

Profile Amanda Van Wechel

Recruiting top level music students to the College of Musical Arts is not an exact science. Last year, approximately 400 undergraduate music students auditioned, of which 200 were accepted and 100-120 matriculated. **Amanda Van Wechel** is in her about second consecutive year as Coordinator of Undergraduate Music Admissions. Prospective students usually inquire about college during their junior or senior year. They may contact the College of Musical Arts directly, complete an inquiry form on the website (www.bgsu.edu/music), be referred by a faculty member or alum, have attended an event at the CMA (like the Summer Music Institute) or been referred to Van Wechel from the BGSU Admissions Office, having indicated an interest in music. Once she has received the name of a prospective student, a series of emails are sent out, prompting the student for more information, encouraging him or her to schedule an audition and apply to the University.

December through April is the busiest time of the year for Van Wechel. Auditions take place during this time. Music Talent Awards are allocated. Approximately 40 percent of all music students receive a Music Talent Award. CMA students have an average ACT score of 26, higher than University's average. The favorite part of her job is working with the students. She is highly organized and is excited that a new software program, the Undergraduate Admission System, was implemented this past summer. The new system streamlines the work in Van Wechel's office and also allows faculty and staff to have more information sooner regarding prospective students. She and her two graduate assistants schedule visits, trial lessons and auditions for prospective students.

Van Wechel had on-the-job training for this position when she was a master's student in clarinet performance at BGSU and working as a graduate assistant in the Music Admissions Office. Her master's assistantship involved working under Dr. Kathleen Moss, member

of the Pro Musica Board and former coordinator of Undergraduate Music Admissions. She loved working with Moss and learned an enormous amount of information and skills. They made such a great team that the two even contemplated submitting a video to be on the "Amazing Race." Van Wechel graduated in 2010. She loved to play the clarinet, but felt there were opportunities that would combine her love for music with her other strengths. When she was an undergraduate student at Luther College, she minored in music management. Her first clarinet has now been made into a lamp that provides light and inspiration in her office.

Recruitment has changed over the past few years, due to the influence of the internet and social media. Students are inundated with information. They spend countless hours on their mobile devices texting and using social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Even though personal contact is the most influential factor in getting students to campus, prospectives can gain a great deal of information just by visiting a school's website. Even with all the information that is available, Van Wechel still fields some amusing questions. Once a student called and asked if they needed to bring their instrument to the audition. She asked what instrument the student played. The student replied, "Piano." Van Wechel has yet to see any U-Hauls delivering pianos for individual auditions to the Moore Musical Arts Center. Other students state that they cannot find their instrument listed as one of the choices. Those students usually want to audition on bagpipes or ukulele. Van Wechel manages to keep a good sense of humor when these things happen.

She also coordinates the approximately 40-50 Music Ambassadors, undergraduate music majors who volunteer their services on audition days. The Music Ambassadors are nominated by



faculty. They attend monthly meeting, receive training in public speaking and practice giving presentations on the various majors in the College of Musical Arts.

Prospective students are notified of their acceptance in mid-March. Music Talent Award information is mailed by April 1. Students have until May 1 to make their decision. Students who plan to matriculate come to campus over the summer for SOAR, Student Orientation Advising and Registration. At this time, they take a piano placement test and are advised regarding their major and classes. Van Wechel is involved in each of these steps.

If you struggle with how to pronounce her last name, you need not worry long. In August she will be marrying her fiancé Matt Long and will be changing her name. Amanda and Matt are both athletic, outdoors people. They enjoy biking the Slippery Elm trail between Bowling Green and North Baltimore. Matt struggled to win the affection of Amanda's dog, Miss Raven. Miss Raven was jealous and held a grudge, chewing up numerous shoes, but now has come to accept him. Amanda and Matt will be married in Amanda's hometown in Iowa. Since she is exceptionally organized, the wedding is already completely planned!

– Dr. Penny Thompson Kruse



Not Pictured: Janine Baughman, Tina Bunce, Ellen Dalton, Thomas Headley, Terry Housholder, Paul Hoverman, Julie Iler, W. Robert Midden, Thomas Rosenkranz, Denise Showell, Ronald Woolfter, Enoch Wu, Jim Zimmerman

Pro Musica Board

Members of the 2013 Pro Musica Board.

Front Row: Kathy Moss, Shannon Bolen, Jane Milbrodt, Karol Spencer, Pam Makara, Vincent Corrigan

Middle Row: Bruce Moss, Conor Nelson, Cody Greenwell, Penny Thompson Kruse, Myra Merritt, Bernice Schwartz

Back Row: Ryan Hurd, the late Doug Wayland, Vanessa Chapman, Jeffrey Showell, Linda Brown

Pro Musica Officers

Karol Spencer, *president*
Myra Merritt, *vice president*
Vincent Corrigan, *secretary*
Ellen Dalton, *treasurer*

members-at-large
Conor Nelson, Jane Milbrodt,
Thomas Rosenkranz

ex-officio members
Tina Bunce (*publicity*)
Dr. Penny Thompson Kruse (*newsletter*)
Jeffrey Showell (*Dean*)
Tony Wagener (*Director of Development*)

BGSU

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



Visit us on
Facebook at
BGSU Pro Musica



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.

The Pro Musician

Winter 2014

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

How many organizations do you know that do all of the following:

- Give to student travelers every dollar pledged?
- Appreciate donors with an annual recital and ice cream social?
- Provide up to \$3,000 in scholarships each spring to qualifying students?
- Recognize an outstanding faculty or staff member, based upon student nomination?
- Share student talent with community members via recitals at two local libraries?
- Mentor students so that they can be effective future advocates for the arts?

Pro Musica does all of these while having an unusually good time. We will celebrate our past 30 years and anticipate our next 30 years on March 29. I do hope your busy life will permit you to join us for this very special night where new memories will be made.

Sadly, Pro Musica has lost to retirement, Vanessa Chapman, our liaison with the Foundation Office. Her valued guidance, membership and willingness to work at receptions and support the Celebrity Server nights are already missed. She has our very best wishes for a future filled with new memories made with her family. We welcome Tony Wagener, director of development, to the Executive Board.

Finally, a gentle reminder, in the Fall *Pro Musician*, I asked help in locating the following groups of people: our founders, past presidents and 30-year members. Please share that information by entering 30 years in the subject line and emailing the newsletter editor, Dr. Penny Thompson Kruse, at krusep@bgsu.edu. They will be recognized March 29, 2014 at the Stone Ridge Golf Club in Bowling Green.

What you give has become the means by which lives are touched. Your generous support is deeply appreciated, because it makes a difference in this world.

Gratefully,

Karol Spencer

Student Essays

Michael Kasinge Music and the Moving Image Conference

The 2013 Music and the Moving Image (MAMI) Conference was held at NYU Steinhardt in New York City, but the location was not what made the trip worthwhile. At the conference, I attended numerous diverse presentations, ranging from the differences in cultural entertainment standards between countries to the subtle stylings of experimental filmmakers. My main regret was that I could not attend more of the presentations. Three events were held simultaneously and I had to choose which presentations were most beneficial to me.

I had the opportunity to meet fascinating people, broadening my awareness of the possibilities for musicology and film scoring. I spoke with many presenters outside of their formal presentation and received in-depth explanations of what was compressed into a 20-minute presentation.

I participated in a panel discussion before a highly receptive audience. Even more beneficial, the question and answer session that followed was wonderful with insightful questions and ideas that challenged my points in a way that brought learning to both panelists and audience members.

The conference rekindled my enthusiasm for film media scoring, an art often overlooked by scholarly review. I am grateful for the opportunity that I was given to attend and participate in this event.

Daniel Parsley 2013 KIIS Salzburg Summer

KIIS is a non-profit consortium that sponsors programs throughout the world. The KIIS Salzburg program is affiliated with the Mozarteum Conservatory in Salzburg, Austria. Teaming with American faculty, it provides high quality, educational opportunities for American music students. As an assistant faculty member, I taught a non-credit, functional German language course, assisted with two conducting course sections and taught the lab for choral literature. I was also the assistant director of the KIIS Chorale and assistant director/conductor for KIIS opera scenes. I also led group excursions throughout the area to destinations such as the Salzburger Dom, Salzburg Festung and Hellbrun Gardens. Concert excursions throughout the city were often organized and led by assistant and fulltime faculty members.

In addition to faculty responsibilities, I was also the 2013 residence director for KIIS Salzburg. This position included the oversight of the student residence in Heinrich Haus Youth Hostel and communication between KIIS faculty, hostel staff, and students. As Assistant Director of the KIIS Chorale, I was given the opportunity to conduct sectionals and pieces. One of the most engaging opportunities with this ensemble was conducting the entirety of Hadyn's *Missa Sancti Nicolai* at venues including Salzburg Cathedral. In addition, I conducted works by Anton Bruckner, Jeffrey Ames and Moses Hogan and participated in two conducting master classes led by KIIS faculty.

Working at KIIS Salzburg gave me relevant teaching experience at the collegiate level. Furthermore, the connections fostered with both American and Austrian faculty members may prove to be extremely important in my future. I refined my conducting skills by working with choral and operatic ensembles. I feel honored to have been selected as an assistant faculty member of KIIS Salzburg.

My sincerest gratitude must be extended to Pro Musica for its financial support of my participation in this event. Funding student opportunities is a further testament to your dedication and commitment to education.

Adam Solsburg Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival

I attended the 2013 Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, an intensive four-week program, in Burlington, Vt., where I had the pleasure of performing Mendelssohn's *Viola Quintet No. 2* with four talented musicians from across the country.

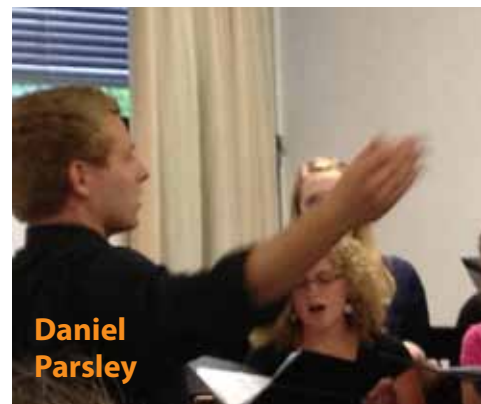
Students in the festival range from age 15 to 25, with the majority being college age. I heard other students perform in chamber ensembles or as soloists and was highly impressed with the talent displayed by all age groups.

Concerts and master classes were performed in the beautiful Southwick Hall. A typical week consisted of evening concerts and master classes. Twice a week we received lessons from teachers of our preference. During the first two weeks I studied with my professor from BGSU, Matthew Daline, and the last two weeks I studied with Karen Ritscher.

I returned from the festival with a new love for chamber music. Although the festival is only four weeks long, the musicians I met will always remain lifelong friends.



Michael Kasinge



Daniel Parsley



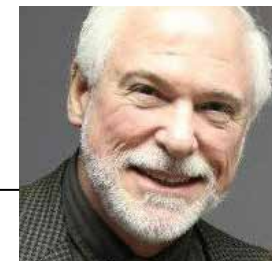
Adam Solsburg



Jeff Manchur

In Memoriam Douglas Wayland

The world lost a great man with the passing of Douglas Wayland on November 25—a man with a love of life and a passion for music and learning. His service, on Dec. 2, was overflowing with those who knew and loved him. Here follows an edited version of his eulogy by faculty member and Pro Musica board member, Myra Merritt.



My dear friend, Douglas Wayland passed away last week on Monday, November 25, just two months after his 59th birthday. In times like this, when a precious life is taken away from us and we're left with so many questions, and we ask "WHY?," I look to the scriptures to find answers. Though I may not find specific answers to specific questions, somehow, though still heartbroken, I come away comforted!

I looked for the word *friend* in the Bible, because Douglas was a true friend, not just to me, but to many others. The two scriptures that stood out were: *Proverbs 17:17* "A friend loveth at all times..." and *Proverbs 18:24* "...but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

As I looked on Facebook at all the heartfelt expressions of sympathy and love for Douglas, (and many were so eloquently expressed) what struck me deeply is how this one man had such a profound influence on so many lives! Messages from his students: present



and former; friends, acquaintances, even ushers at concerts he attended were impacted by his passing. When one man touches and enhances so many lives, he is truly an extraordinary man!

It was a privilege to have had such a friend like Doug in my life! There are many adjectives that can be used to describe him. He was sensitive and caring, humorous, quick-witted, playful, intelligent, inquisitive, dedicated and extremely generous! He was a singer, and he also played the piano and the violin, a linguist, lecturer, an avid traveler, a great lover of the arts, and a devoted teacher! His sister, Sue, remembers him as a child who was never without a book. Doug had an insatiable quest for knowledge.

Doug received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from BGSU. During his senior year, he was awarded a scholarship to study abroad for a year in Germany. He was later accepted into the DMA program at the University of Michigan and actually considered becoming a music history major. That same year, however, he was awarded the Richard Wagner Scholarship Foundation Award for study at Bayreuth and decided to go to Bayreuth instead. Doug actually lived with his German grandparents in Germany as a child and remained there until he was around six years old. German was his first language.

Later in his life, he began to travel, perform and eventually lecture extensively. His home here in Bowling Green is like a mini-museum—a reflection

Student Essays

Jeff Manchur Canadian Federation of Music Teachers Association

On July 4-5, 2013, I attended the national convention of the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers Association, the Canadian equivalent to the American Music Teacher's National Association. The CFMTA presented a two-day conference filled with academic paper presentations and practical-based workshops. The organization traditionally focuses on the piano, as did most of the presentations. Not only was I able to attend numerous sessions relevant to me as a performer and teacher, I also presented my paper on the second day.

My presentation was titled "Ervin Nyiregyhazi and Romantic Piano Performance Traditions: Challenging Objectivity." This paper was based on my master's thesis at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I discussed the colorful and eccentric child prodigy Ervin Nyiregyhazi, focusing on the recordings he made in the midst of his resurgence near the end of his life. These recordings reveal a musical voice on the piano unlike

any of modern times. His style of performance seems absurd to many, breaking rules of tradition. I compared his interpretations to literature related to the teaching and performances of 19th-century pianists and composers, notably Liszt, the most important composer in Nyiregyhazi's life. I also reviewed recordings by the earliest recorded pianists, including many of Liszt's students. Compared to this abundant evidence, I argued that Nyiregyhazi may actually better resemble the lost art of Liszt's pianism; in short, the modern, objective, urtext-driven tradition is in fact a modern creation, obscuring the musical desires of 19th-century composers.

I presented my findings on this subject to a national audience in a poster session at the 2012 National Conference of the College Music Society. The conference in Halifax was the first time I presented the material in an oral presentation. I was honored to be selected by a jury to present at an esteemed national conference. The conference drew musicians from Canada, but the United States as well. Teachers attending teach at institutions ranging from the local community to advanced academic institutions. The audience that attended my presentation responded enthusiastically, asking challenging questions and providing great encouragement for me to continue to speak on this

of his many years of international travels with exquisite artifacts and collectibles from around the world.

As I mentioned, Douglas was a linguist and sang repertoire in over 25 different languages, several of which he spoke fluently.

Doug's Final Week...

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, Doug sang in the Benjamin Britten concert with the voice faculty in Donnell Theatre. That weekend, on Saturday, Doug and I went to see *La Traviata* in Detroit. On Sunday, I wondered why he didn't attend the Diction Recital in which two of his students were singing, because he never, ever missed any of his student's performances. He called me late that evening to say he was in the Wood County Hospital.

Doug was life-flighted to St. Vincent's Hospital early Monday morning, November 25, and I drove to meet him there. Doug passed away at approximately 8:29 a.m. It was inconceivable!

His dear friend and former neighbor, Joan McKee said, "he loved learning, he loved music, but the great joy of his life was teaching."

It has been a real blessing to have had Doug as my friend. He was greatly loved and respected by so many people and he will be sorely missed. He will always have a very special place in my heart!

Thank you Douglas for being my dear, dear friend!

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 Dr. Jeffrey Showell, dean, at 419-372-2711 for a confidential conversation about how easy it is to continue your support of future students through Pro Musica.

BE SURE TO VISIT AND LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK AT BGSU PRO MUSICA

Save the Date



Pro Musica 3rd Annual Celebrity Server and 30th Anniversary Party: Saturday, March 29, 2014, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Stone Ridge Country Club, Bowling Green
Bowling Green Chamber Music Competition: March 1–2, 2014
Coffee & Classics: Wood County Library, March 8, 2014, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Memorial Concert for Douglas Wayland: TBA