

# Composer pens score for Italian clarinetist

**B**ass clarinet music can be hard to come by in the orchestra world.

So when Clark College music director, conductor and composer **Donald Appert**, 59, met world-renowned Italian bass clarinetist **Rocco Parisi** two summers ago, he decided to write a piece especially for him.

"I met Rocco when I was doing a concert in Italy with a friend, and they did a recital outside of Rome and asked if I wanted to go along," said Appert, who lives in Vancouver. "When he found out I was a composer, Rocco asked me to write him a piece of music."



**Donald Appert**



**Rocco Parisi**

Appert started working on the piece, called "Concertino for Bass Clarinet and Strings," on the plane ride home. He finished it on Halloween night in 2010 and shared it with Parisi, who found Appert an Italian publisher for the sheet music.

"When we were talking he told me how much he loves **Schubert**, so when I got on the plane I started to hear a Schubert-esque concertino for Rocco and a string quartet in my head," Appert said.

Appert recently invited Parisi, who performs all over the world, to come to Vancouver to perform with the Clark College Orchestra, and Parisi accepted.

Parisi will play the piece with the orchestra as part of a free public concert 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Royal Durst Theatre at Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, 3101 Main St.

"It's really exciting," Appert said. "This will be the world premiere of the concertino. It's thrilling to have Rocco here to perform it."

By the way, Appert just learned that he's a semifinalist in a competition for composers. "Northwest Triptych" is in the running for the 2012 American Prize for orchestra composition. He also won the 2011 American Prize for orchestral programming.

— *Sue Vorenberg*