of the border. There were World-mark condo complexes at each, and both were very enjoyable stays, though it rained much of the time in Vancouver. It's not supposed to do that in August, but then people have been telling Mother Nature to do some strange things lately.

For the Thanksgiving week we



*The Valley of Fire*

flew down to Palm Springs for a couple days, then drove the rental car over to Las Vegas for the remainder



*Donna hiking in the Valley of Fire*

of the week, again both times making use of Worldmark facilities. The Palm Springs part of the trip was mostly taking care of business with the house in Desert Hot Springs, but we got to visit Donna's Aunt and Uncle, (as it turns out seeing Uncle John for the last time), got to do some walking around town and had a delicious dinner at the Blue Coyote, my old favorite restaurant in



*Hoover Dam Bypass Bridge, officially the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge*

at the Blue Coyote, my old favorite restaurant in

Park and did some hiking through the gorgeous colored rock formations. Donna's hiking legs seem to be coming back as she felt quite good after doing it. I also took a little time to visit Hoover Dam. My goal was not actually the dam, but the new bypass bridge that they've built in front of it, a giant, magnificent feat of engineering. Donna, not being an aficionado of such contraptions, stayed back in town, but I found it to be a truly worthwhile venture. Friday night we got to see Bill Cosby at Treasure Island. Not much more I can say about that... at 73 he's as funny as ever. And interestingly, during our four days there we never once gambled. I think Las Vegas is no longer really a gambling destination... there's so much else to do, see, and enjoy.



*The Venetian in Las Vegas*

## THE WORKING WORLD

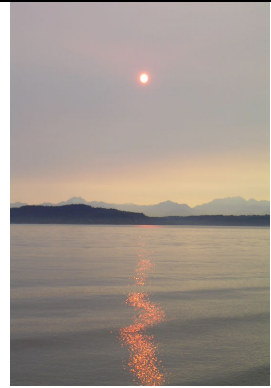
Until December it was a busy year for me at Parker, Messina, often too busy, rushing like crazy to get things done according to the schedules established. Stresses were often barely tolerable, but this is the reality of the engineering business, and also the reason I'd like to find a way to retire from it.

Donna found a job during the summer which provided event security for a number of venues throughout the area, including concerts at

Snoqualmie Casino. In the course of doing her job she had the chance to meet quite a number of music stars before she was let go for doing her job "too well". (That's a hard one to explain but is really quite true.) Shortly after that another job came up at Seattle Bulk Shipping at the Harbor Island terminal. She's still doing her job "too well", but between not pushing for change and always being the bubbly sunshine of the office she will not be leaving there any time soon unless she chooses to do so.

## UNCLE JOHN'S PASSING

On a sad note John Kelch, Donna's uncle and one of the most lovable members of her family, passed away on December 13. John was 96 and had been suffering from heart problems for some time. We feel blessed to have had the opportunity to see him one last time when we visited Southern California over Thanksgiving. John had a good, long life and I feel privileged to have known him even as briefly as I did. We will miss him and send our prayers to Auntie Elsie.



## NEW WEB SITE

You may have noticed I have a new website address. This is my new site, which I plan to maintain indefinitely. You'll find links to my art and music there, links to social networking sites, and information on upcoming

performances. You will also find PDFs of ALL previous newsletters, just in case you missed something and actually care to look it up, or if you're trying to justify throwing away all the old paper versions that are cluttering your drawers. [www.artsnsounds.com](http://www.artsnsounds.com).

## DILBERT

