Zachary Green
Percussive Arts Society International Convention
Indianapolis
November 9-12, 2017

The Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) is an event that is set often in Indianapolis, but also occasionally in Texas. Luckily enough for me the event this year was in Indianapolis at the Indianapolis Convention Center. I know this in advance, however the location was nothing like I imagined in my head. The convention center was much larger, and more grandiose than I had previously imagined. PASIC however did not use the whole convention center it was split with the Bands of America Grand National Championships. This was an event I was very familiar with as I have participated in four times during high school. I was quickly overwhelmed by the number of events, and often had a hard time choosing between one event or another. Four events really stood out to me. These events were: Sound Off!, The Eastman Percussion Ensemble, So Percussion and the expo hall.

"Sound Off!" was a presentation by Daniel Glass. In this presentation Daniel Glass and a small ensemble of percussionists performed recreations of silent era film music. In addition to the performance Daniel Glass explained the history of these pieces, and explained and demonstrated the instruments I was aware of this tradition however I’ve never seen a live demonstration. I am glad I received the opportunity. Eastman is argably the most important college percussion ensemble, and their director Michael Burritt was well respected in the field. Programs were gone very quickly so I did not get a chance to see one, however, there were several bands performing fairly new pieces for percussion ensemble. I valued this performance because as a percussionist in a percussion ensemble it gave me some reference on what I should be aiming for. So Percussion is a very well known percussion quartet. It has premiered many pieces for percussion ensemble from many recognizable composers such as Steve Reich and Steven Mackey. It performed Steve Reich’s Mallet Quartet, which was beyond words. SP. Also performed a collection of pieces called Amid The Noise. This was very lengthy but it featured community participation, and featured a work called Extremes, which I am very fond of. The final event was the expo hall—a huge room in which several percussion vendors were selling and demonstrating their latest equipment. I saw several state of the art things including Mallet Tech’s new Omega Vibe and Pearl’s Mallet Station. In addition to the event at PASIC, I also got to see Bowling Green State University’s Falcon Marching Band perform its show at the Bands of America Grand National Championships. The FMB was not competing as the competition is for high schools, but it was performing in exhibition which means it was a featured performance of the evening. I have seen these performances in the past, but it was a different kind of experience to watch a group that I have strong feelings towards, and are part of an institution I consider part of my identity.

The events that I experienced in Indianapolis were of particular significance, not only for what I learned, but also seeing what it means to be a percussionist in the world today. I look forward to going to this event in the future and also events such as the Ohio Music Education Association Profession Development Conference. I believe these events will help me in the future as both a percussionist and a music educator. Thank you Pro Musica for making it possible for me to attend this very special music event.

Charles Saenz
2017 Pro Musica Faculty/Staff Award for Exceptional Service to Students

Reading the letters nominating Charles Saenz for Pro Musica’s Outstanding Faculty Award, you can hear echoes of what the professor of trumpet learned from his father.

Saenz’ father, Ralph, started his son on trumpet in fourth grade, a year earlier than usual. “What I remember from him was we focused a lot on fundamentals of trumpet playing,” Saenz said.

Graduate student Edmund Gunther wrote in his letter of nomination: “Professor Saenz has started a Trumpet Warm-Up and Fundamentals Program at 8 a.m. This class, which is led by a teaching assistant, is in my opinion the most important hour of the day for the trumpet studio. Whether I am leading the class or in attendance, I learn something new every time and it makes me a better musician.”

Saenz studied with his father all the way through high school. While such an arrangement is often a recipe for failure, in this instance it worked. “He was very good at giving me space and trying to bring in a variety of playing experiences,” Saenz said.

From a young age, Ralph Saenz encouraged his son to be flexible. Saenz started working as a professional in Tex Mex and dance bands when he was 12. He joined his father in an area big band, playing trumpet and assuming the swing band repertoire. If his father played lead in the pit for a musical, his son was playing third. As a result, Saenz says he’s comfortable playing a recital or a jazz quartet, or with a trumpet section in a symphony, an opera orchestra or a big band, whether lead or solo.

Students in the trumpet studio are called on to fill roles in the Falcon Marching Band, the Bowling Green Philharmonia, the wind ensembles, chamber ensembles including the Graduate Brass Quintet, and jazz bands, large and small.

“I learned from a very young age to be flexible,” he said. “I tell my students the modern day trumpet player has to be flexible.” Players have their own strengths and specialties “but it’s very valuable to be willing to stretch more than most musicians are. Those are things I try to instill in my students if they want to forge a career in music.”

Student Enrico Solito said Saenz gives each student personal attention, and helps them land jobs and auditions. Saenz knows Solito is interested in military bands, so he makes sure he’s aware whenever an audition notice is posted. Saenz actually planned to follow his father’s footsteps and become a band director. Then in 1994 when he was a junior at New Mexico State University, Saenz played Charles Chayes’ Concerto for
Hannah Greer

Bands of America National Championship Competition

Indianapolis, Indiana
November 11, 2017

The Bands of America National Championship was held in Lucas Oil Stadium, which is the stadium that also hosts the Drum Corps International and is the only stadium in the world that was built with acoustics in mind. It is a huge venue, probably the finest stadium any of the performing high schools had ever been in, and the audience was so large that Lucas Oil Stadium was half full!

While attending this competition I got to briefly talk to Greg Bimm, the band director at Marian Catholic High School from Chicago. Marian Catholic was one of the competing bands and Bimm is one of my idols in the profession. It was valuable for me to talk to him about his students and the progress they’ve made this year not only because I got to hear new pedagogical approaches but also because it was so cool to see that even Greg Bimm, one of the best educators in the country, is just a normal teacher trying to educate his kids. It made me feel like the level of greatness he has achieved in his career isn’t so inaccessible for me.

Marian Catholic’s show was centered around the theme of “Nature vs. Machine” and so their song selection featured The Great Locomotive Churn by Robert W Smith and a piece called Luminis by John Mackey. Both pieces were originally written for symphonic band, but were specifically arranged for this ensemble. Union High School in Oklahoma had a show centered around the book character the Verdi’s Rapsom as one of its prominently featured arrangements. There were other high schools performing and it was great to see the type of repertoire each band program can often draw from large orchestral works or operas and how these pieces were connected to separate storylines.

BOA Grand Nationals is such a wonderful event for career connections and professional development because you literally have the December recording of the Chaynes with piano, played by his frequent collaborator and BGSU colleague Dr. Solungga Liu, serves a pedagogical purpose as well as an artistic one. Students, Saenz said, study and perform the piece with piano, not full orchestra. They work on it as a recording exists with that instrumentation. Now he can direct them to Eloquem.

Ensconced at BGSU, Saenz is seeing his career come full circle. In fall 2015, one of his graduate students, Marcus Flores, won the International Trumpet Guild Solo Competition. Jonathan Britt was a finalist in 2016 and Bryn Powell was a finalist in 2017. The competition was “very important for me because it exposed me to a larger community within the trumpet world. I felt it was helping important shape my career.”

In her nomination she wrote: “During his time here, I have watched as the trumpet studio has grown in quantity and quality. Each year, more and more trumpet students, both underclassmen and graduate level are drawn to BGSU because of the reputation Charles has achieved.

He is extremely attentive to every student. He truly believes that every student can succeed and he helps each student find that strength of each student and then build on that strength so the student becomes more confident as a result. When one sees his students perform, they are all about the music making, with nerves of steel.”

— David Dupont

(David Dupont is a founder of BG Independent News. His frequent writing on the arts at BGSU and beyond can be read at bgindependentmedia.org)

Other News

Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition

The 11th annual Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition was held March 24–25, 2018 in Bryan Recital Hall. Pro Musica provides the event’s reception in the Kennedy Green Room following the concert.

Douglas Wayland, the late BGSU benefactor, had a love of chamber music and his contribution to the college.

Each year, the competition costs approximately $5,000. An endowment has been established for the annual event.

If interested in contributing to this cause, please contact Kerri Kreuzer at (419) 372-9213 or kmdeviu@bgsu.edu.

Student Performances at the Way and the Wood County Public Libraries

Watch for information on the spring chamber music concerts at both the BGSU Public Library in Bowling Green and the Way Library in Painesville.

Each concert will feature CMA students who received Pro Musica Travel Grants this past year.

— David Dupont

Christopher Murphy

The Fifth Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition

Mahidol University
Salaya, Thailand
July 9-22, 2017

This past summer I attended the Fifth International Saxophone Competition with the support of Pro Musica. The competition was held at Mahidol University in Thailand, with a local saxophone center. It is difficult to describe all the benefits from attending this event, but I will do my best.

There were easily 60 international saxophonists that I was surrounded by for 2.5 weeks of my stay in Thailand. This was one of the most beneficial aspects of the competition, as I consider many of these people my personal friends. We shared ideas about saxophone, music, politics and life through our adventures around Bangkok and constant immersion in a new culture. I was fortunate to be able to participate in Buddhist activities at many different temples and observe what it is like to live a typical life in Thailand. The culture in Thailand was incredible, the food, which was unbelievable, the architecture, music and art that I was exposed to certainly changed my life. The people in Thailand were very kind to all of the competitors, and were excited to share what their life experience was like. Another important aspect of this competition was the saxophone professors on the jury. After the first round of the competition, all of the competitors were invited to speak to the jury about their performance and get constructive feedback. It is a rare opportunity to be able to play for some of the U.S. and European saxophone professors, and one I believe that Jean-Marie Londeix was unforgettable, and it would be difficult to have another opportunity to do so.

Caleb Burkhardt

The Fifth Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition

Mahidol University
Salaya, Thailand
July 9-22, 2017

Thanks to Pro Musica, I had the wonderful opportunity to recount my experience in Thailand at the Fifth Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition.

In the music Schwartz, a BGSU alumnus and a member of the Tower Brass Quintet, is out there doing the work he loves. “The Bands of America Grand National Championship was held in Lucas Oil Stadium, which is the stadium that also hosts the Drum Corps International and is the only stadium in the world that was built with acoustics in mind. It is a huge venue, probably the finest stadium any of the performing high schools had ever been in, and the audience was so large that Lucas Oil Stadium was half full!”

While attending this competition I got to briefly talk to Greg Bimm, the band director at Marian Catholic High School from Chicago. Marian Catholic was one of the competing bands and Bimm is one of my idols in the profession. It was valuable for me to talk to him about his students and the progress they’ve made this year not only because I got to hear new pedagogical approaches but also because it was so cool to see that even Greg Bimm, one of the best educators in the country, is just a normal teacher trying to educate his kids. It made me feel like the level of greatness he has achieved in his career isn’t so inaccessible for me.

Marian Catholic’s show was centered around the theme of “Nature vs. Machine” and so their song selection featured The Great Locomotive Churn by Robert W Smith and a piece called Luminis by John Mackey. Both pieces were originally written for symphonic band, but were specifically arranged for this ensemble. Union High School in Oklahoma had a show centered around the book character the Verdi’s Rapsom as one of its prominently featured arrangements. There were other high schools performing and it was great to see the type of repertoire each band program can often draw from large orchestral works or operas and how these pieces were connected to separate storylines.

BOA Grand Nationals is such a wonderful event for career connections and professional development because you literally have the December recording of the Chaynes with piano, played by his frequent collaborator and BGSU colleague Dr. Solungga Liu, serves a pedagogical purpose as well as an artistic one. Students, Saenz said, study and perform the piece with piano, not full orchestra. They work on it as a recording exists with that instrumentation. Now he can direct them to Eloquem.

Enсудed at BGSU, Saenz is seeing his career come full circle. In fall 2015, one of his graduate students, Marcus Flores, won the International Trumpet Guild Solo Competition. Jonathan Britt was a finalist in 2016 and Bryn Powell was a finalist in 2017. The competition was “very important for me because it exposed me to a larger community within the trumpet world. I felt it was helping important shape my career.”

In her nomination she wrote: “During his time here, I have watched as the trumpet studio has grown in quantity and quality. Each year, more and more trumpet students, both underclassmen and graduate level are drawn to BGSU because of the reputation Charles has achieved.

He is extremely attentive to every student. He truly believes that every student can succeed and he helps each student find that strength of each student and then build on that strength so the student becomes more confident as a result. When one sees his students perform, they are all about the music making, with nerves of steel.”

— David Dupont

(David Dupont is a founder of BG Independent News. His frequent writing on the arts at BGSU and beyond can be read at bgindependentmedia.org)

Other News

Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition

The 11th annual Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition was held March 24–25, 2018 in Bryan Recital Hall. Pro Musica provides the event’s reception in the Kennedy Green Room following the concert.

Douglas Wayland, the late BGSU benefactor, had a love of chamber music and his contribution to the college.

Each year, the competition costs approximately $5,000. An endowment has been established for the annual event.

If interested in contributing to this cause, please contact Kerri Kreuzer at (419) 372-9213 or kmdeviu@bgsu.edu.

Student Performances at the Way and the Wood County Public Libraries

Watch for information on the spring chamber music concerts at both the BGSU Public Library in Bowling Green and the Way Library in Painesville.

Each concert will feature CMA students who received Pro Musica Travel Grants this past year.

— David Dupont

(David Dupont is a founder of BG Independent News. His frequent writing on the arts at BGSU and beyond can be read at bgindependentmedia.org)
The Bands of America National Championship was held in Lucas Oil Stadium, which is the stadium that also hosts the Drum Corps International World Championship and is the only stadium in the world that was built with acoustics in mind. It is a huge venue, probably the finest stadium any of the performing high schools had ever been in, and the audience was so large that Lucas Oil Stadium was half-filled!

While attending this competition I got to briefly talk to Greg Bimm, the band director at Marian Catholic High School from Chicago. Marian Catholic was one of the competing bands and Bimm is one of my idols in the profession. It was valuable for me to talk to him about his students and the progress they’ve made this year not only because I got to hear new pedagogical approaches but also because it was so cool to see even Greg Bimm, one of the best educators in the country, is just a normal teacher trying to educate his kids. It made me feel like the level of greatness he has achieved in his career isn’t so inaccessible for me.

Marian Catholic’s show was centered around the theme of “Nature vs. Machine” and so their song selection featured The Great Locomotive Chase by Robert W. Smith and a piece called Luminos by John Mackey. Both pieces were originally written for symphonic band, but were specifically arranged for this ensemble. Union High School in Oklahoma had a show centered around the theme of “A Tale of Two Cities” featuring Verdi’s Rigoletto as one of its prominently featured arrangements. There were other high school performances and it was great to see the type of repertoire each band programs, often taken from large orchestral works or operas) and how these pieces were connected to separate storylines.

BOA Grand Nationals is such a wonderful event for career connections and professional development because you literally have the December 2017 competition windows open to all students and educators in the country in all places, one performing at such a high level and pushing each other to reach the next level. The audience is comprised of other educators and musicians as well so it was a wonderful fuel for me to meet and connect with music educators who have the same interests, passions and goals as I do. Not only did I get to engage in this competition that opened my scope of what is possible for a high school marching band, but I also got to experience the via performances of these bands just how advanced our students can be if we can equip them with some of the same instruction and information. I can say without a doubt that it was a life-changing experience for me and I am so thankful to Pro Musica for sponsoring my trip to this competition.

Christopher Murphy
The Fifth-Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition
Mahidol University
Salaya, Thailand July 9-22, 2017

This past summer I attended the Fifth International Jean-Marie Londeix Saxophone Competition with the support of Pro Musica. The competition was held at Mahidol University in Thailand, and so it was a local competition for me. It is difficult to describe all the benefits from attending this event, but I will do my best.

There were easily 60 international saxophonists that I was surrounded by for 2.5 weeks of my stay in Thailand. This was one of the most beneficial aspects of the competition, as I consider many of these people my personal friends. We shared ideas about saxophone, music, politics and life through our adventures around Bangkok and constant immersion in a new culture. I was fortunate to be able to participate in Buddhist temple tours of many different temples and observe what it is like to live a typical life in Thailand. The culture in Thailand was incredible. The food was unbelievable, the architecture, music and art that I was exposed to certainly changed my life. The people in Thailand were very kind to all of the competitors, and were excited to share what their life experience was like. Another important part of this competition was meeting the saxophone professors on the jury. After the first round of the competition, all of the competitors were invited to speak to the jury about their performance and get constructive feedback. It is a rare opportunity to be able to play for some of the U.S. and European most influential saxophone professors. Jean-Marie Londeix was unforgettable, and it would be difficult to have another opportunity to do so.

Caleb Burkhard
The Fifth-Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition
Mahidol University
Salaya, Thailand July 9-22, 2017

Thanks to Pro Musica, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Fifth International Jean-Marie Londeix Saxophone Competition in Thailand. Pro Musica performed two etudes by Sigfrid Karg-Eler and a piece titled Jungle by Christian Laub. I was able to receive excellent feedback from the panel of international judges. Nearly 70 saxophonists from around the world competed, and I was able to make many new connections with some of the world’s best young saxophonists. The competition began with an inspirational lecture on the musician’s life, after which I formed a trio with two other saxophonists, Nitchan Pitayathorn and Sergio Eslava, and was invited to perform in the Yamaha show room in downtown Bangkok.

This was a very special experience, since Nitchan Pitayathorn is a fellow student of mine and I am from the United States. We performed a program titled “United: A Gathering of Musicians from Europe, Asia, and America” in which we performed the music of Piazzolla, Single and Nagor.

Aside of musical activities, I had lots of time to take in the culture of Thailand. We visited the market, which was bustling with local shoppers and tourists taking in the sights and smells of Thailand. I said many interesting dishes from “The World’s Best Pad Thai” in a sit down restaurant to a deep fried scorpion from a street vendor. I had a great experience and learned about the world and about the saxophone. I am deeply grateful to the Pro Musica in helping me attend this event.

Jay Howard
Director of Development
Pro Musica
517-327-9213
jayhoward@promusica.org

Pro Musica is an organization dedicated to promoting music education throughout the greater Lafayette area to help students experience musical growth opportunities outside of the traditional classroom.

Every dollar of your membership fee goes to support student grants. Please consider learning more about making an estate gift to Pro Musica

Contact Kristina DeVine, director of development, 419-327-9213 for a confidential conversation about how easy it is to continue your support of future students through Pro Musica.

Other News
Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition
The 11th annual Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition was held March 24-25, 2018 in Bryan Recital Hall.

Pro Musica provides the event’s reception in the Kennedy Green Room following the concert. This year’s event celebrated the love of chamber music and his contribution to the college.

Every year, the competition costs approximately $5,000. An endowment has been established for the annual event.

If interested in contributing to this cause, please contact Kristin Bickel at (419) 372-9211 or kbickel@promusica.org.

Student Performances at the Way and the Wood County Public Libraries
Watch for information on the spring chamber music concerts at both the Wood County Public Library in Bowling Green and the Way Library in Pebblyburg.

Each concert will feature CMA students who received Pro Musica Travel Grants this past year.

Student Grant Recipients Caleb Burkhard and Christopher Murphy attend the Fifth Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition in Thailand.

Christopher Murphy at the College of Music, University of Tennessee, Nashville.

CMA students perform in the Collage of Music, University of Tennessee, Nashville.

Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition
The 11th annual Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition was held March 24–25, 2018 in Bryan Recital Hall.

Pro Musica provides the event’s reception in the Kennedy Green Room following the concert. This year’s event celebrated the love of chamber music and his contribution to the college.

Each year, the competition costs approximately $5,000. An endowment has been established for the annual event.

If interested in contributing to this cause, please contact Kristin Bickel at (419) 372-9211 or kbickel@promusica.org.

Student Performances at the Way and the Wood County Public Libraries
Watch for information on the spring chamber music concerts at both the Wood County Public Library in Bowling Green and the Way Library in Pebblyburg.

Each concert will feature CMA students who received Pro Musica Travel Grants this past year.

Student Grant Recipients Caleb Burkhard and Christopher Murphy attend the Fifth Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition in Thailand.

Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition
The 11th annual Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition was held March 24–25, 2018 in Bryan Recital Hall.

Pro Musica provides the event’s reception in the Kennedy Green Room following the concert. This year’s event celebrated the love of chamber music and his contribution to the college.

Each year, the competition costs approximately $5,000. An endowment has been established for the annual event.

If interested in contributing to this cause, please contact Kristin Bickel at (419) 372-9211 or kbickel@promusica.org.

Student Performances at the Way and the Wood County Public Libraries
Watch for information on the spring chamber music concerts at both the Wood County Public Library in Bowling Green and the Way Library in Pebblyburg.

Each concert will feature CMA students who received Pro Musica Travel Grants this past year.

Student Grant Recipients Caleb Burkhard and Christopher Murphy attend the Fifth Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition in Thailand.
I was also able to attend many workshops when I was not scheduled to work, and I had the opportunity to attend a baroque flute master class by Jed Wentz, who is one of the leading baroque flutists in this era. I have been a very big fan of his for many years, and being able to meet him and hear him play and teach in concert was an event I was very familiar with as I have attended several state of the art things including Mallet Quartet, which performs in a variety of musical festivals and competitions in the past that I may not have been able to afford otherwise.

This experience also gave me the opportunity to meet board members of the National Flute Association in the future is something I am very interested in, and through my internship I was able to meet and work directly with NFA board members. I intend to apply for this internship again next year, and continue to build these connections with members of the board.

The events that I experienced in Indianapolis were of particular significance, not only for what I learned, but also seeing what it means to be a percussionist in the world today. I look forward to going to this event in the future and also events such as the Ohio Music Education Association Profession Development Conference. I believe these events will help me in the future as both a percussionist and a music educator.

Thank you Pro Musica for making it possible for me to attend this very special music event.

Charles Saenz
2017 Pro Musica Faculty/Staff Award for Exceptional Service to Students

I learned something new every time and it makes me a better musician.

The events that I experienced in Indianapolis were of particular significance, not only for what I learned, but also seeing what it means to be a percussionist in the world today. I look forward to going to this event in the future and also events such as the Ohio Music Education Association Profession Development Conference. I believe these events will help me in the future as both a percussionist and a music educator.

Thank you Pro Musica for making it possible for me to attend this very special music event.

Charles Saenz
2017 Pro Musica Faculty/Staff Award for Exceptional Service to Students

I learned something new every time and it makes me a better musician.

The events that I experienced in Indianapolis were of particular significance, not only for what I learned, but also seeing what it means to be a percussionist in the world today. I look forward to going to this event in the future and also events such as the Ohio Music Education Association Profession Development Conference. I believe these events will help me in the future as both a percussionist and a music educator.

Thank you Pro Musica for making it possible for me to attend this very special music event.