Parents pass many traits to their children, whether through genetics, values, or behaviors. Musicians naturally encourage their children to appreciate music. The musical parent desires that their child will develop an appreciation for music that will last a lifetime, whether or not their child chooses music as a career. But when the musician’s child starts music lessons, particularly at the parent’s insistence – the battles over practicing may become fierce, especially when the parent has a trained ear. Our new Dean, Dr. Jeffrey Showell, is very familiar with this situation.

Dean Showell’s mother, an accomplished pianist, made young Jeff start piano lessons at age nine. Although his mother was not his teacher, she did supervise his practicing. Mother and son fought constantly, until finally Jeff refused to take another lesson. As he was about to start fifth grade, Jeff’s mother conceded that he could quit piano with the condition that he play an instrument in the school band. However, Jeff conveniently misplaced the school permission slip. Of course, Mrs. Showell discovered this after the deadline had passed to join the band. Luckily there was still time to join the orchestra. When string instruments were chosen, Jeff did not choose the viola. Rather, the teacher took one of the string parts. Jeff had no intention of becoming a musician. He started his undergraduate career at Stanford University, intent on studying chemistry and German. It was during a six-month overseas program to study German in Vienna that Jeff realized that his true passion was indeed music. Jeff Showell then transferred to Eastman School of Music to finish his bachelor’s degree and stayed for the masters. He earned the Doctor of Musical Arts from Yale University.

Dean Showell comes to the College of Musical Arts with a distinguished background as a professional violist, viola professor, and administrator. His most recent position was as Director of the School of Music at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Dean Showell succeeds Richard Kennell as the seventh Dean of the College of Musical Arts at Bowling Green State University.

Having officially assumed his duties on July 1, 2011, Dean Showell is most excited to gain greater national exposure for what he describes as a “gem of a music program.” One of his plans is to start a concert series in New York City at one of the major halls to showcase CMA faculty. However, as he initially settles into the position, his primary task will be to observe how the College of Musical Arts operates. As a College, rather than a School of Music, he anticipates that there will be different challenges and opportunities. He wants to demonstrate to all of the individuals involved in the CMA that he is accessible and wants to encourage “the free flow of information and opinion.”

Dean Showell has been impressed at the role that Pro Musica plays in connecting the CMA with the community and making opportunities for students a reality during challenging economic times. He believes that major academic institutions will become more influential as the “primary creators and transmitters of our culture.”

Fresh faces and ideas are always embraced at BGSU and generate tremendous energy. Pro Musica and the College of Musical Arts welcome Dean Showell to our community.

A Letter from the President

Dear Pro Musica Members and Friends,

The word CHANGE is on the lips of many as this new school year begins. However, there are constants that matter greatly.

• Music is a constant which without this world cannot live.
• Student travel is a vital part of professional growth and increased awareness.
• Participation is the activity that often gives back to the giver more than they have given.

Your generous pledges have and will continue to support CMA students. In return, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have made a difference in the lives of many. Together, Pro Musica members have set a membership and fund raising record.

The thought that has guided much of our work is this:

• Mentors touch two lives.
• Volunteers touch more lives than we know.
• Mentors touch two lives.

In my opinion, some charities’ percentage of funds reaching their intended recipients is dismal. Pro Musica’s record of returning 100% of your pledges to students is a point of shared pride. Together, we are poised to impact more lives this year.

Please stay in touch by visiting the Pro Musica web site at: http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/music/about/promusica/newsletter.html

Together we will make new memories and enhance many lives.

Gratefully,
Karlo Spencer

Pro Musica is an organization dedicated to supporting travel grants to help students experience musical growth opportunities outside 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.
Student Essays

Drew Ochoa
2011 Midwinter Barbershop Convention and The Fourth Annual International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival, Las Vegas, Nevada

My quartet, Prestige, went to Las Vegas for the 2011 Midwinter Barbershop Convention and the Fourth Annual International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival, which was held the last week-end in January, 2011.

For Saturday evening, we saw the Top 5 International Quartet Medalists and also the International Collegiate Quartet Champions, the group that placed two points ahead of us.

Christopher Lewis
Midwest Regional Conference of the International Tuba and Euphonium Association

The Midwest Regional Conference of the International Tuba and Euphonium Association, held every other year, took place on March 4-5, 2011, at Central Michigan University School of Music. This conference was a great opportunity to experience the entire spectrum of teachers and students from the region who specialize in tuba or euphonium. Professor David Saltzman took the entire BGSU Tuba and Euphonium Studio to perform at the conference.

The first performance I attended was Edward Mallett playing a double-belled euphonium. I also attended a recital by Benjamin Miles who played duets with his wife, flutist Sarah Miles, and with tubist Benjamin Miles who played duets with his wife, flutist Sarah Miles, and with tubist

Paul Cohn
Jazz Education Connection of Ohio Intercollegiate Jazz Ensemble

The Education Connection of Ohio Intercollegiate Jazz Ensemble is selected each year by audition from Ohio college students to perform at the Ohio Music Educators Association National Conference.

The goals of Quince, the all-female, new music vocal ensemble of BGSU, were simple: Perform the works of new composers, particularly the works of Ohio-based composers from BGSU (Jamie Leigh Sampson and Christina Butera) and the works of lesser known composers from the New York area (Ravi Kittapa and Daniel Dehaan). We also hope to obtain more engagements and to commission more works.

Kayleigh Butcher
Quince Concert in New York City

My familiarity with new music has been acquired only since coming to BGSU! I have the honor of being Professor Christopher Scholl’s graduate teaching assistant.

Unfortunately, my schedule has not allowed me to sing in ensembles. When fellow student Amanda DeBoer invited me to form a vocal ensemble outside of classes, I was hesitant due to the time commitment, but ecstatic to have the opportunity.

Today, I am thankful to be associated with the group of women in Quince and equally appreciative to BGSU for their encouragement and support of new music.

The members of Quince successfully presented wonderful, meaningful music to an open-minded audience, conversed with up-and-coming composers in the New York area, made connections with other performers, and planned future performances in Madison, Wisconsin, and Austin, Texas.

We are pleased to say that our trip was a success and are grateful to Pro Musica for its financial support.

Pro Musica Officers
Karlo Spencer, president
Myra Merritt, vice president
Doug Kissel, secretary
Ellen Dalton, treasurer
Jane Millbrodt, member-at-large
Vincent Chapman, Susan Knapp
Penny Thompson Kruse, Jeffrey Showell, ex-officio members
Penny Thompson Kruse, newsletter editor

Student Essays

From left: Professor David Saltzman, Josh Davis, Graham Roose, Garrett Shook, Rocco Duranti, Stephen Bragg, Francis Stile, Chris Moeller, Larry Mulligan, Christopher Lewis, Brendan Igo, Robert Noel, and holding tubas in the back row: Stephen Manhold, Katie Tuckers, and John Woode.

Prestige members, from left: Gordon Howe, Drew Ochoa, four women from the 4th Place International Champions Quartet (Loreen, Stephanie Lawson, Brittany Gilmore, and Mia Desensenberger), Nick Gordon, and Dave Parrett.

Penny Thompson Kruse, Jeffrey Showell, Nick Gordon, and Dave Parrett.

From left: Professor David Saltzman, Josh Davis, Graham Roose, Garrett Shook, Rocco Duranti, Stephen Bragg, Francis Stile, Chris Moeller, Larry Mulligan, Christopher Lewis, Brendan Igo, Robert Noel, and holding tubas in the back row: Stephen Manhold, Katie Tuckers, and John Woode.

From left: Aubrey von Almen, Elizabeth Pearse, Amanda DeBoer, and Kayleigh Butcher.

Metheny and Steve Allee.