

# The Reinhardt Foundation

In Conjunction with —● **Airstream Dynamics™**

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## The New Look

Newsletters have been written about Doc since the winter of 1993 when **PivoTalk** was established. This ran up to Autumn 2004 when it was turned over to **Paul Garrett** and become an on-line publication, still running as [www.pivotalk.com](http://www.pivotalk.com).

For the past 7 years Dave Sheetz has offered his e-zine newsletter **AIRSTREAM**. When **The Reinhardt Foundation** was formed in 2003, members were receiving both mailed copies of the Foundation's newsletter and a copy electronically for those with e-mail addresses.

Now, as an on-line ONLY newsletter, both sign-ups to **AIRSTREAM** on [www.airstreamdynamics.com](http://www.airstreamdynamics.com) and members of **The Reinhardt Foundation**

[www.reinhardtfoundation.org](http://www.reinhardtfoundation.org) will be receiving this publication, so for all Foundation Members an e-mail address is required.

New members are always welcome to join **The Reinhardt Foundation** and we urge our readers to log on to the Foundation's address above and renew their membership or become a new member.

On the last page of this newsletter is the contact information for both The Foundation's office in Kansas City Missouri and the editor of this newsletter. (The president is **Howard D. Lay** and the vice president is **Dave Sheetz**, also the editor of this newsletter.)

Much is planned for the 2011 so enjoy this newsletter and be a part of "Keeping the Teachings and Spirit of Donald S. Reinhardt. Alive.



Photo by  
Eli Dimeff

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## Application for Membership in The Reinhardt Foundation

Go to: [www.reinhardtfoundation.org](http://www.reinhardtfoundation.org)

Bring up the page APPLICATION.

Click on as instructed, Save As to your computer and print out the application form, fill it in and mail it. If you are renewing membership, after your name, just state "renewal".

Any new member or paid up membership through 2011 will receive a free CD of Doc speaking of "What is A Good Sound".

Thank you for your support.

## Special points of interest:

- **Doc's words of wisdom.**
- **Past Reinhardt Students Revealed**
- **Photos**
- **Upcoming Events**

## Kenny Smukal Profile – In His Own words.



I originally went to see Doc Reinhardt in September of 1973. I was in the Air Force, Airmen of Note playing lead trumpet. I had been doing very well up to about July of 1973. Things started to go south slowly. I began to use a lot of upper lip pressure (I didn't know anything about track, Pivot or Mouthpiece placement) to keep what facility I had. It finally got to the point where I couldn't break the high "E" to high "F" barrier. It was fine up to the "E" with pressure building along the range, but it stopped dead at "E". In some bands, a high "E"

might be all you need...not this band.

From July to September, I tried every mouthpiece and horn angle (trying to copy other player's angles). I couldn't get anywhere! I had heard about Doc through the grapevine and thought I had no choice, even though there were some real negative opinions about the "Pivot System." My playing was effecting my mental outlook and basic sense of purpose. So, out of panic, depression and hitting a complete low point, I decided to

contact Doc.

I saw him in September of 1973 and I immediately felt a sense of assurance from him. He asked me if I was using a different grip. I said, no. Then he asked me if I had any recent dental work? I said no again, but my wisdom teeth had come in about three or four months ago. "That's probably what's causing the problem," he said.

**"If you are still playing the trumpet at age 50 for the same effect you were going for at age 20 – you will have missed a turn somewhere!"**

- Doc.

### (Profile continued)

. "Let me see you play a tuning note and slur to the "E" top space." I really had to hammer that interval to get it to come out. We tried placing the mouthpiece high, and then low, then from side to side – same sound, same range (however flat the "E" was).

He stopped me and informed me that the wisdom teeth had to be removed because I was stuck in one jaw position no matter what I did with the mouthpiece. I

had tried playing on every placement I could think of, not from any knowledge, but just from looking at pictures of famous players. I had a wide margin of tissue that had been tried so I knew he had to be right about the teeth and jaw position.

Doc set-up another lesson in six weeks, but by the time I was supposed to see him again I could play a high "G" again and almost canceled the lesson. I did go and my relationship with him lasted almost 15 years.

He typed me as a type I embouchure. I still didn't move very much at all pivot wise, but my jaw, in its playing position was much closer to my top teeth after the wisdom teeth were removed. I could play with a high placement or top or low placement without much movement side to side (pivot).

### (Profile continued)

He liked the sound and attack better when I placed high, which was what I did before my wisdom teeth came in. I agreed, so he told me for all time, from here on – you are a IIIA. I was a little concerned about how little the lower lip was used but time and his comment about other IIIA players complaining about the same thing, initially proved correct.

I went to see Doc about twice a year at first, then after about five years, only occasionally. He would let me sit in on lessons of other types since I showed a real interest in learning about the whole pivot system. I've never been able to analyze an embouchure as correctly and quickly as he could, usually a player will figure out what he is with a little understanding of the system".

## Additional Stories about Doc from Kenny

### There are a couple of stories I would like to share:

"I was on a tour with the Airmen of Note in 1981 when I got a slight cut inside my lower lip. It wasn't bad until I really started pushing volume. I called Doc and he wanted to know where it was, how bad it was, etc. He said "try this, buy a bottle of red pepper sauce and just dab it on the cut during the day...but before you do it, sit on the floor." When I asked him "why on the floor?" he replied,

"as soon as that pepper sauce hits that cut you're going to end up there anyway, so you might as well start there."

Here is another of my favorite proverbs that he coined:

"I was getting older and was losing the thrill of high note lead playing. It was getting harder and harder to maintain, even after learning about the pivot, track, playing posture and tongue position. I had thought it would always be

easy! So, I was in somewhat of a reflective mood discussing the future with him in one of our sessions. Doc said, "**If you are still playing the trumpet at age 50 for the same effect you were going for at age 20 – you will have missed a turn somewhere!**"

### And finally, from Ken:

"I started working in a health club after I retired from the Air Force. I played very little for the next 15 years. Coming back, I had different teeth due to the various dental issues of life and I was able to figure out my playing rules without a lot of guesswork. Since IIIA was out of the question at this point (crowns wouldn't allow the high placement), I am now in the IV category and enjoy playing trumpet for different reasons now. I love showing up

at jam sessions and playing for fun.

The system Doc Reinhardt showed me was the difference in keeping my job as a lead player with the Airmen of Note. In addition, if I hadn't had the education on the different types, I probably would not be enjoying playing the trumpet now! Type IV is the upside down version of IIIA; I'd rather play standing upright! Anyway, I shed a few tears when he passed – I owed him so much.

Vaughn    Kenny    Brian



**Airmen of Note Reunion**  
Vaughn Nark    **Kenny**    Brian McDonald

## Who's Who in Photo

In the photo (above right) of **The Airmen of Note** Reunion this past September in **Washington D.C.** are 3 Reinhardt Students. Of course **Kenny**, but I just learned that **Vaughn Mark** had studied with Doc.

Vaughn had the following

to say about Doc and **Leroy Green**, Doc's mouthpiece maker: "***Doc Reinhardt and Leroy Green were GOLD SCHOOL gentlemen. The value of their special standard is eternal. They both enriched my life and were a true privilege to know.***" -Vaughn

Also in the photo is Brian McDonald, the present lead player with The Airmen. Brian has studied the Reinhardt System both with myself and **Chris LaBarbara**.

- ed.

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[www.polishyourbrass.blogspot.com](http://www.polishyourbrass.blogspot.com)

From **Howard Lay**, our president. "I attended the **Vail Jazz Festival** last week (Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>) and **Terrell Stafford** was there.... His chops and mouth corner breathing led me to ask if he studied with Reinhardt and the answer was yes. He had high praise. He is on the faculty at **Temple** in Philly."

Learning more and more about Doc and his impact on so many players makes it so important for **The Foundation** to stay in existence and be furthering his legacy. Many thanks to so many – **Rich Willey** with his publications and **The Trumpet Herald** Reinhardt Forum moderation; **Brian Cook** with his Doctorate theses on Reinhardt at **The New England Conservatory**; **Paul Garrett**, keeping Pivotal.com up and running; **Phil Horch** for his contribution in our last issue; **Kenny Smukal** for getting this new publication off to a good start; and so many more. So please join **The Reinhardt Foundation** if you haven't already done so and if you are a member, please renew your status by keeping your contribution current.

Some good things are in store for 2011, notably our representing The Foundation at the International Trumpet Conference in May at Minneapolis with a booth. More to report in our next newsletter.

Happy Pivoting and Smooth Tracking to all.

- Editor and Vice-president, Dave Sheetz

**"Keeping the Teachings and Spirit of  
Dr. Donald S. Reinhardt Alive!"**



## The Passing of Buddy Morrow

Doc loved Buddy's playing. He often raved about his ballad playing, and spoke of Buddy with other students that related this to me.

**Terry Stettler**, one of our members, told me of Doc saying these things about Buddy.

My experiences with Buddy go back to the late 60's when I briefly replaced **Marv Stamm** on Buddy's band on several week-ends out of New York. On several tours I made for Lloyd Johnson's band through Florida, Buddy fronted the band on many nights.

After I left **The Glenn**

**Miller Orchestra** the first time when **Peanuts Hucko** had the band, I came back to fine Buddy as the leader

For over a year and a half, circa 1975, I had the joy and privilege of hearing Buddy every night. He came on the bandstand, played 7 high F's, put the horn down and was warmed up and ready to play! .

The photo on the right was shot on the bandstand of The Miller Band. Using my camera that I got from Reinhardt...a Contax II with a Zeiss 1.5 lens, I passed the camera up to our manager **Dick Gerhardt**, sitting just

under Buddy and with the spotlight on Buddy, using no flash, just available light, this is the result.

My good friend **Ted Blumenthal** sent me photos of he Buddy from about 6 months ago. Buddy saw him and instantly said "Ted!" He truly remembered him. Well, we will ALWAYS remember Buddy, and not just his ballad playing. He was also such a gutsy player. Anyone who has ever heard his *Golden Trombone* album can attest to that. And anyone who ever entered a bandstand with him - priceless! -ed.