

IDRS Elects Two New Honorary Members

By Ronald Klimko
Moscow, Idaho

At the 29th Annual Conference of the IDRS in Buenos Aires, Argentina, last August, the membership present unanimously elected two great double-reed artists to the positions of Honorary Members of the IDRS. These two gentlemen are bassoonist **Harold Goltzer** and oboist **Bert Gassman**.



Harold Goltzer was born on November 15, 1915, in New York. His only bassoon teacher was the legendary Simon Kovar, who was a member of the New York Philharmonic at that time and was also elected to Honorary Membership in the IDRS before his death in 1970. Mr.

Goltzer studied with Simon Kovar at the Juilliard School of Music as a recipient of the New York Philharmonic Scholarship and graduated from that institution in 1936. During this time he was a member of the National Orchestral Association, whose faculty he later joined. In 1937 he became a member of the Columbia Broadcasting Symphony, as well as recording with many radio and television orchestras, including Bell Telephone, Firestone, Omnibus, and the NBC Opera among others. In 1958 Mr. Goltzer became associate principal bassoon of the New York Philharmonic, a position he held until his retirement in 1983.

In addition to his active performance schedule, Mr. Goltzer was a teacher, serving on the faculties of the Hartt School, the Juilliard School, Mannes College of Music, the Manhattan School of Music and Queens College. He was also a member of the Aspen (Colorado) Music Festival for many summers from the 1950's into the 1990's.

Mr. Goltzer's students perform in orchestras throughout the world. Many of them still remain in close contact with their mentor. His organized scale studies are practiced by many generations of students world wide. Since his retirement, Harold Goltzer resides in Colorado.

Bert Gassman was born on May 29, 1911, in New York City and attended Stuyvesant High School. He began violin lessons at the age of six, but switched to the oboe when he entered Galvanti Junior High School at the urging of the orchestra director, Louis Levy. In 1927, Mr. Gassman won a scholarship to the Damrosch Conservatory of Music, which later was absorbed into the Juilliard School of Music in the 1930's.



At the age of seventeen he won the audition for English horn soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra and later became principal oboist under Artur Rodzinski. He later returned to New York as principal oboe and English horn with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, but returned to Cleveland as principal oboe when George Szell became Music Director. In 1938 he joined the Orquesta Sinfonica de Mexico under Carlos Chavez and played with them for seven seasons. In 1949, Mr. Gassman became principal of the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Alfred Wallenstein and remained with the orchestra for 25 years until his retirement in 1974. He was also on the faculty of UCLA and a member of the UCLA Chamber Orchestra under Zubin Mehta's father, Mehli Mehta. While there he was mentor to a number of students performing throughout the world today. Mr. Gassman was also very active in the motion picture and television recording orchestras and recorded over 30 film scores during his long and distinguished career. He also performed as a soloist on numerous occasions with the LA Philharmonic, and gave the world premiere of the *Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra* by Lukas Foss with the composer conducting. This is a work he also recorded for Crystal Records. Although no longer performing, Mr. Gassman still lives in California in retirement.

The IDRS is pleased and proud to welcome these two great double reed artists to Honorary Membership.