

Great clarinetist Cuesta at Wasaga

Great clarinet jazz player Henry Cuesta is appearing at the Wasaga Golf and Country Club until Aug.

19. Henry Cuesta was born to make music. Whether he's playing the jazz that delights his

soul, or thrilling symphony audiences with his special symphonic arrangements, or entertaining 30 million

delighted fans of the Lawrence Welk Show with one of his brilliant clarinet solos, the tall, darkly handsome

musician enralls all of his audiences with the power of his talent and the magnetism of his velvety golden sound.

When the Selmer Corporation, largest makers of musical instruments in the world, recently decided to award him a golden-eyed clarinet (for the first time in its history), it was no accident. It was simply recognizing something which critics and audiences alike have known for a long, long time. Henry Cuesta is one of the world's great clarinet artists.

He comes by his prodigious talents naturally. He was born into a musical family in Corpus Christi, Texas, where his father, Miguel Cuesta, a classical violinist, began teaching him violin at an early age. When he was nine, his mother took him to see a movie in which Henry's cousin, Ernie Caceres, played with the famed Glenn Miller band. The experience changed his life.

Enchanted with the sounds, he switched to woodwinds immediately, and proved so gifted that he was selected to play with the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra while

still in high school.

After graduation, he attended Del Mar College, graduating just before being drafted during the Korean War. (Assigned to the 7th Army Band, Henry distinguished himself with a last-minute triumphant performance of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, with the Stuttgart (Germany) Symphony, when their resident clarinetist found himself unable to cope with the demands of the work.)

It was after his army duty that Cuesta embarked on the most profoundly affecting experience of his life, eight years playing with some of the finest big bands of the day, Jack Teagarden, Ted Lewis, Shep Fields, even one memorable performance with the great Paul Whiteman. Rooted in the classical traditions of his father, nurtured in the contemporary and symphonic music of his youth, his musical education became fully rounded. Touring the United States and Canada, performing night after night, playing everything from Dixieland jazz (which he loves) to Latin rhythms, Cuesta developed his own dazzling, technically brilliant,

highly personal style.

He decided to follow his own star and left the bands in 1963, returning to Toronto, a city he had come to love during his Teagarden days. He quickly established himself as the town's favorite musical personality at the Skyline Hotel, and during the next few years, Cuesta and his jazz group became the mecca for all visiting musicians, including Goodman himself on one occasion.

Another visitor was cornet virtuoso, Bobby Hackett, who listened to Cuesta's soaring improvisational jazz and liquid tones, and advised him to get in touch with Lawrence Welk, who was then looking for a star clarinet player. Henry mailed Welk some of his recordings. Two days later, the maestro asked him to join the band as featured soloist.

Married since 1961, to the former Janette McFater, a Scottish lass from Toronto, Cuesta is the father of three children, Marion, Lucinda and Henry, Jr. He is a devoted husband and father, and his wife and children are the center of his life. But when you see him close his eyes, and lose himself in his music, you know that music is his life.



To Louis Tremblay

Louis Tremblay receives his Bicentennial Citizenship Award, last Friday, from Simcoe East MPP Al McLean. Behing McLean is Progressive Conservative candidate in Simcoe North, Doug Lewis. Recipients of an Award of Merit, given by the Tay-Victoria Harbour Bicentennial Committee, were Dennis Esterbrooks, Marjorie Bressette, Carl Evans, George Latondress, Doug Jackson, Rose DesChenes, Margaret Evans, Catharine MacKenzie, Ella Murray, and Dorothy Rogers. Marjorie Gervais was the other Bicentennial Citizenship Award recipient.

Bicentennial citizen

Marjorie Gervais was one of two recipients, last Friday, in Victoria Harbour of a Bicentennial Citizenship Award, presented by local MPP Al McLean, on behalf of the Tay-Victoria Harbour Bicentennial Committee. Louis Tremblay was the other recipient. Florence Belcher is the recipient of an award given by the citizens of Victoria Harbour.



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