



Donald Montanaro teaching a lesson in the Tabuteau Room in 2005 PHOTO: PETE CHECCHIA

Tradition and Tone: A Tribute to Donald Montanaro

A treasured member of the Curtis faculty for 34 years, **DONALD MONTANARO** ('54) has been both a protector of the past and prognosticator of the future since 1980. As a clarinet student at Curtis, he inherited a musical legacy from **DANIEL BONADE** and **MARCEL TABUTEAU**; as a teacher, he drew upon them to create a unique emphasis on sound quality and singing style. He attracted, guided, and graduated young clarinetists who now occupy important positions in Beijing, Dallas, Fort Worth, Los Angeles, Malmö, Mexico City, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Seoul, and Toronto; as well as the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

A member of the Philadelphia Orchestra from 1957 to 2005 and a passionate collaborative musician, Mr. Montanaro is the music director of the Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, a group he founded in 1977. Curtis woodwind students have been inspired by his knowledge of the quintet repertoire and love of the medium for more than three decades. Donald Montanaro retires from the Curtis faculty at the close of the 2013-14 school year. ◊

"Mr. Montanaro is the embodiment of the great Philadelphia tradition of wind playing going back to Marcel Tabuteau. Through his unparalleled attention to detail, his teaching instilled in me the lifelong pursuit for elegance, refinement, and vocal expression."

GREGORY RADEN ('94), principal clarinet, Dallas Symphony Orchestra

"As a teacher, Mr. Montanaro helped me develop my concept of sound that enables me to express my inner voice through the clarinet. As a colleague in the Philadelphia Orchestra, Donald was such an exceptional colleague as a musician, mentor, and friend. I am so blessed that he has had such a profound impact on my life."

BURT HARA ('84), associate principal clarinet, Los Angeles Philharmonic

"Tone means everything to Don. It is the medium for delivering artistic expression and the personalization of the clarinet. Although a fast articulation could always impress him, nothing mattered without tone and saying something through the clarinet.

'T(OH)ne'—He would come very close, open his eyes wide while staring at you, nose centered and lips forming the long 'O' sound with great exaggeration, and with a swirl of the index finger to indicate a spinning sound. If onomatopoeia could be defined by the way he said 'tone,' surely this word's sound defined its meaning.

Don's inspiration and dedication brought a sea change in clarinet playing and a whole generation of the finest clarinetists with a new clarinet sound to the major orchestras in the U.S. and throughout the world."

DAVID NEUMAN ('82), clarinet, San Francisco Symphony



Donald Montanaro performing as soloist with the Curtis Symphony Orchestra and Otto-Werner Mueller in 2001 PHOTO: JEAN BRUBAKER

Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, **RICARDO MORALES** and **MICHAEL RUSINEK** ('92) will teach clarinet students at Curtis. Mr. Morales is principal clarinet of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and has been on the Curtis faculty since 2008; Mr. Rusinek is principal clarinet of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and has taught woodwind chamber music at Curtis since 2012.

"Don is my musical father. His exquisite ear for tone and mastery of phrasing, combined with a keen understanding of how to transmit this knowledge to his students, made for a learning experience that has been second to none in my life. Whenever I play something really beautifully in the orchestra, I feel like I am standing on Don's shoulders."

SAM CAVIEZEL ('96), associate principal clarinet, Philadelphia Orchestra