

17 February 2013

Dear Mike,

Thank you so much for loaning me the wonderful DVD *Capriccio: A New World*. I loved watching and listening to this group play, and viewing the beautiful scenes of Groningen. The group tackled a huge piece with aplomb, and the lovely alto clarinet solo in the second movement was a highlight of the performance. (It was neat to hear the solo again during the closing credits, too.)

I really liked the choice to film this group not only as they played in the recording hall, but also in scenes around Groningen, with fields and churches, ornate gardens, flocks of bicycles, even a train station (I think) providing a sense of the scope of the work and the beauty of the setting.

The arrangement of Dvorak's symphony was excellent, and I appreciate the fact that the arranger, John de Beer, conducted his own work. There's something satisfying and *old* world-like about seeing an arranger physically bring to life his own written creation. I also like that the clarinet was de Beer's "sound choice" for conveying Dvorak's symphony. It's great that folks like you and de Beer enjoy the clarinet enough to write lengthy pieces featuring the instrument!

I believe you said that you know John de Beer and stayed with him in Holland. I hope you've had a chance to remain in touch with him, and share your own compositions and arrangements with him, and vice versa. I also hope that the Capriccio Clarinet Orchestra is still playing and recording.

Thanks again, so much, for loaning me this DVD. I hope you'll be able to share it with more folks in our Platypus group (and that they'll keep it for less time than I did!).

Warmly,

Jenny

(I had to send this to you!)

Hi John + Rita! I have started a clarinet orchestra here in Oregon. So far we have 20 musicians - E<sup>b</sup> down to B<sup>b</sup> contra and we are called the Platypus Clarinet Orchestra (for humor, and to acknowledge we have players from the U. of Oregon Ducks and the Oregon State U. Beavers). Our first concert in April will have Fauré Pavane, Rossini H. in Alg., Dvorak Str. Serenade, and 2 arrs. by me (Newark Siege by Jenkins, Handel Sarabande + Grooves), and my Global Tour. Cheers!