

## Leone Buyse Speech for Lifetime Achievement Award at NFA 2010

Thank you so much, Jonathan—and everyone.

When Leonard called me more than a year ago to invite me to accept this award he said, “I hope that this doesn’t make you feel old!” I didn’t feel old at that moment (and certainly don’t feel old today), but I did immediately start thinking of all the things I still would like to learn and accomplish before I can feel that I truly merit a lifetime achievement award. This great honor from all of you—my friends and colleagues—is a huge encouragement to continue exploring and growing, and I’m deeply grateful for this gift.

The Japanese American architect Isamu Noguchi wrote in his *Essays and Conversations* “We are a landscape of all we have seen.” As I look around this room I see so many people who have had an immense influence on my life, and whose spirits shape and redefine my own landscape. The NFA has enabled these professional contacts and deep friendships to flower in ways I never could have imagined when I first joined our organization in the early 1970s. (Incidentally, Wally Kujala sent me a note of thanks after receiving my initial membership dues, and as a 20-something-year-old I was awestruck to receive a hand written message from such an icon in our profession!)

Who have been some of the most strongly influential forces on my landscape? My teachers, of course. I owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to David Berman, Joseph Mariano, Michel Debost, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Marcel Moyse, and Gaston Crunelle. And I owe a tremendous amount to my students. I am absolutely convinced that they are largely responsible for making me the person I have become, and that they will play a vital role in my personal evolution during the years ahead. The legendary French pedagogue Nadia Boulanger said

*The teacher is but the humus in the soil. It is the product that counts. The more you teach, the more you keep in contact with life and its positive results. All things considered, I wonder if the teacher is not the real student and the beneficiary.*

I couldn’t agree more, and remain thankful daily for the privilege of teaching.

Another extremely influential force in my life is Fenwick, and I am so delighted to be receiving this honor with such a close friend. Everyone knows that we were students of Joseph Mariano at Eastman during the same era and colleagues for a decade in the Boston Symphony. Together we performed and recorded chamber music, organized the Greater Boston Flute Association in preparation for the 1993 NFA convention, videotaped interviews with Mariano at his Cape Cod home, and organized Mariano’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and Dallas NFA tribute in 2001—perhaps our best collaboration ever! And I might add that Fenwick played Bach – beautifully - just before I walked down the aisle to marry Michael 23 years ago. But what you might not realize is how much I’ve learned from Fenwick.

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When Fenwick was building his home near Tanglewood 25 years ago I worked a bit at the construction site and learned how to lay a vapor barrier. When we played together in the orchestra I observed how the best second flutist imaginable consistently supported his colleagues. In professional meetings and social situations I learned from Fenwick the value of speaking only when it's appropriate, and then choosing only the words necessary to make one's point. And from Fenwick I've learned the importance of accepting and dealing gracefully with life's challenges. Thank you, Fenwick.

Our former NFA president Kathy Borst Jones has influenced and inspired me through the decades by her unswerving commitment to both the NFA and her students. Throughout her current health challenge she has remained a major inspiration to all who know her, and I would like to share with you a paragraph she wrote in the spring. Her words serve as a powerful mantra to me, daily.

*Carpe Diem. Live in the moment. Appreciate the little things. Throw away the bad and the stuff you can't change. Do work on the things you can change, and don't wait until tomorrow. Each and every day is a unique gift and can never be repeated. Laugh. Cry. Be merry. Say you love someone. Tell people what they mean to you, now. Don't wait.*

On that note a few words to my husband:

Michael, you have seen me at my best and also at my worst. Throughout the ups and downs of our years together you have been a calming force, and an exceptional helpmate, musical collaborator, recording producer, and life partner. Your remarkable gifts as a transcriber have allowed me to participate in expanding the chamber music repertoire for our two instruments, and that ongoing project has brought me great joy. Thank you for your constant love and support.

I'd like to conclude with a quote that a student shared in a thank-you last May. The author is psychologist and educator Lawrence LeShan.

*Don't worry about what the world wants from you, worry about what makes you come more alive. Because what the world really needs are people who are more alive.*

Thank you all for making me feel more alive.