

# The Clamophone



For years, the Convention Hall Auditorium Pipe Organ in Atlantic City, New Jersey, was deemed the loudest instrument in the world. But in 1989, Bradley Dinklaker built a louder one, the clamophone. The instrument, which sounded like four tubas having a shouting match with a pneumatic riveter, was so loud that the orchestra's ear training coach restricted its playing to at least a mile from the other musicians. That stipulation irked Bradley but ultimately made no difference: after he played his first cadenza in the massive orchestral piece *Etude Bruté*, the resulting shock wave opened a sink hole beneath Orchestra Hall, permanently disappearing more than a third of the performing musicians as well as a nonplused Maestro Pringler.