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

Profile Tony Wagener

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

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 theatre, including here at BGSU, and for me working for STC was an honor. STC is one of the largest regional theatres in the country and one of the top three classic theatres 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. STC, for example, our education department taught in every single public high school in Washington, D.C.—every single one. Those students’ lives were forever changed because of the theatre, 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! By the way, I am a big supporter 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 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?

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 our alumni 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

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 commutes over my 90-minute one any day! Living in a college town is also great, because you 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 hear 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 couldn’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 our alumni 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.

Executive Committee Members
Karol Spencer, President
Myra Merritt, Vice President
Vince Corrigan, Secretary
Ellen Dalton, Treasurer
Jeffrey Showell, Dean
Jane Milbrodt, Kathleen Moss and Penny Thompson Kruse, Members at-Large

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.

By counting travel as success, your generous support has funded more than 98 trips, valued at nearly $16,500, 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 Connor 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

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.
**Student Essays**

**Stephanie Titus**
*SoundsCAPE Festival 2013*

I attended the 2013 SoundsCAPE Festival in Macagno, 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 rewrite 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 Q. Opper was one of the guest composers. I met with Opper 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 composers and listening to Opper perform my piece in extended piano techniques and the interaction with Koester, I approached other composers in attendance to commission solo piano works or rewrite 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 Q. Opper was one of the guest composers. I met with Opper 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 composers and listening to Opper perform my piece in extended piano techniques and the interaction with Koester, I approached other composers in attendance to commission solo piano works or rewrite existing works. Several of these composers are based in the Chicago area and will be traveling to BGSU to hear me perform their works.

**Stephanie Titus**

**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, Augustaana 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.

**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.

**Celebrating Thirty Years Strong!**


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

We once again welcomed wine tasting with Norm Heinerman, 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 so we hope you will be able to join us for this year’s dinner.*

**Kathleen Schnerer**

**Daniel Parsley**

**Stephanie Titus**

**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

**Save the Date**

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

**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.

**Kathleen Schnerer**

**Ohio Music Education Association Professional Development Conference**

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, Augustaana 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.

**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.

**Student Essays**

**Stephanie Titus**

**Daniel Parsley**

**Kathleen Schnerer**

**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

**Save the Date**

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

**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.
I attended the 2013 SoundSCAPE Festival in Macagaglio, 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 revist 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 Quinn was one of the featured composers. I met with Quinn 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 as well as in Europe. Siobhán Cleary is an Irish composer whose works were featured in both concerts and collaborations. 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 concert 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.

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.


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 so we hope you will be able to join us for this year’s dinner.

To be continued...
Tony Wagener, '07
Advancing BGSU!
Office of Alumni and Development
(419) 372-4265 (o) 419-410-1289 (c) atwagen@bgsu.edu

What is a typical workday for you?
A typical day for me is usually anything but typical. On any given week I 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 of Musical Arts is a small college, but one with big goals and a big heart. We are fortunate to have wonderful faculty and staff who are committed to providing a world-class education to our students. The College is also fortunate to have a passionate and engaged alumni community who support our mission.

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, here’s how I met my wife. I was a big supporter 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 alumni. 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!

What is the most difficult thing about your job?
I think it really speaks to the importance of an education steeped in the arts.

What does Pro Musica do?
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. We are grateful and humbled that you affirm Pro Musica’s mission of Promoting Musical Excellence, with your continued support. Thank you.

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 $16,500, 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/Member 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 Ufer 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 Mazyck, 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