

Profile: Dr. Marilyn Shrude

Last April, Dr. Marilyn Shrude saw the realization of something she only dreamt of as a young composer. Dr. Shrude was named one of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellows. With this recognition, she joins a list of esteemed composers, including Samuel Barber, Milton Babbitt, Virgil Thomson, Lukas Foss, and John Corigliano. Since 1925, the Guggenheim Foundation has selected distinguished writers, film makers, photographers, choreographers, and composers to receive a grant that allows the recipient six to twelve months for focused creativity.

One of Shrude's projects this year will be a trio to be premiered at the World Saxophone Congress in Scotland next June. Another project is a chamber music work written for the new music group Brave New Works. Distinguished Artist Professor John Sampen's and Marilyn's daughter, Maria Sampen, is the violinist in this group. The third project Marilyn has planned is a piano trio for the Icicle Creek Trio. She is combining her Fellowship with a Faculty Improvement Leave.

Marilyn Shrude began her academic career at BGSU in 1977, along with her husband, saxophonist John Sampen, following doctoral work at Northwestern University.

Marilyn's principal instrument is the

piano. Her progression to composition was gradual. She always enjoyed making up her own pieces, possibly to avoid practicing! Now, her favorite place to compose is at the kitchen table.

Her creative process is inspired by a large range of sources, from places and world events to visual art and poetry. She states, "There is no substitute for hard work and 'time on task.' It's like practicing – many, many hours of preparation for the 20 minutes of 'magic' when you are actually on the stage."

Dr. Shrude has been instrumental in making BGSU and the College of Musical Arts a center for new music through the creation of the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music and the Doctoral Program in the Performance and Composition of Contemporary Music.

She states, "I have always felt that BG was a place of great opportunity, and with the support of both the administration and my colleagues, we were able to forge ahead with new ideas and projects. A state school in Northwest Ohio should not be a place where contemporary music thrives – but then, again, why not?" She is confident that young musicians are doing many interesting, creative things and that classical music has a bright future ahead.

Dr. Marilyn Shrude's students have



been the recipients of many Pro Musica grants, allowing them the opportunity to attend performances/premieres, study abroad, and attend workshops. She is grateful that these resources are available through such generous donors.

– Dr. Penny Thompson Kruse

Andrew Edward Housholder 1932-2011

Today our world is a poorer place. Andrew Edward Housholder, a preeminent choral conductor, gifted teacher and mentor, and BGSU alum and supporter, has passed away following an extended illness.

Born in Bowling Green, Ohio, September 28, 1932, he died at Hospice of Northwest Ohio on September 8, 2011. Andy graduated from BGHS and BGSU and remained supportive of both. As a high school teacher in New York, he encouraged students to attend BGSU. He left Bowling Green in 1955 to make beautiful music as a choir director. He organized 13 world tours with young singers. For 20 years, he was one of the conductors for "The Messiah Sing-In" at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, New York City. In 1975, he was honored as Choral Conductor of the Year by the National Choral Council. Andy was honored in 2010 as one of BGSU's 100 Most Prominent Alumni.

Andy, or as he was known to some, Eddie, returned to Bowling Green in 1995 to make music of another sort – doing good in the community that he grew up in and loved.

Few people know how many lives one man's good works touched. Andy saw needs and found ways to help. He raised funds, housed a former student's child auditioning for the College of Musical Arts, purchased a suit for a student, and allowed students to practice on his piano. Andy loved beautiful music and stayed in touch with his students. He touched, mentored, led, and gave generously to Pro Musica.

Andy leaves behind his wife Terry, who he married on June 27, 1965, daughter Ellen, his treasured grandchildren Ryan and Emily, his sister Joan, and all of us at the College of Musical Arts and Pro Musica as his extended musical family.

– Karol Spencer

BGSU

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



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 ProMusican

Spring 2012

A Letter from the President

Dear Pro Musica Members and Friends,

Pro Musica is dynamic, always open to new things. We know implementing new activities encourages an organization to grow.

An example of this growth is our Facebook page, which we have launched to expand our community and keep in touch with our valued supporters. Through this communication portal, we are now reaching a new and distant group. We are in touch with people around the world. To see photos of past events and learn about upcoming events, we invite you to visit us on Facebook. Please go to: <http://facebook.com/BGSUProMusica> and join our network of friends.

Pro Musica recognizes that student enrichment depends on our donors. Student travelers held the second Donor Appreciation Recital last September. This festive event gave donors an opportunity to look at travel photos, hear a diverse program of beautiful music played by the talented travelers, and enjoy ice cream sundaes and conversation. Photos from that wonderful afternoon appear on our Facebook page.

Another new form of outreach was our first Celebrity Server Event in October, which gave an opportunity to individuals unfamiliar with Pro Musica and its mission to meet student travelers and hear wonderful music. Everyone left the event fulfilled and feeling appreciated, knowing that all of their donations would directly fund more student travel grants. Many people have volunteered to return and help with this event next year. If you were not a Celebrity Server this year and would like to be in the future, please contact us and you will be welcomed. We had a delightful evening and you will be able to join us next time.

Pro Musica has moved its membership year to align with the academic calendar. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please join us. Pro Musica touches lives.

Sincerely,
Karol Spencer

Student Essays

Ben Bacni

International Horn
Competition of America
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky
September 1-4, 2011

I received a grant to attend the International Horn Competition of America at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. My goal was not only to compete in this competition, but also to gain the knowledge and experience of performing in an International competition.

The night before the competition all of the judges held an open forum for the competitors. I was able to speak to all of the judges about my performance, including professional horn players Cynthia



Carr, Randall Faust, Randy Gardner, Lawrence Lowe, Joe Neisler, Karl Pituch, and Jeff Nelson. Although I did not advance to the second round, these professionals' insights and advice made the experience completely worthwhile for me, providing suggestions

that have improved my playing greatly since attending the competition.

I cannot thank Pro Musica enough for giving me this experience to better prepare me for the professional world of horn playing. Thank you, Pro Musica!

Laura Bothwell

American Choral Directors
Association National Conference
Chicago, Illinois
March 9-12, 2011

I received a grant from Pro Musica to attend the American Choral Directors Association National Conference in Chicago, Illinois, March 9-12, 2011.

The conference was outstanding, and somewhat overwhelming with the number of people present and sessions to attend. There were approximately 5,000 people attending the conference. I attended four to five concerts a day and each concert featured four or five performing ensembles. Choirs from China, Norway, Taiwan, Latvia, and Canada, as well as the United States performed. I also attended Interest Sessions which dealt with various aspects of being a Choral Director. In one session,

the speaker specifically addressed students and what we might expect as a future choral director.

My favorite part of the conference was the reading sessions. I attended four: College/University level, Senior High, Women's Chorus, and Show Choir. In these sessions we sight-read excellent works for those particular voices, expanding my musical knowledge and repertoire.

While at the conference, I met many composers and heard their music performed. I was excited to speak with them about the performances of their works. I also enjoyed meeting directors and having the opportunity to talk to them about their current jobs.

I enjoyed every minute of the conference



and believe every future choral director should have this experience. Being surrounded by only choral directors was extremely valuable and I plan to attend future ACDA conferences as a student and as a future director. Thank you so much for the grant!

Pro Musica Officers

Karol Spencer, president
Myra Merritt, vice president
Douglas Wayland, secretary
Ellen Dalton, treasurer
Jane Milbrodt, member-at-large
Vanessa Chapman, Susan Hoekstra,
Penny Thompson Kruse, Jeffrey Showell,
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Penny Thompson Kruse, newsletter editor

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 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.

Celebrity Server Event

The first Pro Musica Celebrity Server Event fund raiser was held on October 27, 2011. It raised \$7,849, which is already funding Pro Musica student travel grants, thanks to the gracious help of a diverse group of local celebrity servers/supporters.

While some of our Celebrity Servers were Pro Musica supporters, others knew little or nothing about our wonderful organization – thus expanding our circle of friends. Pro Musica thanks all our Celebrity Servers: **Samuel Adler**, composer; **Alan Carsey**, Sergeant, BG Police Department; **Nancy Crego**, Alexander Technique teacher; **David Dupont**, Sentinel-Tribune reporter; **Dick Edwards**, Mayor, Bowling Green; **Wendy Headley**, realtor; **Susan Hoekstra**, Director of Public Events, College of Musical Arts; **Mojabeng Kamala**, Devine Design; **JJ Kawashima**, realtor; **Betty Laukhuf**, Docent, Toledo Museum

of Art; **Rev. Tom Mellott**, First United Methodist Church; **Mary Natvig**, College of Musical Arts; **Bill Engelke**, freelance book restorer and maker; **Robert Neville, M.D.**, physician; **Sandy Rowland**, realtor; **David Saygers**, Toledo School for Arts; and **Karol Spencer**, President, Pro Musica, for volunteering to be servers at our event.

For this inaugural Celebrity Server Event, each server invited seven or more guests to the dinner featuring delicious food from Sam B's, a Bowling Green favorite since 1972. The event was held at Snook's Dream Cars, which features a classic car collection presented within period scenes ranging from a 1930s general store to a recreated 1940s era gas station. Guests paid \$30 each, which covered the costs of the event – food and location. Our fund raising was achieved through the generous tips given our Celebrity Servers.

While seated among elegant automobiles, diners were treated to entertainment featuring student recipients of travel grants,

including Prestige, recently named as the National Champion Barbershop Quartet, and Phrixos Saxophone Quartet, finalist in the Chamber Music Competition.

Pro Musica appreciates the time our Celebrity Servers generously took from their busy lives to support our hugely talented students who add beautiful music and positive recognition to this community and to the communities they visit.

With our Celebrity Server Event, Pro Musica raised funds, gained new friends, and furthered the organization's awareness within the Bowling Green and greater Toledo areas.

Due to the success of this evening and the enthusiasm of those present, we have decided to make this an annual event. If you were not able to attend, we hope you will be able to join us next year for an evening to be remembered! Anyone interested in being a Celebrity Server next year, please call Linda Szych at (419) 372-2188.

Student Essays

Elizabeth Crisenbery

Studio Arts Centers International:
Music and Art in Florence
Florence, Italy
May 19-June 25, 2011

With the aid of Pro Musica I was able to experience the trip of a lifetime: traveling to Florence, Italy. Never would I have imagined that I could learn so much in six short weeks. I was constantly surrounded by a culture rich in the arts and music.

My hope for this trip was to learn new Italian repertoire and to immerse myself in the culture. I worked on two of Luciano Berio's Quattro Canzoni Popolari and added two pieces to my repertoire.

Our musical group performed four concerts during the trip, perhaps the most interesting locale being in an operating convent. We performed a mass with saxophones and voices; quite the

unconventional orchestration.

I attended several musical events, my favorite being Monteverdi's opera "L'incoronazione di Poppea," which featured Susan Graham as Poppea. The singing was absolutely superb and the venue was charming. Seeing a performance in the city where opera was created was a life-changing experience.

In addition to learning new repertoire and performing various concerts, I took an art history course. All of the classes took place on site. Seeing the actual pieces of art instead of looking at a picture in a textbook was enlightening. We took weekly field trips to different points of interest throughout Tuscany. Thanks to an amazing professor, I was introduced to a fascinating subject of which I had no prior knowledge.

The knowledge I gained in Italy is invaluable. My eyes were opened to a new culture, a new way of life. I appreciate this opportunity given to me thanks to Pro Musica.

