



Spring 4-9-2002

## **IWU News Advisory**

Kate Weber  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

---

### **Recommended Citation**

Weber, Kate, "IWU News Advisory" (2002). *News and Events*. 628.  
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/628>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

April 9, 2002

Contact: Sherry Wallace, 309/556-3181

## **The Sparnaays in Concert**

### **at Illinois Wesleyan University**

*At certain moments in the history of an instrument, a single player comes along and opens a whole can of worms. Such is the case with Harry Sparnaay, the Dutch virtuoso whose astounding facility on the bass clarinet has inspired such heavyweights as Iannis Xenakis, Isang Yun, Morton Feldman and Brian Ferneyhough (along with some 400 other composers) to write works specifically for him.*

--Chicago Reader

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—On Saturday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. in Illinois Wesleyan University's Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park St., Bloomington, Harry Sparnaay and Silvia Sparnaay Castillo will perform.

Based In Amsterdam, Sparnaay is said by music critics, to be an "amazing bass clarinet virtuoso, who has expanded the possibilities of his instrument in the same sort of way that Paganini did for the violin and Jimi Hendrix for the electric guitar." Sparnaay is currently a professor of bass clarinet and contemporary music at the Conservatories of Amsterdam and Utrecht. His wife, Silvia, is an accomplished organist. Their program consists of contemporary compositions written for them by composers from around the world.

#### **About Harry Sparnaay**

Harry Sparnaay, who is said to rank among the world's most distinguished bass clarinet performers, has been a featured performer with many major orchestras and ensembles including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Melbourne Symphony and the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, and many others. He studied at the Conservator of Amsterdam with Ru Otto and after graduating with a performer's degree for clarinet he specialized in bass clarinet and won the first prize at the International Gaudeamus Competition—the first time ever a bass clarinetist has won this competition.

Sparnaay, who has given concerts and made radio recordings all over Europe, North and South American, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Asia performing over 500 musical works written for and dedicated to him by composers such as Claudio Ambrosini, Luciano Berio, Gerard Brophy, Helmut Lachenmann, and Iannis Xenakis. He has played solo at numerous music festivals including Warsaw, New York, Los Angeles, Madrid, Paris and Athens. Other festivals at which Sparnaay has performed include Witten, Aarhus, Middelburg, and Salzburg.

Sparnaay performed the world premiere of *In Freundschaft* (bass clarinet version) and *Solo* (bass-and contrabass clarinet version-adaptation by Barry Anderson) by Karlheinz Stockhausen and was one of the soloists in *Die Verwandlung* by Paul Heinz Dittrich and in the opera's *Naima* by Theo Loevendie, *Prometeo* by Luigi Nono and *A King, Riding* by Klaas de Vries. He has

played as soloist with the HET TRIO, which he along with flautist Harrie Starreveld and pianist Rene Eckhardt formed in 1984, or in other combinations, on more than 40 CDs. His CD with the HET TRIO with music by Ton de Leeuw,, received an Edison award.

### **About Silvia Sparnaay Castillo**

Silvia Castillo was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She studied piano, oboe and organ at the Manuel de Falla conservatory, and continued her studies with Mario Videla, Hector Zeoli and J.G. Segade. Castillo also followed masterclasses in Argentina with foreign specialists like Wiltrud Fuchs, Kamiel d'Hooghe, Montserrat Torrent, Marilyn Mason, Renzo Buja and in Paris with Odile Pierre.

As a soloist, Castillo has performed concerts with the LRA Radio Nacional Orchestra under the direction of Ljeko Spiller and the Symphony Orchestra of Rosario under the direction of Juan Carlos Zorzi. She also has studied viola with Tomas Tichauer and harpsichord with Monica Kosachov.

Castillo, who has given concerts in Holland, Austria, Mexico, Poland, Ireland, Slovakia and Argentina, has received three scholarships from the University of San Juan and in 1986 she received an honorable mention during the first National Organ competition.