

Conductor leads eventful week in Italy

It's been a busy summer for **Don Appert**, Clark College's music director.

In late July, he traveled to Italy to conduct two symphonies in three nights, following a combined 5½ hours of rehearsal time.

His first performance was conducting the 60-member Mihail Jora Philharmonic at an Italian church in late July. Two nights later, he conducted a 20-member strings group as part of a classical music festival.



Don Appert

Getting to the first performance was more difficult than Appert had imagined.

The orchestra's bus couldn't make it over a narrow bridge to the church where they were to perform that evening. The orchestra manager had to shuttle all 60 musicians and their instruments to the church. When they arrived, there wasn't a dressing room, so the musicians — Appert included — were forced to change clothes on the lawn while the audience arrived.

"It was a very unusual trip. It sounds glamorous when I say, 'I went to Italy to conduct,' but it was really a strenuous week of work," he said.

Appert's busy patch isn't over yet. In September, he will lead the Orquestra Simfònica de Sant Cugat in a performance of American music in Barcelona, Spain. There, Appert, 55, will conduct the European premiere of his composition, "Nara Variations," and his wife, Linda, will perform solo selections.