

# TROMBONANZA

2007 SANTA FE, ARGENTINA



Irv Wagner shown working with a group



Rubén takes a solo



Remigio Pereira soloing with Big Band  
and Conrad Herwig conducting

Below: Columbian Trombone Ensemble





Irv Wagner is pictured with the Trombonanza Quartet - from left to right - Jorge Urani, Gaspar Licciardone, Irv Wagner, Enrique Schneebeil, and Pablo Fenoglio

**TROMBONANZA** is the name used to identify one of the most significant trombone events held anywhere in the world and it also the name which signifies an event where the spirit of brotherhood among trombonists is manifest throughout all of South America. **TROMBONANZA** is synonymous with the trombone and a heartwarming spirit. The latest **TROMBONANZA** event was held August 6-12, 2007 in Santa Fe, Argentina. Santa Fe is located about 500 kilometers north of Buenos Aires on the north edge of the vast area known as the "Pampas." This city of about a half million residents is a major commercial and transportation center for this great agricultural area, but once a year it is transformed into the "CAPITAL OF TROMBONES" for South America.

**TROMBONANZA** is organized by Rubén Carughi. Rubén normally is a teacher of the trombone at the Escuela de Música n° 9901 in Santa Fe and an active trombonist in Argentina. Rubén teaches and performs many styles of music and can be heard playing in the Orquestas Sinfónicas de Santa Fe and Entre Ríos as well as in jazz and tango bands. However, throughout the year much of his attention and energy is devoted to the organization of **TROMBONANZA**. The fruits of his work are extremely visible during the week-long celebration of the trombone where the entire city of Santa Fe and the surrounding area becomes the center of this group of participants and the spirit they generate. Rubén has successfully involved the Argentinean National

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Arts Organization as well as the Secretaría de Cultura de la Provincia de Santa Fe, Municipalidad de Santa Fe, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Fondo Nacional de las Artes, and other important arts administrators in the country of Argentina.

**TROMBONANZA** draws trombonists of all ages each year from the entire continent of South America. The stories themselves of young trombonists riding three or four days and nights to participate in **TROMBONANZA** are inspirational as is the information about those with very little money who spend whatever they have to make it to the event. Most of the participants sacrifice so much to absorb the atmosphere and good music of **TROMBONANZA**. They are even willing

to go without sleep, and literally devote all their resources in order to be involved. There are even a few from Ecuador who ride a bus to Santa Fe to attend when it would be closer to ride a bus all the way to New York City to attend a Trombone Festival.

The faculty for **TROMBONANZA** that Rubén assembles each year is an outstanding group. First and foremost they are outstanding trombonists, but, in addition, they are outstanding human beings as well. At the top of the list is Gaspar Licciardone. Gaspar is the leader and teacher of every trombonist in Argentina and provides the inspiration from which so many benefit. He is, if you will, the "Godfather" of the trombone in Argentina.

Next on the list would be Enrique Schneebeili, bass trombonist in the Orquesta Estable del Teatro Colón and the co-organizer, along with Rubén, of **TROMBONANZA**. “Heini” as he is known to his colleagues, works tirelessly with Rubén to make **TROMBONANZA** a success and is a “giant” among bass trombonists. Then also from Argentina comes Pablo Fenoglio, one of the greatest trombonist currently active in the world; Carlos Ovejero, principal trombonist in the National Symphony in Buenos Aires and the featured soloist at **TROMBONANZA**; Jorge Urani, a truly great young bass trombonist. Of the Argentineans also, one must never forget that Rubén himself, as the “kingpin” of the organization of the event, is also a fantastic player.

Coming also to teach and assist in **TROMBONANZA** is Remigio Pereira from Paraguay, one of the most accomplished jazz players one can ever hear; Eckhard Treichel traveled all the way from Germany to share his knowledge of the fundamentals of the instrument; Rubén Rodríguez Ferreira from Colombia; Conrad Herwig and Irv Wagner from the USA, and others. There is also a Tuba component to the **TROMBONANZA** headed up by the great tubist, Vasile Babuseac from Moldavia. All in all it is a faculty to be admired.

**TROMBONANZA** has several features that set it apart from other trombone events around the world. First, all the participants play in ensembles both large and small everyday while also playing in Master Classes. This makes for a “fully used lip” at the end of the day for all. Second, professionals and students mix and perform side by side throughout the week. There is a wide variety of music for all to hear and play

Another feature that is remarkable for trombone events is that on the first day of activities an Orchestral Excerpt Competition is



**Pablo Fenoglio with a young trombonist**

held. This is much like other Festivals where Orchestral excerpts are heard and evaluated, but at **TROMBONANZA** the winners get to have three rehearsals and do a performance with a professional orchestra. To make this happen the members of the regular trombone section of the Orquesta Sinfónica de Santa Fe give up their normal chairs for the week, and the winners of the Orchestral Excerpt Competition take their places in the rehearsals and performance. A different section is selected for each composition on the program. Irv Wagner of Oklahoma serves as the conductor of the Orchestra for the week, and a program is selected that utilizes the trombone extensively thus giving the young players real experience in playing with a professional symphony orchestra. Also, the Orchestra administration secures a trombonist as the guest soloist for the concert during **TROMBONANZA**. Carlos

Ovejero from Buenos Aires performed the *Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra* by Gordon Jacob this past year. The performance he gave was not only inspirational to the audience but to the Orchestra members as well.

Jazz night is also extraordinary with the Santa Fe Jazz Ensemble under the director of Pedro Casis. This is really a “first class” band in its own right, but to top it off with such terrific soloists as Conrad Herwig and Remigio Pereira makes for an evening to remember. Conrad is truly a star among stars, and his musical ability along with his positive spirit makes a great contribution to **TROMBONANZA**. Remigio Pereira is likewise one trombonist that provides inspiration and joy for countless people. When you hear Remigio and Conrad together on a tune, you know you have experienced the highest the trombone has to offer. And even the likes of the jazz and spoon playing of Irv Wagner provides for joy for those in attendance.



**Carlos Ovejero as soloist with the Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Irv Wagner.**



**Rubén Carughi**



**Conrad Herwig soloing with the big band with Remigio Pereira conducting**



**TROMBONANZA performing outdoors for the public**

While it is difficult to fully describe the aura and spirit of **TROMBONANZA**, it can safely be said that this is one of the greatest musical conferences and trombone events held anywhere in the world. To see outstanding professional players standing beside young trombonists making music together is an emotional experience of the highest sort. **TROMBONANZA** as a music event coupled with the spirit generated during the week is a model and inspiration for all.

“Don’t Cry For Me Argentina” is a famous song from the Broadway show **EVITA**, but in the case of **TROMBONANZA** the “crying in Argentina” would be tears of joy for the great times, the heartfelt exchange of cultures and people, and the inspiration of the music performed and heard.

*Contributed by Irvin L. Wagner with assistance from Rubén Carughi*

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**Gaspar Licciardone teaching a group**



**Conrad Herwig takes a solo**