

BGSU[®]

College of Musical Arts
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0290

The ProMusican

Spring 2011



Promoting Musical Excellence

Pro Musica supports the College of Musical Arts by inviting the participation of alumni, friends, parents and the Bowling Green community in a wide variety of musical events, and by providing financial support for music students.

Dear Members and Friends,

In order to remain vital, organizations must evolve.

The highlight of this year has been the evolution of the Pro Musica Student Council. Five years ago, one curious student attended a breakfast meeting. This year 101 students joined Pro Musica. Student members elect two representatives who hold a meeting the second Wednesday of each month. The current co-chairs are Elizabeth Hall and Ben Taylor. As a result of the work of the student organization, the first Donors' Appreciation Concert was held and Pro Musica established a presence on Facebook and Google. The students learned important life skills and how they could make a difference.

Elizabeth Hall worked diligently on the first Donors' Appreciation Concert on October 3, 2010. She secured talented performers and streamed photos of student travels before the concert. She also helped facilitate a reception following. Students welcomed and chatted with 86 guests. For those unable to attend, this event was streamed live for viewers in places as far reaching as Hong Kong; Austin, TX; and Leesville, LA. Students enjoyed sharing how your donations have changed their lives. Elizabeth's work and the work of many student travel grant recipients exemplified Pro Musica's motto: Promoting Musical Excellence.

Members of the Ad Hoc Membership Committee, Paul and Kristen Hoverman, suggested applying to Google for free advertising. Ben Taylor has been working with Dan Karns in the BGSU Foundation Office to apply for and to develop Pro Musica's web presence. The words "free advertising" riveted our attention. Because every dollar you donate/pledge is spent on travel grants, we must seize this opportunity.

As always, please visit www.bgsu.edu/promusica and share in our adventures.

Sincerely,
Karol Spencer

Pro Musica is an organization dedicated to supporting travel grants/awards to help students experience musical growth opportunities outside of the traditional classroom. Every cent of your membership fee goes to support student grants. Please consider learning more about making an

estate gift to Pro Musica. Contact Vanessa Chapman at 419-372-9213 for a confidential conversation about how easy it is to continue your support of future students through Pro Musica.

Profile - Dean Richard Kennell



When you went into administration, did you or do you miss teaching and performing?

Yes and no. My original transition from teacher to administrator was very quick. The opportunity and decision to leave teaching took maybe three weeks. Yes, I missed teaching greatly, but at that time I continued to be active as a performer while in Chicago. I didn't reduce my performance activities until I moved to Bowling Green.

Which of your professional dreams have been realized?

My life goal was to become a band director. While I started out in that occupation and would have been very happy continuing doing that, I discovered that other opportunities were available. I was introduced to the Robert Frost poem, *The Road Not Taken*, many years ago. It somehow resonated with me and my life is littered with non-traditional choices. Fortunately, these new opportunities have all turned into new skills, new perspectives, and ultimately new capabilities. So, yes... my professional goals have been realized and exceeded along this adventure, and that has made all the difference.

What gives you the most pride? Greatest challenges?

A good friend suggested that I might use my last year as Dean to do the things I've always wanted to do, but couldn't. I gave his advice considerable thought and realized that I had basically done what I set out to do. These included nurturing a breadth of quality across the College of Musical Arts, providing stable and increasingly selective student enrollments, optimizing resources for the College, releasing the talents of so many creative individuals, connecting the College to the larger academic enterprise around

us, celebrating our past and thanking those who came before us, and cultivating a true learning community within the College. I am most proud that these general principles have resulted in significant achievement in every niche of the College. I take extreme pride seeing that these achievements carry forward in the lives of our students and graduates. I regret that I did not have a greater impact on the University at large. I just would have hoped that more students at BGSU would have the opportunity to experience the joy of music in their lives, no matter what their declared majors might be.

What do you predict for the future of music and higher education?

As our society moves from the three R's to the three C's (collaboration, creativity, and communication) in preparation for a new world ahead, music will have an important role in the future of higher education. I think BGSU is poised to play a leadership role in this transition, because we embrace contemporary music and entrepreneurship. We seek to push its relevance in today's society. In doing this at so many levels, Bowling Green is helping to forge an exciting future for the arts.

How has Northwest Ohio changed musically?

Northwest Ohio is blessed with many pillars of cultural opportunity and significance. We have discovered that collaboration in the arts and across institutions is more than a cost-saving exercise. Collaboration is the key to unleashing new capabilities and creating new opportunities. I am pleased to see ever-increasing creative networks that connect the arts to the lives of so many in the region.



Together Dick and Ilana are confident to take on any large project.

Richard and Ilana Kennell met while students at Northwestern University. Ilana collaborated

with Dick on his master's recital. Together they have devoted over fifty years to Northwest Ohio Universities and enriched our musical communities. Dean Richard Kennell is retiring at the end of this semester having served at BGSU for 31 years. Last spring, the Faculty Senate awarded him the Lifetime Achievement Award and he also received the Pro Musica Faculty/Staff Award. Ilana Kennell has taught at the University of Toledo for 21 years. In addition, she taught for 10 summers on the piano faculty of Interlochen Arts Camp. Her distinguished career includes recordings on Access and Orion labels, first prize-winner in the Baldwin/Bechstein/Graves Piano Ensemble Competition, and being awarded Teacher of the Year by the Ohio Music Teachers Association and the Nationally Certified Teacher of Music by Music Teachers National Association.

How do you know that Dean Kennell is retiring? Any observer who has met with him in his office will notice that more and more carpet becomes exposed each day, as his organized stacks placed strategically throughout the room decrease in number and size. Alan Smith, who served as Associate Dean under Richard Kennell said, "Dean Kennell's office was notorious for...uh, let's just say piles of important papers and documents, specifically arranged in neat piles around the office, the floor, tables, on top of cabinets, etc. One day, the Dean of Libraries arrives for a meeting, very stylish and fashionably dressed. I stepped out of my office, and offered: 'Let me tie a rope around you in case you need to be pulled out of there.' She probably did not understand exactly what I meant, but Dick certainly did!! He came out of his office rather briskly and said, 'I HEARD THAT!!!!'"

Not many schools can boast that their students were personally recruited by the Dean of the College himself. The College of Musical Arts can, as Richard Kennell greets and welcomes every prospective student and their families during every audition day and open house event. The Dean has participated in every aspect of the daily life of the Moore Musical Arts Center. He has been seen moving harpsichords, sitting at staff and faculty members desks helping them with their computer problems, and signing student programs after concerts. Alan Smith relays another story: "During the time when I was Associate Dean, there were a number of College-owned instruments that had been used by students and never returned. I was finally able to track down the student who had used one of the instruments, but more importantly, I followed the trail to a sister in Cleveland who had the instrument. Careful not to apply too much pressure, I called the woman and confirmed she had the viola, but she insisted someone would have to come to Cleveland to pick it up. I told her that a friend of mine would be happy to arrange a time. Dick happened to

Student Essays

be going to Cleveland for a meeting and offered to retrieve the instrument. When Dick arrived at the woman's door, she asked, 'Who are you?' Dick replied, 'I am a friend of Alan Smith, the guy who contacted you about the viola. Also, I am the Dean of the College.' Wow! I always wondered what the woman thought about the Dean being the delivery guy for the Associate Dean!!!!!"

Ilana often says that she's the luckiest person in the world. Her professional dreams were to teach piano at the college level and to teach at Interlochen. As an alumna of Interlochen, she describes her summers on the faculty as "heaven." With her lovely golden hair and warm smile, Ilana charms everyone she meets. An extremely generous person with a passion for music, she states, "Motivation to do something meaningful pushes me to persist." Her parents instilled in her that "every moment of life needs to be lived in the most meaningful and productive way." Not one to toot her own horn, Ilana is extremely proud of their two grown sons, Jonathan and Aaron, and cherishes the time the family spends together.

Cecilia Johnson, a friend and colleague from the University of Toledo, shared a favorite story about Ilana. "I run an inner city after school program called CYMBAL, an arts-based program where we focus on cultures from different parts of the world. Last year, our focus was on the Middle East. When our attention turned to Israel, Ilana, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, was the perfect choice for an artistic envoy representing the Israeli cultural heritage. Ilana involved the children beautifully, having them sing and listen to traditional Israeli songs. Then, she taught them several dances. This was the first time, she said, that she had tried to put into words the movements of these dances since she had been unable to dance them herself. The entire afternoon was beautifully moving and loving from all sides. I will never forget her wonderful gift of sharing her cultural heritage with all of us so magnificently."

I know we all are extremely grateful for the contributions both Dick and Ilana Kennell have made to our musical community and the College of Musical Arts at BGSU. We wish them much happiness. ❖

Pro Musica Officers

Karol Spencer, *president*
Andrew Housholder, *vice president*
Douglas Wayland, *secretary*
Ellen Dalton, *treasurer*
Myra Merritt, *member-at-large*
Vanessa Chapman, Richard Kennell, Susan Knapp, and Penny Thompson Kruse, *ex-officio members*
Penny Thompson Kruse, *newsletter editor*



Ben Bertin

*Recital and Master Class,
Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas*

I received a Pro Musica Grant to travel to Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, to perform a solo piano recital and give a master class. As an aspiring pianist and pedagogue, the opportunity to play a solo concert and give a master class at a postsecondary institution this past September was an invaluable experience.

After arriving at Southwestern College on September 17, I attended and performed at a student performance class, had lunch with several of the music students, took a campus tour, and prepared for the evening recital. Prior to my recital, I had the opportunity to give my first pre-concert talk before playing. At the reception that followed, I met more of the students and heard their thoughts on my performance. On Saturday morning, I gave my first master class to five enthusiastic students, the most beneficial aspect of the trip for me, having never taught a master class. Although I was quite nervous, I found that I had much to impart to the students, both musically and technically. My confidence was bolstered by this positive experience and I look forward to future concert/master class engagements. I appreciate the financial support from Pro Musica. ❖



Chris Chandler

*Performance of Doppelgänger at the Third Practice
Electroacoustic Music Festival*

On Wednesday, November 5, 2010, fellow BGSU graduate student Ellery Trafford and I drove from Bowling Green, Ohio to Richmond, Virginia to attend the Third Practice Electroacoustic Music Festival. Third Practice is a two-day, annual International festival of new electroacoustic music and video that takes place on the campus of the University of Richmond.

My piece for percussion and live electronics, *Doppelgänger*, was accepted for performance at the festival. I wrote the piece for Ellery in the spring of 2010 and made revisions during the fall.

On Thursday, November 6, Ellery and I rehearsed and recorded the piece in Camp Concert Hall, the festival venue. The sound in the hall is fantastic. A large reverberant space, it provided a great opportunity to obtain a high quality recording of the piece. I spent the rest of the day attending rehearsals and talking with other festival guests.

The festival began on Friday with two concerts on November 7 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. *Doppelgänger* opened the festival. The concert was well attended and the piece was performed flawlessly. Ellery Trafford's performance was outstanding. Throughout the weekend I received many compliments from both composers and performers.

The evening concert featured the festival's ensemble-in-residence *eighth blackbird*. The program consisted of six pieces for various groupings of the sextet's instrumentation. Three concerts took place on the second day. In addition to hearing so many outstanding pieces and performances, I was fortunate to attend a guest lecture by composer Richard Dudas who discussed pitch tracking and score following in Max/MSP, the application I used to compose and perform my piece.

At the festival, I was also able to meet many respected composers of electroacoustic music as well as colleagues and peers located around the country. This trip was a valuable experience for me and will be helpful as I apply to doctoral programs. ❖

Garrett Spatz

Society of Ethnomusicology

The Pro Musica travel grant allowed me to attend the Society of Ethnomusicology Conference in Los Angeles in November. BGSU professor Jeremy Wallach is the current president of the Popular Music Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM). At the business meeting, Professor Wallach introduced me to other important figures in the organization, including professors at University of Chicago and the current SEM President. The business meeting provided an excellent opportunity for me to discuss my current research with other scholars.

I also heard numerous fascinating papers presented at this conference. Rachel Devitt presented a paper on musical events in Chicago, a topic similar to the one I will be researching for my thesis. In a discussion afterwards, she generously offered to assist me in researching Chicago's clubs. Another memorable paper was presented by Wanda Bryant, James Cameron's music advisor for the film "Avatar." She discussed mixing different musical elements to create an entirely new sound. ❖



Society of Ethnomusicology Conference

Bottom Row (R-L): Kathy Meizel, Heather Bergseth. **Middle row (R-L):** Esther Clinton, Abbie Brinson, Ashley Humphrey, Elizabeth Rosner, Dana Acee. **Back row (R-L):** Jeremy Wallach, David Harnish, Garrett Spatz, Igor Munoz.

James Fusik (pictured to the right)
5th International Adolphe Sax Competition

With the support of a Pro Musica Travel Grant, in November, I was able to travel to Dinant, Belgium, to compete in the 5th International Adolphe Sax Competition. This competition, held every four years, is the largest and most prestigious competition for classical saxophonists in the world under the age of 31. The host city, Dinant, is the birthplace of Adolphe Sax, the inventor of the saxophone, and the city has many prominent historical sites dedicated to him.

The competition was a wonderful experience, the culmination of many months of preparation. Over 150 saxophonists competed in this International competition. Competing involved preparing three rounds of repertoire, and I played works by J.S. Bach, Ida Gotkovsky, Robert Muczynski, Piet Swerts, William Albright, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Frank Martin, and André Wagnein, totaling over 90 minutes of music! From over 150 performers, I was chosen as one of 18 semi-finalists and one of only two Americans to advance.

My success increased my visibility in the community of saxophonists. Many people complimented me on my playing and engaged me in meaningful musical discussion. Although I did not advance to the final round of six, I represented myself well, met people from all over the world, and gained a new perspective on International saxophone playing. The entire experience was immensely positive and inspiring for me as I continue to develop as an artist and prepare for a professional career. ❖



Pro Musica Board

Front Row (L-R): Elizabeth Hall, Ben Taylor. **Middle Row (L-R):** Paul Hoverman, Pam Makara, Carole Bradford, Penny Thompson Kruse, Virginia Marks. **Back Row (L-R):** Douglas Wayland, Andy Housholder, Thom Headley, Karol Spencer, Richard Kennell, Jessie Schmeltz, Myra Merritt, Bruce Moss. **Not Pictured:** Susan Knapp, David DuPont, Lorene Hall, Sharon Hanna, Jane Milbrodt, Dr. Marjorie E. Conrad, Ron Wofter.

by Andrew Housholder

Ashel Bryan of Bowling Green died last fall having led a superior life of giving to the community and the University. He and his dear wife Dorothy, an accomplished artist, spent a lifetime giving of themselves and their resources. The Bryans literally gave millions of dollars to the community and the University. An everlasting gratitude should be paid to both of these fine people. Buildings, scholarships, galleries and works of art now exist in their names, because of their generosity. Ashel Bryan was truly a great philanthropist and a loyal friend to many people.

Helen Lakofsky began her successful career as an accomplished pianist and member of the piano faculty at Bowling Green State University in the College of Musical Arts. She met and married Charles Lakofsky, an art instructor. They lived their entire married lives in Bowling Green and raised three children. Helen was an outstanding musician with a master's degree from the Eastman School of Music. She was a prominent congregant and loyal choir member of the First Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green. ❖