

## THE NEWPORT MUSIC FESTIVAL: REVIEW

# Big horn highlights entertaining event

■ A musician plays the 10-foot-long alphorn in the instrument's debut during the 33rd annual Newport Music Festival.

By James J. Gillis  
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NEWPORT — Artists make debuts at the Newport Music Festival every year, but on Tuesday the festival unveiled an instrument — the alphorn — used for the first time in the festival's 33-year history.

Carlo Toriontano played the horn — which is about 10 feet long — and conjured up visions of the Swiss Alps. In the confines of The Breakers Stables, the horn resonated clearly, as Toriontano all but laid it on the floor in order to play it.

Toriontano took the stage at the end of a concert called Rustic Romance and performed "Un Suono Notturno" (A Night Sound) by Antonio Iafigliola, accompanied by Kerry McDermott and Laura Albers on violin, Maureen McDermott on cello, Nicholas Wiedman on viola and Alberto Bocini on contrabass. Toriontano played the melody as the string instruments shaded the lonely sound of the alphorn.

Toriontano and company closed the performance with the more upbeat "Concertino Rustico" by Ferenc Parkas, who died last year at age 95, a piece that set the tone for the entire concert devoted to rustic settings.

And the setting at the Music Festival provided the rustic flavor, as patrons sat among rows of old coaches and buggies lined up on each side of the room, adorned with photos of the Vanderbilt family. While a bit muggy, the room



Carlo Toriontano shown in this file photo, played the alphorn during the Newport Music Festival Tuesday.

provided strong acoustics, particularly for woodwind instruments.

Referring to the building and its original function, Mark P. Malkovich IV, son of the festival's general director, said, "Everyone likes coaching. And they enjoy seeing some of the sights inside the stables. It's a fun environment."

The Rustic Romance program ran more than two hours, with a box lunch at intermission, and was a strong set of music. Among the highlights:

■ Pianist Frederic Chiu and contrabass player Bocini performing the aching and solemn "When I Wake in the Morning," a Canadian maritime folk song.

■ French horn player Eric Ruske with Kerry McDermott, Maureen McDermott, Emma