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BGSU Pro Musica

The Pro Musican

Fall 2014



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 Friends,

Pro Musica has had an exceptional year.

If one counts success by members, we have had rare success. Our 351 members exceeded all past membership records.

If counting travel as success, your generous support has funded more than 98 trips, valued at nearly \$36,500, to Greece, Italy, France, Quebec and Ireland with many trips to 17 of the lower 48 states. We awarded scholarships this spring to Kara Kordella and Elizabeth Hood valued at \$2,500.

Based upon student nominations, Professors Conor Nelson and David Saltzman were honored for their exceptionally selfless, support of students. Scholarship winners and Outstanding Faculty Members' photos are found on the Pro Musica Facebook site. Please have a look and "friend" us, please.

Pro Musica did all of this while having an unusually good time.

We celebrated our past 30 years at a Celebrity Server Night, where we remembered the nine past presidents and purchased silent auction items, including gifts from Past President Charles Lakofsky and Dorothy Uber Bryan, a founding member of Pro Musica. New friends generously contributed their talent and sale items. Cutting a unique cake were past presidents, Margaret Tucker and Matthew Reger, with help from Dr. Robert Thayer, visionary creator of the Pro Musica concept, and current Dean of the College of Musical Arts, Jeffrey Showell. One hundred and twenty-five guests took time from their busy lives to join us for this very special night where new memories were made. Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey, the first BGSU President to join Pro Musica, was also in attendance.

We are grateful and humbled that you affirm Pro Musica's mission of Promoting Musical Excellence, with your continued support. Thank you.

Gratefully,

Karol Spencer

Student Essays

Stephanie Titus

SoundSCAPE Festival 2013

I attended the 2013 SoundSCAPE Music Festival in Maccagno, Italy, a festival whose objectives are in harmony with my professional goals in the study and collaboration of new music. My experiences there reinforced my passion for contemporary music and allowed me to forge relationships with established living composers and promising student composers.

I worked with undergraduate composer Tristan Xavier Koester and performed his chamber work commissioned for the festival. We discussed notational issues in extended piano techniques and the importance of ensuring that the performer understands and correctly interprets the indications in the score. As a result of my interaction with Koester, I approached other composers in attendance to commission solo piano works or revise existing works. Several of these composers are based in the Chicago area and will be traveling to BGSU to hear me perform their works.

The festival included concerts, workshops and presentations. Michael Quell was one of the guest composers. I met with Quell to discuss his solo piano piece *Anisotropie* and since then he has sent me the score. I am planning performances of the piece in the U.S. as well as in Europe. Siobhán Cleary is an Irish composer whose works were featured on the Irish Residency concert and I enjoyed performing in the world premiere of one of his chamber works. Collaborating in rehearsals with other outstanding musicians and particularly soprano Tony Arnold was a highlight of the festival. I also performed solo piano works by Pierre Boulez and Henri Dutilleux.

Attending SoundSCAPE 2013 was an important musical journey for me. Working with composers and forging connections with individuals who share the same passion for new music is inspirational.

Daniel Parsley

ACDA Central Division Conference 2014

Through Pro Musica's generous support, I attended the American Choral Directors Association Central Division's 2014 regional conference. The four-day event held from February 26 – March 1 in Cincinnati featured high quality choral performances, informational and educational sessions, and opportunities to meet other choral conductors and music educators.

Some of the concerts I particularly enjoyed were "A Festival of Anthems" at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Cincinnati, Ann Arbor Pioneer High School's A Cappella Choir, Augustana and Capital University Choirs and Ohio State University's Men's Glee Club. The Collegiate Repertoire Chorale, under noted choral conductor Pearl Shangkuan from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is composed of undergraduate and graduate choral students in the Central Region. I observed the ensemble rehearse and heard new technical and choral vocabulary used by Dr. Shangkuan that I have since implemented in my own rehearsals.

Useful sessions included "Church Choir Re-Imagined" and "Medieval Choral Music Scholarship and Practice." In addition, I attended choral reading sessions for SATB Difficult Level repertoire.

On Thursday evening, I attended the regional premiere of John Adams' *El Nino* at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. The conference ended on a high note with a concert by VocalEssence, a noted professional chorus founded in 1969. Hearing quality repertoire performed on such a high level in the beautiful setting of St. Peter's in Chains Cathedral was a memorable experience.



Douglas Wayland Memorial Recital

Sunday, September 14, 4 p.m.,
Bryan Recital Hall

4th Annual Pro Musica Celebrity Server Night

Saturday, October 25, 5-7:30 p.m.,
Bowen-Thompson Student Union

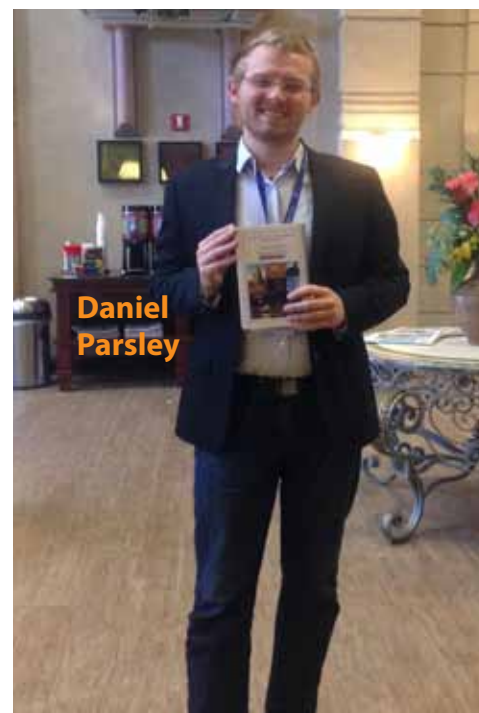


Stephanie
Titus



Kathleen
Schnerer

From Left to right: Kathleen Schnerer, Kacy Albright, David Rutter and Andrew Sabol, BGSU undergraduate music education string majors who attended the Ohio Music Education Association Professional Development Conference in January.



Daniel
Parsley

Save the Date



BE SURE TO VISIT AND LIKE US ON
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Celebrating Thirty Years Strong!

What a year! Pro Musica celebrated two milestones—the Third Annual Pro Musica Celebrity Server Night and its 30th Birthday on March 29 at the Stone Ridge Country Club in Bowling Green.

Those attending helped Pro Musica raise an additional \$13,361 for student travel and scholarships.

We once again welcomed wine tasting with Norm Heineman, who has become a regular at this yearly event; a silent auction; musical entertainment, and, of course, a gourmet dinner!

The Fourth Annual Pro Musica Celebrity Server Night will be on Saturday, October 25, from 5 – 7:30 p.m., in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union on campus.

Please check your calendar as we hope you will be able to join us for this year's dinner.



1. Dr. Jeffery Showell, dean, serving guests at his table.
2. BGSU President Mazey with the Bryan's before dinner.
3. Server Dr. Bruce Moss enjoying the evening.
4. Matt Reger (Past President), Dr. Robert Thayer (former dean of the CMA and visionary of Pro Musica) and Margaret Tucker (Past President and founding

Student Essays

Kathleen Schnerer Ohio Music Education Association Professional Development Conference

Without the help of Pro Musica, I would not have had the opportunity to gain the knowledge and experience I attained at the Ohio Music Education Association Professional Development Conference in Columbus, Ohio. While attending the conference February 6-8, 2014, I received valuable information about music and education that will last me a lifetime.

I attended several sessions where I learned useful rehearsal techniques and teaching strategies. One session was called “This is Your Brain in Music Class: Applying Neuroscience Principles in Music Education,”

presented by Dr. Elizabeth Stegemoller. We saw pictures of three different brain scans and how a person’s brain changes from musical practice.

I also enjoyed “Teaching Improvisation: How to Get Started,” presented by Dr. Christopher Azzara. We learned a simplified way to introduce improvisation in the classroom, from elementary through high school. Improvisation is one of the standards of the National Association for Music Education, but many teachers avoid teaching the skill, because they cannot do it themselves.

In addition to these and other helpful sessions, I heard several ensembles perform and met current music teachers. The connections I made, the information learned and knowledge gained has already provided me a better understanding of my future career as a music educator.

Estate Gifts to Pro Musica

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 Tony Wagener, director of development, College of Musical Arts, at 419-372-4261 for a confidential conversation about how easy it is to continue your support of future students through Pro Musica.



Tony Wagener, '07
Advancing BGSU!
*Office of Alumni
 and Development*
 (419) 372-4261 (o)
 (419) 410-1289 (c)
 atwagener@bgsu.edu

ROLL ALONG

Profile Tony Wagener

Alumni deserve to be included in the workings of the college and faculty love to have an opportunity to talk to them!

In your previous job with the Shakespeare Theatre Company, how important did you find the arts in education?

Working for the Shakespeare Theatre Company was one of the great thrills of my life. I have a long background in the theater, including here at BGSU, and for me working for STC was an honor. STC is one of the largest regional theaters in the country and one of the top three classic theaters in the entire world. I was really fortunate to meet some incredible people and to work with some of the most prominent arts donors in the world. What amazed me most, however, is how strong of an impact the arts can have on community. At STC, for example, our education department taught in every single public high school in Washington, D.C.—every single one. Those students' lives were changed because of the theater, and some came from really tough backgrounds and the theater essentially saved them. I think that really speaks to the importance of an education steeped in all of the arts.

What is your musical background?

I began playing guitar in the second grade and competed for years in the American Guild of Music. I then played various instruments in high school marching band (clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone). Marching Band was one of the greatest experiences of my life... in fact; it's how I met my wife! Joy and I are big supporters of music and spent many evenings at the Kennedy Center in D.C. listening to the National Symphony Orchestra. We continue to attend as many concerts as we can.

What events do you regularly attend at BGSU?

I think it's important for me to attend as many events as possible, and not just the ones at the College of Musical Arts. I strive to attend the largest concerts to the smallest ensembles, as well as events with our BGSU students. I want to be an active member of the University community, because it allows me to speak with authority when talking with our alumni. Plus, I'm still amazed that I get paid to attend all these great events supporting my alma mater!

In what ways do you feel you can support the mission of Pro Musica?

I think Pro Musica is one of the finest support organizations with which I have ever worked. The commitment to our students by Karol, the executive committee and the entire board I think is unmatched. I'm just honored that I get to play a small role in it. And I am proud that my wife and I are members of Pro Musica because I believe in the mission.

How have you and your family adjusted to life back in Bowling Green as opposed to the Washington, D.C. area?

We get this question a lot, and it's interesting because both my wife and I are from northwest Ohio and went to school at BGSU. However, after living in D.C. for over six years, we found that it really was quite an adjustment and, in almost all cases, a very positive one. It's nice not to have to leave an hour before every appointment because of traffic and, believe me, I will take my five-minute commute over my 90-minute one any day. Living in a college town is also great, because we still have access to great art, nightlife and restaurants, but we of course miss attending events at some of the top cultural institutions in the world. There certainly is something very unique about walking to work past the U.S. Capitol every day, not to mention the prominent people in line with you at the grocery store.

What is the most difficult thing about your job?

With over 170,000 living BGSU alumni, it's a daunting task to reach out to all of them. In some cases we've lost contact with individuals who we miss, so it can be great fun to get back in contact and re-connect them back to their alma mater. BGSU has such a profound impact on our alumni and it's hard to describe the joy I feel when I have someone back on campus for the first time in decades and the memories come rushing back. Sure, the travel days can be long, but I wouldn't change it for the world.

How does the Faculty Development Office service the college faculty?

The faculty is crucial to my work. I'm simply the connector—the alumni want to reconnect with their teachers, not the “development” guy. However, I have the opportunity to help an alum find ways to support our institution in ways that are most meaningful to them as well as the ways that will best help our faculty advance our mission. Helping to create those partnerships is truly a thrill.

– Dr. Penny Thompson Kruse

What is a typical workday for you?

A typical day for me is usually anything but typical. On any given week I can find myself somewhere in the U.S. meeting with our wonderful alumni, friends and supporters. The College of Musical Arts is fortunate to have great supporters spread throughout the country and it's truly an honor to have the opportunity to visit with them.

How many days are you on the road?

It really depends: during the school year. I try to be on the road a couple days per week, but sometimes it can be a full week on, a full week off.

What do you think is the number one selling point for the College of Musical Arts? What are its most impressive qualities?

The college sells itself! Our faculty, however, is probably the number one point that people talk about. We are so fortunate and blessed to have the caliber of performers, teachers and composers that we do on our faculty. It's so fun to talk with alumni and see their faces light up when they speak about the faculty members who had an impact on their lives.

What do potential donors want to know about the College of Musical Arts at BGSU?

Well, I think it varies depending on the person. Donors want to support a strong institution with a clear direction, and we're fortunate that Dean Showell and the academic leadership have laid out an impressive vision, leading us to increased enrollment, upgraded facilities and an exceptional quality of student.

How do you keep alums informed and involved?

Most of my work focuses on personal visits with alums to update them on what's going on. We're fortunate to have a strong marketing staff in the college spreading the word about all of our accomplishments and news.

How important is it for you to familiarize yourself with activities in the college?

It is absolutely critical that I am familiar with the college, and the University as a whole. Even though I am a BGSU alum, I still work hard to know detailed information about the areas I represent. And I do that not just by reading about these programs, but by attending events and meeting with faculty and leaders to make sure I can speak with authority. But even then, my job is to connect our alums, so I will always try and have alumni and faculty/staff interact with each other.

Executive Committee Members

Karol Spencer, President
 Myra Merritt, Vice President
 Vince Corrigan, Secretary
 Ellen Dalton, Treasurer
 Jeffrey Showell, Dean

Jane Milbrodt, Kathleen Moss and
 Conor Nelson, Members-at-Large

Penny Thompson Kruse, Editor,
 Pro Musican
 Tina Bunce, Publicity

Tony Wagener, Director of
 Development, Foundation Office