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 execute 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. This new system streamlines the work in Van Wechel’s office and also allows faculty and staff to have more information sooner regarding prospective students. They usually want to audition on their mobile devices testing and using social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Even though personal contact is the most influential factor in getting students to campus, prospective 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, “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 that is available. Van Wechel has been known to ask a student about a unique instrument. Guests on her schedule visit, or email, Van Wechel with their instrument asking Van Wechel if she has ever heard of it before. Van Wechel is highly organized and is excited that a new software program, the Undergraduate Admission System, was implemented this past summer. This new system streamlines the work in Van Wechel’s office and also allows faculty and staff to have more information sooner regarding prospective students.

Van Wechel had the job-training for this position when she was a master’s student 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 testing and using social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Even though personal contact is the most influential factor in getting students to campus, prospective 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, “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 that is available. 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 meetings, 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 athletes, outdoors people. They enjoy hiking the Slippery Elm trail between Bowling Green and North Baltimore. Matt struggles 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

Pro Musica Board

Members of the 2013 Pro Musica Board.

Front Row: Kathy Moss, Shannon Bolen, Jane Milbrodt, Karol Spencer, Pam Makura, Vincent Conrijan

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

Back Row: Ryan Hard, the late Doug Weigand, Vanessa Chapman, Jeffrey Showell, Linda Brown

Promoting Musical Excellence

The College of Musical Arts is a hub of high quality music and a magnet for students from all over the United States and the world. But we need your support to keep it at that level. Please consider making a donation to the College of Musical Arts. Your gift would enable us to continue to attract top talent, both students and faculty, and provide them with the resources they need to succeed.

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

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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.

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 of the American Music Teacher's National Association. The CFMTA presented a two-day conference filled with academic and practical-based workshops. The organization traditionally focuses on the preparation of most of the convention. 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.

Pro Musica 3rd Annual Celebrity Server and 30th Anniversary Party
Saturday, March 29, 2014, 7:30-10 p.m. Stone Ridge Country Club, Bowling Green
Bowling Green Chamber Music Competition: March 1–2, 2014

Student Essays

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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 that are awarded in a wide academic and musical subject. This affirmation of my academic work and research is a thank you for my many years of international travel with exquisite artists and conductors from around the world.

As a young scholar, Douglas was a linguist and sang repertoire in over 25 different languages, several of which he spoke fluently. It was a privilege to have had a dear friend like Doug in my life.

Douglas showed me what struck me deeply is how this one man expressed his love for music in his performance and his teaching. His style of performance and his teaching were insatiable. He was a child who was never without a book. Doug had an insatiable quest for knowledge. His inquisitive nature would always be used to describe him. He was sensitive and caring, quick witted, playful, and highly dedicated and extremely generous!

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.

As Assistant Director of KIIS Salzburg, I returned from the festival with a new love for musicology and film scoring. It was not what made the trip worthwhile. At 15, with the majority being college age. I heard performing Mendelssohn’s Middle Years. I was greatly impressed with his interpretation of the music. When one man touches and encourages so many lives, he is truly an extraordinary man!

In Memoriam Douglas Wayland

My dear friend, Douglas Wayland passed away last Wednesday, at the age of 58. 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, we ask, “WHY?” I look to the scriptures to find answers. Though I may not find specific answers to specific questions, I have learned through still heartfelt, I come away comforted! As I looked on Facebook at all the heartfelt expressions of sympathy and love for Douglas, I was touched by the love and support of our community. And I knew that I was not alone. I knew that I was part of a brotherhood that will continue to carry on his legacy.

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.

The conference reminded me of 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.

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