



For and about the people of Dutchess County

Dutchess

November / December 2007

features

COVER STORY:

DRAWING ON LIFE

Aaron Kemnitz paints a portrait of Millbrook artist Sarah Chamberlain Scott.

14

SUSPENSION PROGRESSION

Kate Goldsmith relates composer Joseph Bertolozzi's musical vision for the Mid-Hudson Bridge.

28

DESIGNING MAN

Matthew Renda reveals the multi-dimensional art of Bill Huebbe.

38

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Take a break from the hustle and bustle by enjoying these seasonal events.

50

departments

FROM THE EDITOR 8

LETTER TO THE EDITOR 8

CONTRIBUTORS 9

BOOKSHELF 12

THE DRAWING BOARD 24

FOOD 'N' LOVE 36

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTIONS:

IT'S A WRAP! 10

DUTCHESS AT HOME 22

CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS 26

ON THE COVER: "The Boating Party Comes to the Millbrook Winery" by Sarah Scott.

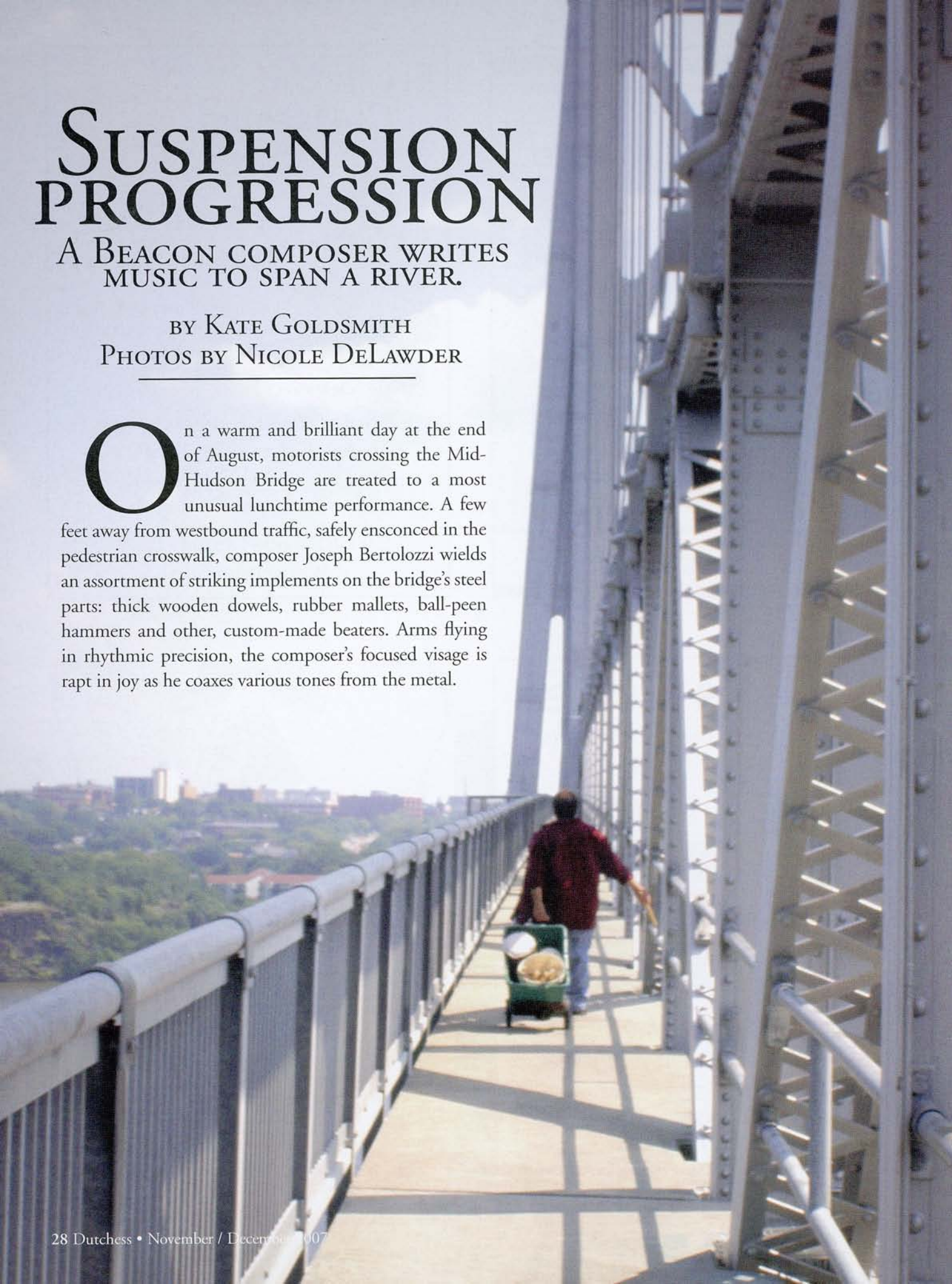
ON THIS PAGE: Composer Joseph Bertolozzi on the Mid-Hudson Bridge. Photo by Nicole DeLawder.

SUSPENSION PROGRESSION

A BEACON COMPOSER WRITES
MUSIC TO SPAN A RIVER.

BY KATE GOLDSMITH
PHOTOS BY NICOLE DELAWDER

On a warm and brilliant day at the end of August, motorists crossing the Mid-Hudson Bridge are treated to a most unusual lunchtime performance. A few feet away from westbound traffic, safely ensconced in the pedestrian crosswalk, composer Joseph Bertolozzi wields an assortment of striking implements on the bridge's steel parts: thick wooden dowels, rubber mallets, ball-peen hammers and other, custom-made beaters. Arms flying in rhythmic precision, the composer's focused visage is rapt in joy as he coaxes various tones from the metal.



It's a one-man band of epic proportions. The bridge tower resonates deeply, the granddaddy of all gongs. The three louvers of an electrical panel sound like steel drums. The walkway's railing and spindles produce a high-pitched duet of xylophone and bells.

This afternoon foray 135 feet above the Hudson River isn't an impromptu concert; it's a dead-serious demonstration of the bridge's potential as a musical instrument. Bertolozzi is composing a collection of pieces, with the working title of Bridge Music, for 22 percussionists, a vocalist and the Mid-Hudson Bridge. His plans are to perform the site-specific composition live in September 2009 during the Hudson River Quadricentennial celebration in Poughkeepsie.

PLAYING THE BRIDGE

Joseph Bertolozzi has a knack for thinking big and for getting others wrapped up in the excitement of his creations. A Poughkeepsie native, Bertolozzi received his bachelor's degree in music from Vassar College and went on to study at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana, Westminster Choir College and The Juilliard School, among others. He cites influences ranging from Stravinsky and Wendy Carlos to Rick Wakeman and the Beatles. He has performed at the Vatican, conducted brass players from the balcony of the Poughkeepsie post office and composed the official music to celebrate West Point's bicentennial in 2002. He's a concert organist and the choirmaster for two houses of worship in the Hudson Valley. He owns, and plays, more than 60 gongs and cymbals from around the world – known collectively as The Bronze Collection – and has created a body of work for them.

So, to play a suspension bridge isn't a huge stretch for this sonic adventurer, although it was Bertolozzi's wife, Sheila, who planted the seed of the idea. The couple had returned to their Beacon home after a Bronze Collection concert, when Sheila looked at a poster of the Eiffel Tower on the wall and motioned to strike the tower like a gong.

"I thought, 'that could work,'" says Bertolozzi, but he knew that he wouldn't have to travel to Paris to realize his vision. When he decided on the Mid-Hudson Bridge, he was also thinking about how



to make the project part of the planned celebrations throughout the Hudson River Valley in 2009 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage up the river that would bear his name.

Bertolozzi's first hurdle was getting permission from the New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA), a process for which he prepared exhaustively; after a couple of meetings, the powers that be decided to give him a chance.

With the help of NYSBA workers, who could access areas that Bertolozzi could not, he recorded about 300 sound samples from various parts of the bridge. Contact microphones were used in order to isolate the sound of the items being struck. Each sound was then catalogued according to its pitch and also geographically so that it could be located again for later performance. Bertolozzi digitally sampled these sounds, which became the basis of a composition called "Bridge Funk."

"My proof of concept was to actually make sounds on the bridge," he says. "I wrote a piece of music, notated in standard musical notation. When I handed them this music, that was the turning point."

With the first major hurdle cleared, Bertolozzi turned his mind to other matters of equal importance, such as funding for the \$1.8 million project.

"Most of that [money] is for the sound

"MY PROOF OF CONCEPT WAS TO ACTUALLY MAKE SOUNDS ON THE BRIDGE," HE SAYS. "I WROTE A PIECE OF MUSIC, NOTATED IN STANDARD MUSICAL NOTATION. WHEN I HANDED THEM THIS MUSIC, THAT WAS THE TURNING POINT."

equipment and the personnel to run it," he says. The plan is to do an international live broadcast from the bridge. He also has to pay musicians to rehearse and perform and hire a mobile recording unit.

"Why does it cost so much? Everything has to be there for three weeks, which rings up a good price," says Bertolozzi. He is

Continued on following page

OPPOSITE PAGE: JOSEPH BERTOLOZZI CARTS HIS KIT OF STRIKING IMPLEMENTS ONTO THE MID-HUDSON BRIDGE. THIS PAGE: PLAYING THE PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY'S RAILING AND SPINDLES.

continued from previous page

seeking corporate sponsorships, including media partners. Because he isn't a high-profile composer, it's a tough sell, but Bertolozzi is committed to his vision.

"I know that if I could talk to the right people, they'd be as excited as I am," he says.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Bertolozzi enjoys the respect of community leaders who admire his vision. Nancy Cozean has been impressed by her dealings with the composer during her term as Poughkeepsie's mayor. In 2004, Bertolozzi composed music to celebrate the city's 150th anniversary, which featured the aforementioned trumpeters (from the West Point band) on the balcony of the Poughkeepsie post office.

"It was so exciting, because here were all these trumpeters, and at the end we had the churches ringing their bells. When [the concert] happened, it was just surprise after surprise for the audience, and they couldn't clap enough."

Cozean notes that Bertolozzi's showmanship takes his music to the next level.

"The trumpets echoing really sent chills up your back," she remembers.

Along with other mayors in cities along the Hudson River, Cozean has been an ardent supporter of Bertolozzi's Bridge Music, as well as the general arts and cultural scene that has been credited with Poughkeepsie's renaissance.

"It's amazing to me that we have artists who think this big," says Cozean. "Why is that important? This is a world site. You have the Yellow River in China, the Danube, the

continued on page 32

"IT WAS SO EXCITING, BECAUSE HERE WERE ALL THESE TRUMPETERS, AND AT THE END WE HAD THE CHURCHES RINGING THEIR BELLS. WHEN [THE CONCERT] HAPPENED, IT WAS JUST SURPRISE AFTER SURPRISE FOR THE AUDIENCE, AND THEY COULDN'T CLAP ENOUGH."

NANCY COZEAN



GETTING THE RIGHT TONE FROM THE STEEL TOWER.

Brinckerhoff and Neuville Insurance Group

Our clients benefit
from our comprehensive
insurance network.

Commercial
Home
Auto
Health
Life
Bond

**BRINCKERHOFF &
NEUVILLE, INC.**
1134 Main Street,
Fishkill, NY 12524
845.896.4700

POWERS & HAAR, INC.
159 Main Street,
Cold Spring, NY 10516
845.265.3652

**TRI-COUNTY
PLANNING SERVICES, INC.**
39 Market Street,
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845.471.8200

VAIL & SUTTON, INC.
39 Market Street,
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845.452.1776



A MAN WITH A MISSION.

Continued from page 30

We make it happen...

- Active learning
- Self-discovery
- Independent thinking



...in Grades Pre-K – 8, with challenging academic programs and extensive arts, sports, and after-school activities.



DUTCHESS DAY SCHOOL

Serving families in Dutchess, Columbia, Ulster, and Litchfield Counties

415 Route 343 • Millbrook, NY 12545 • 845.677.5014 • www.dutchessday.org

Hudson River – they're all strong, beautiful rivers. This is our tribute on an international level. So you need a big performance to give it the acclaim."

Charlie North, president of the Poughkeepsie Area Chamber of Commerce, is also familiar with Bertolozzi's "make-it-happen" attitude.

"When I first heard the idea [for Bridge Music], I was a bit taken aback," recalls North, a former musician who played clarinet and drums. "But then I thought, 'Why shouldn't we come up with something new?'"

North thinks that the project would reaffirm Poughkeepsie's status as the capital of the Hudson Valley. And with the international attention on the Valley in 2009, he muses, "The bridge might become the eighth wonder of the world."

It's a grand plan, but North thinks that Bertolozzi is up to the challenge.

"The Chamber is involved in giving Joe encouragement and helping him find what he needs to get the project going forward," he says. "Joe's hit a lot of stone walls, but he has persistence. I'm very proud that he has continued his quest to make this happen. And it's starting to pay off. People are now,



THIS CONTACT MICROPHONE WILL PICK UP ONLY THE SOUND OF THE SPINDLE AS IT IS STRUCK; BERTOLOZZI DESCENDING TO THE TRAVELER BELOW THE ROADWAY, WHICH PROVIDES SAFE ACCESS TO THE UNDERSIDE OF THE BRIDGE. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BLUE WINGS PRESS.



pardon the pun, listening to his music."

EYES OF THE WORLD

Civic leaders aren't the only ones worked up about Bridge Music. Bertolozzi already has heard from world-class percussionists who are interested in being part of the project.

Roxan Jurkevich, principal percussionist and assistant principal timpanist of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, read about Bertolozzi's project online. A native New Yorker, she immediately wanted to be part of

the project. Through the musician's union, she was able to get Bertolozzi's contact information and put forth her interest.

"I told him that I loved that he had embarked on this project, and how it seemed to combine many elements which interested me, including live percussion performance, electronic sampling of original live sounds, the opportunity to participate in the world premiere of a piece that has never before been performed (not to mention on a very original stage and on a very original instrument) – and all of this in New York, my hometown," she said via e-mail. "As percussionists, we tend to believe that any object can be turned into a musical instrument just by striking it, but I would say that this object is now the one to beat

Continued on following page

Celebrate The Holidays With *Natural Goodness*

- ★ Bulk & Packaged Organic Foods
- ★ Organic Produce
- ★ 20% OFF on Vitamins & Supplements
- ★ Gluten-Free and Wheat Free Products
- ★ Organic Dairy Products

We at Mother Earth offer the finest natural foods, bulk spices, herbs, vitamins & supplements in the area

- Ask about holiday catering
- Baking done on site
- Try our organic deli at Kingston & Poughkeepsie stores

10% SENIOR DISCOUNT EVERYDAY!
OPEN 7 DAYS!

POUGHKEEPSIE: 1955 South Road / 296-1069
KINGSTON: Kings Mall, Route 9W N / 336-5541
HYDE PARK: Colonial Plaza, Route 9 / 229-8593
SAUGERTIES: 249 Main Street / 246-9614

For All That's Naturally Good



2007 WINNER
Hudson Valley Magazine
"Best Health Food Store"

www.motherearthstorehouse.com

Continued from previous page

(no pun intended)."

Bertolozzi plans to begin auditions in March or April 2008.

Bridge Music has also captured the imagination of the world press. It seems that the word has gotten out to every inhabited corner of the Earth in every form of media: print, television, radio and Internet.

Media coverage notwithstanding, it will take solid sponsorship to make Bertolozzi's quest a success. He has requested an endorsement from the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission, knowing that this "seal of approval" would be a boon, but as of this writing he has not received a reply. Dutchess magazine's inquiry to the commission's executive director was not answered.

But those who dream big aren't easily discouraged. Bertolozzi is certain that others will see Bridge Music as a win-win opportunity.

"I just want to play the bridge!" he says. "It's the composing I like, it's the music I'm about, but there's other stuff to do [in order] to get to what I want to do."

Visit www.josephbertolozzi.com to find out more about the composer. Check out www.myspace.com/bridgemusicproject to hear "Bridge Funk," composed of sampled sounds from the Mid-Hudson Bridge. ●



"I JUST WANT TO PLAY THE BRIDGE!" HE SAYS. "IT'S THE COMPOSING I LIKE, IT'S THE MUSIC I'M ABOUT."



845-878-3456

2597 Route 22, Patterson, NY 12563

www.pattersonautobody.com

Ask about our

Lifetime Oil Change Program

Our technicians will change the oil & filter in your vehicle every 3 months or 3000 miles (whichever occurs first)

for a one time fee of only \$169.95

FOR AS LONG AS YOU OWN YOUR CAR!

YOUR COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE CENTER

Preventative Maintenance - Hybrid Repair
Certified Used Cars & Full Service Fuel

