

New Hampshire Prisons 14 Concerts ~ August-October 2017

The tour began in Friendship House, a rehabilitation center where one young man said my musical story felt to him like "watching a movie." In Sullivan County, I saw a few old friends and the wonderful staff and played the 6th Suite for them; a first in any prison setting. To the surprise of the staff at the Dover Children's Home, 5 out of the 6 kids present first peeked in the room and finally came in and enjoyed the performance. At the Sununu Youth Facility, one girl quoted my story "Shoes" from last year, "They're black, I want 'em back." She asked about my son Scotty and then confided that she was getting out on November 3rd. I wished her luck. They all enjoyed the different stories that I told this year.

In Cheshire County and Valley street jails there were men who told me they were moved by the Bach and were now interested in going to concerts even though they had thought they wouldn't be.

Expanding the program, my first visit to a Federal Prison was a great success presenting 3 concerts. The warden came for a concert and made sure I stopped by to thank me before I left. They asked repeatedly if I would come back. But the nicest moment was when one of the men told me that he had heard me at Strafford County last year and was so moved that he wrote me a letter and gave it to the Lieutenant at Strafford for me (unfortunately I never received it). When he heard about this concert, he couldn't believe it was me and waited to see the picture on my flyer. Afterwards, he told me that he felt really lucky to have had the experience of hearing me twice. I suggested that he begin going to concerts when he got out and he said he would.



Aged-out foster kids and therapists

PRISON CONCERT PROJECT

Renewed funding from the New Hampshire State Arts Council and new funding from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation along with our numerous donors help to make these repeat visits possible.

California Prisons 12 Concerts ~ May-June 2018

The highlight of my trip to California was seeing my friend and lifer Marty Williams, one of the best people I know who unfortunately will probably never leave prison. I played at a number of prisons, a nice concert for aged-out foster kids and the life skills program at the LA County Jail where I got two standing Os for the Sixth Suite. One of the officers, an aspiring singer, couldn't believe I

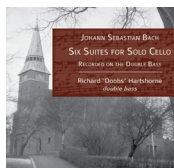


Los Padrinos Juvenile Facility in LA

played under Aram Kachaturian (she's Armenian) when I was with the American Symphony while at Juilliard. Usually it's the inmates I bond with not the officers. The program expanded to Mule Creek where I did a great concert in mental health with the wonderful classical guitarist Gabe Becker who teaches there. A special thank you to Mimi Munson and Michael Karnow and friends for their incredible hospitality hosting a house concert.

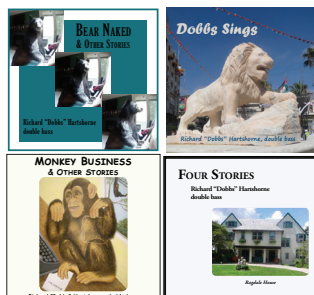
MUSIC STORE

One of my new stories concerns a certain bear from Vail Colorado who broke into a house and was caught on video playing the piano. You can look it up. Imagine my surprise to see a bear outside a prison where I was about to tell that story. This one and many more (4 CDs worth with some new recordings and some re-mastered) will be available in January.



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COSTA RICA CONCERT TOUR 16 Masterclasses & Concerts ~ July 2018



From left to right: Roy Sonne, concertmaster; Michael Peebles, cellist and Marie's husband; Marie Parnell, principal viola; me, principal bass; Guido Saenz, former Minister of Culture; Paul Friedhof, principal cello; Ruben Oscher, principal bassoon all from 1976.

I returned to Costa Rica after 44 years. (It's getting to be a habit: My return to Bolivia was also 44 years.) The wonderful part of my trip was that I shared it with the other three principal string players who, together with me and the conductor Gerry Brown and the minister of Culture Guido Saenz, launched the Programa Juvenil in 1976. It is still thriving and has a new building and over 600 students from children to university age. The level was astounding and we were treated like returning heroes.

The Festival of Strings brought us back together for a week of coaching, orchestra, lessons and master classes. Over the course of that wonderful week, I coached a group of 9 bassists in an arrangement of Ravel's Pavane for a Dead Princess. It was a strong and moving performance. At the same time, I must have heard 25 or more bass players; young as well as professional. But I especially worked with the 9 from my group, reinforcing the principles that I believe in and that can help them for the rest of their lives.



My bass class.

A Special Thank You...

A special thank you to Sue Saltus, our Chairman of the Board, and Sarah Bacon, our administrator, who are leaving us after years of dedicated service. You will both be sorely missed but what you helped to build will live on. I thank you both from the bottom of my heart,

Dobbs

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2018-19 SEASON EVENTS

- New Hampshire Prison Tour
- Iraq Concert Tour
- Michigan Prison Tour
- March 21 - 75th Birthday Celebration!
- Afghanistan Concert Tour
- California Prison Tour



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Bach With Verse is supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.