

October 2010: Classical Sonoma Chamber Review “Rich Bassoon Sounds Charm at Gualala Concert”:

The audience at Sunday's Gualala Arts chamber concert might have given an extra round of applause to the Music Committee for their sense of adventure. Their courage in presenting a trio of bassoon, cello and piano was well rewarded by the music making of Friedrich Edelmann, Rebecca Rust and Dmitriy Cogan.

You could say the genesis of this concert occurred more than 34 years ago when Bay Area native Rebecca Rust won a scholarship to play in a youth orchestra in Belgium. She met and married Friedrich Edelmann, (who was principal bassoonist at the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra from 1977 to 2004) and they have enjoyed exploring the bassoon-cello repertoire ever since.

For me, and I suspect for most of the audience, being this close to a bassoon was a new experience. While there are bassoon solos in the orchestral repertoire, there are not many opportunities for an up close experience of the range of sound or the flexibility of this instrument.

When asked how the bassoon had survived when so many of the instruments of the 17th century have disappeared, Edelmann gave credit to the masters, Beethoven and Mozart in particular, for liking the bassoon's sound so much that they included it in many of their best orchestral works.