

# FORTISSIMO

SPECIAL EDITION

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THE RICHARDS' REPORT

## THE CIRCUS IS ALIVE AND WELL

*Contributed by Paul Richards*

Three locals made their annual pilgrimage to Sarasota, Florida in January. With the help of some 260 avid and energetic musicians and circus music fans, Jervey and Ty Bauer and Paul Richards again traveled southward to attend the 2006 convention of the Windjammers, a music history group dedicated to the preservation of authentic circus music.

The 210 playing bandsmen were divided into three equal bands for reading and recording of some 60 circus selections, some well known and some seldom heard of. These sessions were conducted by 17 different conductors, including Rus Ward of Tacoma, Washington, and Paul Richards of Charlottesville, who were auditioned. Both passed and will be called upon to conduct recording sessions and public performances in the future.

Several bands were formed for various special purposes. One performed a workshop for local school music teachers. Another 35-piece band that included Paul Richards gave a public concert at the Ringling Museum. The museum complex includes the home of John Ringling, one of the circus owners, who was at one time one of the ten richest men in the United States. His art collection, which includes one of the largest number of Rubens' works in one location has been augmented and is on display. A circus museum is also on the grounds as well as the newly added miniature model circus donated by multi-millionaire wood flooring magnate and fifty-year model builder Howard Tibals. Construction is underway on a three million dollar building which was donated to the museum complex by Mr. Tibals.

Howard Tibals was also the featured speaker at the Windjammers' banquet. The banquet was followed by a dance with music provided by 15 Windjammers.

The last day was Circus Day. The Sarasota Police Athletic League sponsors a student-training circus, which presented a full circus with everything but animals. Thirty Windjammers accompanied the show, and a massed band of one hundred fifty Windjammers gave a one-hour concert before the show.

Charlottesville Municipal Band's honorary life member, Bob Peckham was not on hand to act as host, as he has for many years. Bob had undergone some surgery, but by all reports was doing well. In fact, he had been released to go home, and was said to be searching for enough gin to make himself a batch of martini. Sounds like he is OK.

For more information about the Windjammers, go to [www.circusmusic.org](http://www.circusmusic.org). For a more personal impression, contact Ty, Jervey or Paul.

## MUSICAL TERMS

In our on-going attempts to increase the knowledge of musicians, we offer a brief paper aimed at identifying some musical terms that are frequently misunderstood by Country/Western Musicians.

Diminished Fifth: An empty bottle of Jack Daniels

Perfect Fifth: A full bottle of Jack Daniels

Relative Major: An uncle in the Marine Corps

Relative Minor: A girlfriend

Repeat: What you do until they expel you

Treble: Women ain't nothing' but

A440: The highway that runs around Nashville

Transpositions: Men who wear dresses

Clarinet: Name used on your second daughter if you have already used Betty Jo

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