

# Hornarama Code 21005

Barrows, J: *La Chasse*  
for Three Horns in F

## JOHN BARROWS

John Barrows was a leading light in the horn world for many years, as a soloist, an ensemble player, a symphony member, and especially as a teacher.

Born in Glendale California on February 12, 1913, he spent his boyhood in Montana and California. His first instrument was euphonium, and he also studied cello before switching to horn. He studied at the Eastman School of Music, San Diego State and at Yale, where he was later awarded the Yale School of Music Certificate of Merit for outstanding achievement as artist and teacher in 1935.

John was one of the leading hornists in the New York area until he joined the University of Wisconsin faculty in 1961. A versatile musician, he was equally at home in the NBC Symphony, the New York Woodwind or Brass Quintets, or in the Band of America, as a soloist with string quartet or symphony orchestra, or in the recording studio playing jingles. He also was a member of the Minneapolis Symphony for four years, and played for three years at the Casals Festival in Puerto Rico. He appeared on recordings with conductors such as Dimitri Mitropoulos, Leonard Bernstein, Leopold Stowkowski, George Szell, Fritz Reiner, Sir Thomas Beecham, and Bruno Walter in symphonic settings, and Morton Gould, Andre Kostelanetz, Mitch Miller and Dizzy Gillespie in a lighter vein. Many of the Alec Wilder solo and ensemble pieces were written for Mr. Barrows. He also recorded solo albums with his wife, Tait Sanford Barrows.

He was also a composer whose works included string quartets, a woodwind quintet, sonatas for various instruments and many arrangements for concert band. Unfortunately, many of these were never published.

Barrows' taught at Yale, New York University, Columbia, and the University of Wisconsin. His students were not just fine horn players, but fine musicians. Many of them have gone on as performers and teachers to perpetuate his legacy.

John made an indelible impression on those around him, and those of us fortunate enough to have met the man and heard his performances at the early IHS Workshops have memories of a man who was an easily approachable and commanding presence, who had an intense love of music and of the horn, and who, with his wife Tait, could deeply involve an audience in the Hindemith Sonata.

Mr. Barrows died in 1974, just over a month before his sixty-first birthday.

Typical of the man, "La Chasse" was sent to The Hornists' Nest not by Mr. Barrows, but by one of his students. He did, however, send us and help edit the Alec Wilder quartets which we published as "6x4", that title suggested by Barrows. Royalties from "La Chasse", the Wilder "6x4", and the Bach "Gigue Fugue" (arranged by Nancy Becknell) are paid to the John Barrows Scholarship Fund at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Our thanks to Nancy Becknell and Mary Kjhslinger for their help with this biographical sketch.

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