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BGSU Pro Musica**PROMUSICA**
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Pro Musican

Fall 2012



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.

A Letter from the President

Dear members, friends, and future members;

As the new school year begins, Pro Musica invites you to:

First: as always, please won't you join us as we enhance student learning via travel to competitions, conferences and to do research? We are an unusual organization because we give to students every dollar donated by you, our generous friends. Together, we touch lives and live our mission to Promote Musical Excellence.

Second: Celebrity Server II will be held at Stone Ridge Golf Club from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 20. The reservation deadline is rapidly approaching. If you would like to join us, please contact Linda Szych at 419-372-2188.

Lastly: Pro Musica Student Council will again present their third Donor Appreciation Recital followed by an ice cream social. Please visit our web site at www.bgsu.edu/promusica and visit us on Facebook, both are quick ways to gain additional information. Watch for the date announcement on Facebook.

The coming year promises to hold many unique, educational and musically beautiful activities. Plan to join us, please?

Gratefully,
Karol Spencer

Student Essays

Elizabeth Rosner

Society of Music Education in Ireland
Cork City, Ireland
November 11-13, 2011

I attended the first Society for Music Education in Ireland conference in Cork City, Ireland. The conference was held from November 11 to 13 and was hosted by the University of College Cork, School of Music. The three-day conference was filled with international scholars and educators who gathered to present their research and share teaching experiences. I am thankful for the opportunity to attend this conference and to present my scholarly work at the international level. My paper was well received by scholars in attendance.

The SMEI conference allowed me to further my understanding of music education. I was surprised by the connection between ethnomusicology and education evident at the conference. I had the chance to network with ethnomusicologists and educators from England, Ireland and the United States. As a result of my attendance, I have a broader understanding of the role of a music educator. As an ethnomusicologist, I hope to teach at an institution where I will be the primary educator in the classroom. My presentation and attendance at the conference would not have been possible without the support of Pro Musica. I am thankful for the opportunity to grow as a scholar and to gain new insight into my profession.



Drew Sevel

23rd Annual Alexander
Technique Workshop
Ohio State University
December 27-31, 2011

My experience at the 23rd Annual Alexander Technique Workshop was profound. Having attended this workshop last year, I was much better prepared to maximize my benefit from this intense experience. The five-day workshop consisted of 10-hour days that included private and group instruction in the Alexander Technique, Tai-Chi, Yoga and Medicine Wheel, as well as master classes with nationally renowned faculty specializing in music performance. The workshop provided ample time to digest the material and make substantial changes in how I use my body in daily activities and while playing the saxophone.

For months I had been dealing with jaw discomfort related to a specific, challenging piece I was playing. With guidance from the multiple instructors at the workshop, my jaw felt relaxed and pain free for the first time in months, a truly

miraculous feeling. Now, I am now aware of tools and exercises I can utilize to prevent jaw damage and change habitual habits that lead to facial discomfort. Since the workshop, I have dramatically changed my embouchure. I now play with much less tension and produce a larger and more vibrant tone.

In addition, a large emphasis of the workshop was on "Body Mapping," an approach that provides increased anatomical awareness in order to promote more efficient and easy movement. I obtained information about the anatomy of the spine, pelvis, jaw, shoulders, neck and arms which will not only benefit my personal playing, but also help me prevent dangerous habits in middle and high school saxophonists. These simple yet powerful principles are easily applicable and also suit



First row from the left: Diana Bradle* and Robin Gilmore.* Middle row: second from the left, Donna Doellinger*; 11th from the left Martha Hansen Fertman.* Back row: fourth from the left, Dale Beaver*; 13th from the left Bill Conable*; Drew Sevel, third from the left. (* indicates workshop leaders)

students of all ages and skill levels. I am eager to share these insights with my students.

I am extremely grateful for the support I have received from Pro Musica to attend this valuable workshop. The knowledge I gained will have a lasting impact on my playing and teaching.

Pro Musica Officers

Karol Spencer, *president*

Myra Merritt, *vice president*

Douglas Wayland, *secretary*

Ellen Dalton, *treasurer*

Jane Milbrodt, *member-at-large*

ex-officio members:

Tina Bunce, Vanessa Chapman, Nora

Engelbrechtsen-Broman, Penny Thompson

Kruse (*newsletter editor*) & Jeffrey Showell

Save the Date

2012 Pro Musica Celebrity Server Event will take place on Thursday, September 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Stone Ridge Golf Club.

Co-chairs are Karol Spencer and Sharon Hanna.

The event will include entertainment by Pro Musica grant recipients and a raffle of donated items. If you would like to join us, please contact Linda Szych at 419-372-2188.

News

Ryan Hurd will be joining **Cory Kasprzyk** as co-chairs of Pro Musica's Student Council. In addition, **Claire Agresta** will be joining the organization as publicist.

We welcome new members to the Pro Musica board: **Vincent Corrigan, Terry Housholder, Julie Iler, W. Robert Midden, Conor Nelson, Denise Showell** and **Thomas Rosenkranz**

Congratulations to **Karol Spencer** who was a nominee for the 2012 Jefferson Award for Outstanding Community Service and the 2012 BGSU Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Community Award!

Congratulations to **Doug Wayland** who was the recipient of the 2012 Pro Musica Faculty/Staff Award for Outstanding Service to Students!

Condolences to the family of **Francis Michael Lenhart, M.D.**, 92, of Bowling Green, who passed away on April 2, 2012. His wife, **Nan**, was the former editor of the *Pro Musician*. Pro Musica is grateful that the family chose to designate gifts in Dr. Lenhart's memory be made to Pro Musica.

2012 Chamber Music Competition

Graduate Division

First Place: Fawn Trio

Second Place: Huan Jie Tso Trio

Undergraduate Division

First Place: GiGi Saxophone Quartet

Second Place: Anemoui Woodwind

Quintet

2012 Pro Musica Scholarship Award

Undergraduate

Abigail Brown and Kara Kordella

Marjorie Conrad Graduate

Jessica Allen

Comments from the President

Recipients of the Undergraduate Pro Musica Scholarships: **Abigail Brown** credits the CMA as the place that gave her opportunities, which have transformed her into the person she is today. Isn't that what college is all about? Leadership and Learning? Change and Growth?

Kara Kordella cited her service opportunity as a way to repay the warm welcome she received on her audition day by being the last and first friendly face a prospective student sees as they enter and exit auditions. She is a worker. She volunteers!

Marjorie Conrad/Pro Musica Graduate Student Scholarship was awarded to **Jessica Allen**. At Christmas her ensemble, "Fermatas" visited the Sparrow's Nest, a shelter for battered women. They brought peace and music to troubled women and the shelter's staff that sees daily the devastating effects of cruelty. That Christmas touched and humbled the ensemble. By volunteering, Jessica and "Fermata" have gained a valuable life lesson.

Student Essays

Amber Broderick

2011 American Musicological Society National Conference
San Francisco
November 10-13, 2011

The 2011 American Musicological Society National Conference was held in San Francisco, November 10-13. The best and the brightest scholars gather and discuss new ideas and trends in musicology.

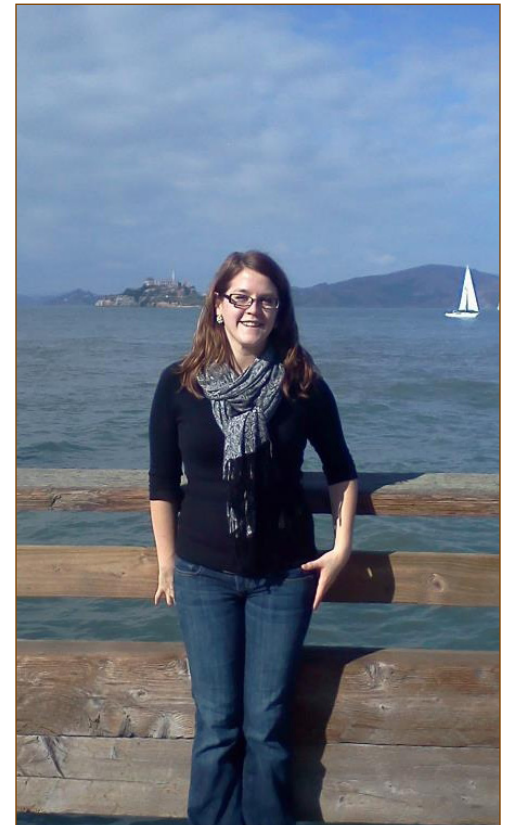
Musicology is integrated with many other disciplines, including gender studies, literature, politics and the humanities. The conference was an amalgamation of different creeds and musical aesthetics presented in a way that allows aspiring musicologists to learn and for professional musicologists to share ideas.

Many of the papers I attended will impact my research. I was especially impressed by the session "Cage and Friends" in which the music and influence of American music philosopher and composer John Cage was discussed. From this session, I learned that textbooks tend to over-emphasize Cage's use of silence

and ambient sound as a cornerstone of his musical oeuvre. Yet, when the speaker, Phillip Gentry, analyzed Cage's book, *Silence: Lectures and Writings*, the word silence was only used four times in the 200-page publication. There were no direct references to "4'33", Cage's legendary composition marked "tacet" for each movement. My attendance at this session will change how I teach music history. I plan to include the information learned in my own lectures to help balance the emphasis placed on "4'33" in most music history textbooks.

I was fortunate to network with many scholars at the conference, including Dr. Jeffrey T. Kite-Powell of Florida State University, who was gracious enough to talk to me about the benefits of attending his university for doctoral study. He is Music Professor Emeritus and the longtime director of the FSU Early Music Ensemble. We discussed repertoire performed by the BGSU Early Music Ensemble.

The conference was invaluable to my professional and educational goals. I am grateful to receive Pro Musica's support in furthering my academic goals. Thank you again for this opportunity.



Brava! Elizabeth Baldwin

As BGSU alumna Elizabeth Baldwin prepared for the Merola Young Artist Program at the San Francisco Opera this summer, she might have stopped to reflect on significant events and people that have allowed her to reach this point in her career. Elizabeth recalls attending the *Christmas Carol* in Cleveland with her grandparents at age five and the excitement of being pulled up on stage with the actors at the end of the show. She saw her first opera, *Aida*, in seventh grade and remembers thinking how neat it was that they got those big elephants up there on that stage! Voice lessons with Karen Biscay, a BGSU alumna herself, required Elizabeth to learn classical works as well as Broadway favorites. Memories from the College of Musical Arts include Pro Musica grants for Concert Choir trips, gaining confidence when winning first place of the undergraduate division in the Conrad Art Song Competition and studying with Professor Myra Merritt. Elizabeth believed her own voice range to be a mezzo soprano, but Professor Merritt thought differently; in fact, Elizabeth is a soprano!

Following her graduation from BGSU in 2004 with the Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance, Elizabeth continued her studies at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, earning a Master of Music degree in Opera Performance in 2007. Elizabeth already boasts significant

accomplishments having secured and received major roles and awards, earning favorable reviews. She is particularly comfortable in German, Slavic and English works. Her favorite role thus far has been the title role in Richard Strauss' *Arabella*.

Elizabeth is proud of all of her performances, but if she had to choose ones particularly significant, she states: "I would say that I have two memories that will always resonate in my mind forever. One was singing John Williams' *Seven For Luck* at the Tanglewood on Parade concert in Lenox, Mass., for an audience of 15,000 people, including John Williams himself, James Taylor and Yo-Yo Ma. The other would have to be singing on the Metropolitan Opera stage during the MET National Council Semi-Finals. I thought both halls were going to be scary, but I found them to be more inviting and a lot like my living room at home."

Preparations for competitions and opera programs like the Merola Opera Program or the Met Opera National Council Auditions involve a great deal of discipline. Elizabeth describes her regiment: "Perfectly prepare three to five arias, work with an accompanist you have never met before, be prepared to sing in any kind of space, dress professionally, be respectful of the judges and directors, and know that you put your best out there and anything can happen."



Elizabeth states, "BGSU provided me with a foundation of musical excellence which I have used throughout my career. I have met people from various schools of music and feel that my beginnings at BG are comparable to all other programs throughout the States." Her mantra to share with BGSU students is to "live by the three P's—Practice, Persistence and Performance!"

– Dr. Penny Thompson Kruse

In Appreciation to Elizabeth Hall

In May, Pro Musica said farewell and offered best wishes to **Elizabeth Hall**, former co-chair of the Pro Musica Student Council. This fall she will attend graduate school at the San Francisco Conservatory, where she will study with Jack van Geem, principal percussionist of the San Francisco Symphony. Pro Musica was instrumental in Elizabeth's desire to study with Jack van Geem. Elizabeth received Pro Musica travel grants to attend the two-week Zeltsman Marimba Festival held at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis., and in Amsterdam, where she met and worked with Geem.

Elizabeth auditioned and was accepted at several other music schools, including the Boston Conservatory, Ithaca College and Northern Illinois University. At her San Francisco audition, she was required to perform on timpani, snare and marimba. Elizabeth is particularly passionate about the marimba. She started playing percussion in her school band in Medina, Ohio,

in fifth grade. Her high school, Buckeye High School, purchased a marimba her senior year and she immediately started learning how to play it. Elizabeth began her bachelor's degree at Heidelberg College where she was pursuing a vocal performance degree. She purchased her own marimba and transferred to BGSU to major in percussion performance. Elizabeth still sings and has recently commissioned a piece by BGSU alum Dan Tramte in which she will sing and play the marimba.

Elizabeth first heard about the Pro Musica Student Council when she attended a pizza lunch and met Karol Spencer. After transferring to BGSU, she was interested in ways to become involved in the life of the College of Musical Arts. Observing Karol's generous spirit of giving and good will, Elizabeth embraced the opportunity to nurture the same attributes herself. She was instrumental in planning the Donor Appreciation Events the past two years and is proud of how the organization has evolved.