

A.F. OF M.



LOCAL 145

UPBeat

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A CHANCE MEETING

Classical CD department, August 2002. In the early evening, a tourist couple came in. As with all of my customers, I asked if they needed help finding anything. A search for a Schoenberg chamber piece led to a conversation that would change my life. The couple I met was Orla and Jytte Weather - a musicologist and his wife from Aarhus, Denmark. My father was born there, and has a multitude of family in Denmark that I had been wanting to meet for years. To my surprise, Mr Weather was on the board of directors for a Danish chamber music festival

called the "Thy Masterclass" (pronounced "tu" as in French). Upon telling him that I was a percussionist, we exchanged e-mail addresses and began a correspondence that led to my subsequent audition and acceptance into this festival! Not to mention full scholarships from both the festival AND my Danish family's scholarship fund.

The Thy Masterclass is a 2-week chamber music extravaganza in a city called Thisted on the north-western corner of Denmark. There are 20 musicians accepted annually and this year there were 14 different countries represent-

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ed. I was the only Canadian and, to my knowledge, the first AFM/VMA member to attend. We had 5 different concert programmes in a variety of venues around the city. From churches to museums to professional concert halls, we were treated to some of the most beautiful locales for our performances. The scenery was exquisite - vast landscapes of sand dunes and beaches. During rehearsals, we had coaches from some of

Europe's most respected music institutes. We were also left alone to really learn how to work in a chamber situation.

The best part about this festival for me was that it was a very "real" experience. None of the participants sugar-coated the process. Instead of keeping the peace for the 2 weeks we were together, emotions ran quite high at times. Tensions mounted, artistic differences came to the surface, but in the end we had a great deal of respect for each other's honesty. This made for some very intimate, exciting performances, and I would definitely re-

commend this experience to anyone who has a love (or wishes to develop a love) for the chamber music experience. For more information on the festival and its programmes, please visit the website www.thymasterclass.dk

Finally, an amazing reunion story - Orla and Jytte Weather, the Danish couple, and I met in Thisted at the festival almost exactly one year after our meeting in Vancouver and had a fantastic reunion over dinner at their summer house!

I forgot to mention that I was the first percussionist in the 9-year history of the festival.