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BGSU Pro Musica**PROMUSICA**
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Pro Musican

Winter 2013



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.

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

Pro Musica's mission, *Promoting Musical Excellence*, continues to direct our efforts. Because of your generosity and that of new friends and guests at the Second Celebrity Server Night, additional educational travel opportunities have been made possible. Currently, there are 201 donors and 56 student members.

Twenty-nine years ago, Dr. Ramona Cormier was one of the visionary individuals instrumental in forming what was then known as *Friends of Opera*, precursor to Pro Musica. Ramona has been a longtime member of Pro Musica, served on the board and was president for five years. She recently moved to Louisiana. Her dedication to our organization and determination to guide its expansion is a legacy that will benefit future endeavors. We wish her well as she begins this new chapter in life and thank her for her unfailing efforts to make Pro Musica grow and evolve.

This spring there are several special events planned. You are cordially invited to recitals to be held at both the Way Library in Perrysburg and at the Wood County District Public Library in Bowling Green. Dates, times and talent will be shared via email and Facebook. If your schedule permits, please join us.

Student Council will be electing new leadership shortly, so please visit our Facebook site from time to time. There are photos to enjoy and information to consider. There is always something happening at the College of Musical Arts.

Your support and interest are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Karol Spencer

Student Essays

Evan Williams

Conductors Institute
Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y.
June 25 – August 3, 2012

Thanks, in part, to a grant provided by Pro Musica, I was able to attend the Conductors Institute at Bard for two weeks as a colleague, conducting the Institute String Quintet four times a week and the Institute Orchestra once a week. On the podium, I was critiqued by the institute's founder and director, Harold Farberman, as well as Maestros Raymond Harvey (Kalamazoo Symphony), Eduardo Navega (Vassar College) and Mark

Gibson (University of Cincinnati, CCM).

I studied and conducted Beethoven's *Third Symphony*, Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture*, and Ives' *Three Places in New England*. I played trombone in the institute orchestra in these works, as well as in Mahler's *Sixth Symphony*. While playing in the orchestra, I observed the critique of the conducting fellows by Maestros Farberman and Leon Botstein (American Symphony Orchestra, president of Bard College).

Evenings at the Institute included invaluable lectures by the aforementioned conductors along with Bard College Professors James Bagwell and Grammy award-winning composer Joan Tower. I had



an incredible experience and made lasting connections and friendships with the instructors and fellow participants.

Sara Deliberato

Eastern Music Festival
Greensboro, N.C.
June 25 – July 30, 2012

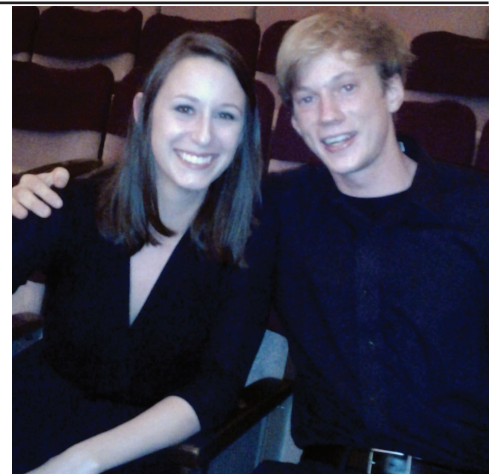
This past summer, my passion for music took me to the Eastern Music Festival in Greensboro, N.C. Greensboro has hosted this prestigious music festival for more than 50 years. Students, faculty and guest artists gather each summer for an enriching musical experience.

Eastern Music Festival is a five-week program that includes orchestral rehearsals, sectionals, master classes, chamber music, seminars and individual lessons. I was encouraged to apply by my violin professor, Dr. Penny Thompson Kruse. Dr. Kruse and her husband have been on the EMF faculty for 20 years. At the end of the festival, the Kruses announced that this would be their last summer. I was honored to be there and study with Dr. Kruse and begin preparation for my senior recital.

Over the five-week period, I learned a large amount of repertoire. I gained

new perspectives on violin technique through the opportunity to work with many people. I devoted more focused time to efficient practice. My chamber music group learned and performed Beethoven's *String Quartet, Op. 18, No. 4* in its entirety. I attended seminars on staying physically healthy as a musician and about life as a professional musician.

Professional orchestras perform difficult repertoire with limited preparation time. At Eastern Music Festival the student and faculty orchestras performed new repertoire each week with only one week to prepare. Some of the repertoire we performed included Rachmaninoff's *Second Symphony*, Verdi's "Overture" to *Nabucco*, Dukas' *Sorcerer's Apprentice* and John Mackey's *Redline Tango*. I was excited to be placed associate concertmaster for the last concert of the season, performing Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite* and Bartók's *Dance Suite*. These pieces had several solos for the first stand. The opportunity to perform in this leadership position was an excellent and gratifying experience. I also benefitted from master classes and performances by highly renowned guest artists such as Tasmin Little, Elmar



Sara Deliberato and Seth Bixler

Oliviera and Glenn Dicterow, as well as learning to play under different conductors.

The five weeks I spent at Eastern Music Festival were filled with practice, rehearsals and concerts. I was surrounded by other musicians eager to learn. As a result, I found myself more motivated. I met many brilliant musicians and wonderful human beings, making friends for life. The grant from Pro Musica, combined with the scholarship I received from EMF, made this opportunity possible for me.



Pro Musica Board

Members of the 2012 Pro Musica Board.

First row, left to right: Janine Baughman, Pam Makara, Ellen Dalton, Karol Spencer, Dr. Vincent Corrigan and Dr. Bob Midden

Second row, left to right: Paul Hoverman, Linda Brown, Dr. Penny Thompson Kruse, Douglas Wayland, Dr. Jeffrey Showell, Denise Showell, Myra Merritt, Ryan Hurd and Tina Bunce.

Pro Musica Officers

Karol Spencer, *president*
Myra Merritt, *vice president*
Douglas Wayland, *secretary*
Ellen Dalton, *treasurer*
Jane Milbrodt, *member-at-large*

ex-officio members
Tina Bunce, Vanessa Chapman,
Dr. Penny Thompson Kruse (*newsletter editor*) & Dr. Jeffrey Showell

Second Annual Celebrity Server Night



Pro Musica held its second annual Celebrity Server Dinner on Thursday, September 20, 2012 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Stone Ridge Clubhouse in Bowling Green. The event helped raise over \$9,700 for student travel grants in the College of Musical Arts.

Guests were welcomed on a sunny late afternoon to the strains of a jazz trio while guests socialized and had a chance to try numerous donated wines before their dinner.

This year there were 181 guests, a large increase over last year's first fund raising dinner, and resulted in more than 40 new Pro Musica members. Each table had a "celebrity server" taking care of the needs of their invited guests for the evening.

Servers represented a diverse array of philanthropic-minded individuals from the area, including the Wood County Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn, as well as the Dean of the College of Musical Arts, Dr. Jeffrey Showell; and faculty members Dr. Thomas Rosenkranz, Professor Myra Merritt and Dr. Conor Nelson

A silent auction included donated paintings by Joan McKee and Dorothy Linden, wife of long-time faculty member Bernie Linden and member of the BGSU Faculty String Quartet. Faculty pianist Dr. Thomas Rosenkranz and flutist Dr. Conor Nelson teamed up to offer a home concert to the highest bidder, which by the end of the evening became two concerts won by Chris and Ellen Dalton and Brian and Melanie Stretchbery respectively.



The dinner serves not only as an important fund raiser for Pro Musica, but also as a fun social occasion and outreach for BGSU present and former music faculty members, civic leaders and music lovers alike. The dinner preceded the Bowling Green Philharmonia and Wind Symphony concert in Kobacker Hall that evening.

— Douglas Wayland



1. Dr. Jeffrey Showell and Vanessa Chapman having a bit of fun before the dinner.
2. Linda Brown and Bill Donnelly enjoying a conversation with server David Dupont.
3. Anne Porter with friends before the dinner.

Student Essays

Elizabeth Pearse
soundSCAPE Festival 2012
Maccagno, Italy
July 4-16, 2012

I spent two weeks this summer as a singing participant at soundSCAPE Festival in Maccagno, Italy. Although I have studied new music for several years, this was the first new music festival I attended. The lessons I learned from my faculty mentors and colleagues have brought my dedication to new works to a higher level and I am a much stronger musician as a result of my experiences there.

The performers participated in approximately 15 concerts over the course of 12 days. In addition to performing world-premiere commissions of three fellow students (Annie Hui-Hsin Hsieh, Robert Hansler and BGSU alum Curtis Rumrill), I was asked to perform with soundSCAPE faculty on their commissioned piece by 2011 prize winner Andres Carrizo (also a BGSU alum!).

I also performed in improvisatory opera and chamber ensembles, in a recital of John Cage's *Song Books* and a recital featuring songs by Schoenberg and Messiaen. The highlight for me came three days into the festival when I sang a Giacinto Scelsi duet (*Saub I*) with Tony Arnold, a bright star in the field of contemporary singing and an exceedingly generous mentor and teacher.

Working with Tony Arnold was an absolutely invaluable experience. She eagerly gives her knowledge, experience, repertoire suggestions and support. I now possess a much larger palette of vocal sounds from which to choose and new ideas and approaches to every sound I sing. Every day contained new discoveries and daily master classes raised the performance level for each of the singers.

Because of Pro Musica, I was afforded the opportunity of a

lifetime to learn from those at the top of my field, to interact with emerging professionals in contemporary music, and forge artistic and personal friendships with a group of excellent individuals I might never have met. I have blogged about my experience in much greater detail at www.quince-ensemble.com/1/post/2012/08/festival-spotlight-soundscape.html.



From left to right: Carter John Rice, Viola Yip, Dr. Thomas Rosenkranz, Curtis Rumrill and Elizabeth Pearse. Rice is currently a second year master's student in composition at BGSU. Yip and Rumrill graduated from BGSU with degrees in composition in May 2012.

Profile: Dr. Thomas Rosenkranz

I began playing the piano simply because my mother rented an instrument so she could take lessons, something that was not financially possible when she was a child. She hoped that one of her three sons would learn to play as well. I was instantly attracted to the piano, coming home from school at age eight and exploring different sounds. I had great fun as I banged the low keys of the piano, making thunder sounds, and then banged in the high register, sounding like lightning. The beautiful resonance of the piano was almost a life-force magnet. I began writing little melodies and improvising on the piano before much formal training. Playing the piano was my thing, giving me a strange sense of ownership. For Christmas, I asked to take lessons.

After playing one year, my parents decided that I should have an instrument of my own and bought a baby grand piano. I came home one day to find this amazing black lacquered beast in the living room. I immediately went to wash my hands so I would not get it dirty, and then sat down to play. I will never forget that day. That night I slept underneath the piano in order to be close to it, as well as serving as its protector.

One of my first teachers was Lin Gendo from Indonesia. She had such a positive outlook on music and on life. I will always remember her and the amazing influence she had on me at the early age of nine. She was the kind of mentor that you remember throughout your life. Two years ago, I reconnected with her in Jakarta after 25 years. She still has the same wonderful smile. Some people never change!

Throughout my musical training, my teachers and mentors always provided exactly what I needed for my musical

development. Robert Shannon at Oberlin Conservatory taught me the importance of a strong work ethic and a deep understanding of how the hands work to bring musical ideas to life. Nelita True at the Eastman School of Music encouraged me to listen and reinforced the importance of being a good person within the field of music. Yvonne Loriod in Paris showed me how fulfilling a life in music can be.

I am most thankful that my music has allowed me to see so much of the world. The world is an amazing and vibrant place. As I travel to new places, I am reminded of the vast variety of different people with different perspectives. I try to gain insight into other cultures by participating in the life of the people.

In 2003, I was chosen to be a Cultural Ambassador for the United States State Department. My first assignment was to perform and teach in Tunisia and Lebanon. While in Beirut I was escorted by State Department bodyguards who stood guard with their huge guns at my dressing room door before concerts. Americans were apparently highly desirable targets for kidnapping in those days! Needless to say, concerts were a little bit more nerve racking. I wondered who would want to kidnap a pianist anyway. I was always safe there. The country was beautiful and the people were so extremely welcoming.

During my first trip to Tunisia, I met many wonderful musicians who wanted to collaborate by fusing Arabic and Western



music. These collaborations started as small jam sessions and evolved into two performances at the Roman Coliseum in Carthage for crowds of over 10,000 people. In a time where America was at war with the Muslim world, our group of musicians only wanted to make music and celebrate our distinctive musical traditions, rather than dwelling on the conflicts between our governments. Since my first visit, I have returned to Tunisia 12 times and think of it as my second home. Unfortunately after the Arab uprising two years ago, I have not been able to return, the area having grown more and more dangerous for Americans. As soon as it is safe again for visitors, I will return and continue my musical collaboration there.

Last fall, I was a visiting professor of piano at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music in Chengdu. During the last decade, China's interest in Western music has exploded and piano seems to be everyone's favorite instrument. Chinese people seem to believe that if they can understand music better, then perhaps they can better understand life. I share these beliefs. I met several extremely talented pianists and a number of these students have come to BGSU to continue their studies.

My trips abroad have taught me how vital music is to each culture. Music is a potent force that can transform one's life in deep and meaningful ways to make people better human beings. Teaching allows me to share my own understanding of music and life with my students. In a time when so many things are replicated instantly, music making is even more important because it allows for individuality and uniqueness, presenting the performer's individual distinct perspective.

—Dr. Thomas Rosenkranz

Upcoming Events Sponsored by Pro Musica

Watch via email and Facebook for further information on the following concerts.

Bowling Green Chamber Music Competition – March 16 & 17
Chamber Music Concert – March 17 at 2 p.m., Way Library in Perrysburg
Coffee & Classics – Wood County District Public Library in Bowling Green