The experience was important to my growth in several regards; first, it immersed me in Italian culture (language, art, cuisine, temperament and society), second, my knowledge of Italian Renaissance and Gothic art grew exponentially, connecting the visual and aural arts and how they influenced each other in this period and later; and third, this summer greatly increased my experience as an international performer (giving five concerts). An on-site art history class examined important works of Renaissance and Gothic art throughout Florence and Tuscany. We were able to see original art works and tour architectural works of this period. Our course met twice weekly in Florence at the Uffizi Gallery, the Accademia, the Bargello and at important churches Santa Maria Novella, Santa Croce and Santa Maria del Fiore to name a few. Each Saturday, we took extensive field trips throughout Tuscany to examine art from competing counties surrounding Florence, such as Pisa, Luca, Sienna and Arezzo.

In the musicology section we examined the history of Renaissance music in Florence, including composers, important church figures, and the Medici family. We also examined the music of Luciano Berio, a monumental force in Italian and contemporary music of the 20th century that helped to illustrate the influence of powerful figures in the development of Florentine music and how religious and social events created new music.

Finally, I participated in a course with Dr. John Sampen and three other saxophonists from Bowling Green. We rehearsed almost daily in a garage and gave five concerts throughout our course of study. Four were in Florence and one was in the south of Italy in Trani, along the Adriatic coast. We premiered new music by Dr. Marilyn Shude and other student composers studying in Italy. We collaborated with other Italian saxophonists, including Marco Albonetti, a BGSU alumus, and the saxophone class of the Cherubini conservatory in Florence.

This was particularly beneficial, for we found ourselves reaching a mutual understanding while working toward a common goal. The program also afforded me the opportunity to work on my Italian skills. As a semi-fluent French speaker, I found after several weeks I could communicate on a basic level; I attribute this improvement to my knowledge of French, but I developed Italian linguistic skills because of this program.

Pro Musica awarded me $500 toward this adventure. I am grateful to them for helping students who seek international experience.

Dear Members,

Looking back on Pro Musica’s accomplishments in 2004-05, I am pleased to report that in the spring of 2005 we awarded an undergraduate scholarship of $1,000 to Mary Ryan, a senior music education major from Fremont, and a graduate scholarship of $1,500 to Jeffrey Hesler, a master’s degree candidate in performance from Lapeer, Mich. These scholarships were funded from the interest generated by our Pro Musica endowment.

On December 10, the College of Musical Arts presents the 39th Annual Competitions in Music Performance. The event begins with a light supper and continues with a concert featuring the competition’s finalists, some of the college’s top talents. We hope that you will participate in this fundraiser Pro Musica sponsored by attending this delightful musical evening.

Last year Pro Musica’s membership fees funded travel domestically or internationally to 56 students for participation in educational programs, competitions, concerts, conferences, master classes and research projects. Students traveled to Italy, France, Greece, Austria, Ghana, Taiwan and from the east to west coasts of the United States.

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 projects that are often beyond the reach of state funding.

Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0290

Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0290

Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0290

Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0290

Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0290

Pro Musica’s mission is to make a positive difference for all people through music. In the coming year, Pro Musica will celebrate an exciting 10th Anniversary. Please consider joining us with your support to help extend the reach of Pro Musica’s mission.

Looking forward, Pro Musica is excited about the coming year and the opportunities that lay ahead. Our goal is to continue to grow and to expand our programs and activities in order to reach more people with the joy of music.

Thank you for your support and for being a part of Pro Musica’s mission to make music a part of everyone’s life.

Ramona Cormier
President
If you can't find Barbara Lockard sipping elderberry wine on the set of Arsenic and Old Lace, you might catch a flying glimpse of her by following the cacophony of sounds and exclamations echoing through the halls of Bowling Green State University's College of Musical Arts.

A precocious child by age four, Barbara answered the call to sing a duet on stage at Vacation Bible School. Afterwards, her mother took her to a local voice teacher who pronounced her “a hopeless monotone who will never sing.” Then the teacher died, unexpectedly, never to witness her fatal error.

Growing up in West Frankfort, Ill. (300 miles south of Chicago), Barbara, an only child, was her mother’s “full-time hobby.” Her father was a banker who also taught pennmanship. Barbara took elocution lessons at age five and piano at eight. After finishing high school, she enrolled at Indiana University, graduating in 1956 with a bachelor’s in music education, a master’s in vocal pedagogy, voice and music literature in 1957 and a doctorate in voice and opera stage performance in 1964. At Indiana, she studied with the Metropolitan Opera District Competition. From her days in Kansas, Barbara loves to tell the story of a young lady whose handpicked recital piece was Somewhere Over the Rainbow. Barbara, realizing the implication of this at the last minute, advised her to sing “anything” but Over the Rainbow in Kansas.

Barbara married Jim (James Paul) Zimmerman on May 26, 1964. Jim laughingly tells stories about Barbara. “I often say Barbara’s mind goes 100 mph, even in her sleep. I love music—Barbara is music—so I married her.”

When asked of her summary philosophy in music, Barbara considered a minute and answered: “A good voice is a gift to be expanded with acting and musicianship. A singer must always have something to say to keep the drama going. Neither is complete without the other.”

As a past president of Pro Musica, Barbara states, “Pro Musica provides a flexible monetary menu for our students’ educational experience.”

Sitting with Barbara and watching her direct Arsenic and Old Lace was a treat. She laughed at one of the scenes, leaned over, and whispered to me, “You know, my mother always thought I was serious.”

Composer and Professor Emeritus Wallace De Pue recalls meeting Barbara as a new faculty member: “She had a voice like a howitzer.” On a more serious note, Wallace remembers that when his wife, Linda, was killed in a car accident, Barbara appeared unannounced at her front door, handed her a succulent chicken, turned around without saying a word, and left. “I think she knew if she talked she would end up crying,” says Wallace, “but that is the unique way Barbara shows love.”

Barbara tours for three weeks each May throughout northwest Ohio, performing as many as 17 shows in 10 days, with BGSU Opera for Youth. The student group presents works such as Little Red Riding Hood by Seymour Barab and The Goose Girl by Thomas Pasatieri. She is also director of the Musical Theatre Camp offered through the College’s Summer Music Institute.

Barbara married Jim (James Paul) Zimmerman on May 26, 1964. Jim laughingly tells stories about Barbara. “I often say Barbara’s mind goes 100 mph, even in her sleep. I love music—Barbara is music—so I married her.”

When asked of her summary philosophy in music, Barbara considered a minute and answered: “A good voice is a gift to be expanded with acting and musicianship. A singer must always have something to say to keep the drama going. Neither is complete without the other.”

As a past president of Pro Musica, Barbara states, “Pro Musica provides a flexible monetary menu for our students’ educational experience.”

Sitting with Barbara and watching her direct Arsenic and Old Lace was a treat. She laughed at one of the scenes, leaned over, and whispered to me, “You know, my mother always thought I was serious.”

I would like to thank the donors of Pro Musica for their encouragement and support of my participation in the Tuesday Music Club Scholarship. My involvement and successful completion of the competition demanded great sacrifice and dedication on my part, and I am pleased to report that it paid off with great reward. As the “Gertrude Marta Plaum Scholarship for Voice,” recipient, I received an $800 scholarship that I will use to further my vocal career!

Through the assistance provided by Pro Musica, I was able to take advantage of this learning experience and to devote myself wholeheartedly to my performance, free from the stress of financial constraints. For that reason, Pro Musica is very special to me and I look forward to your support while here at BGSU.

I received a grant to study at the Ionian University in Corfu, Greece for a week in July as part of the Third International Summer Academy & Festival hosted by Ionian University. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The ability to study violin there combined music with travel knowledge and sophistication.

I studied violin with Spiros Gikontis daily in master classes and learned the musicality aspects of Bruch’s Violin Concerto and solo Bach.

I attended night concerts performed by Bowling Green State University and Ionian University faculty. I performed in the Student Concert at the end of the festival. Interacting with Greek students helped me learn more about Greek culture, food, and music. I made friends and have memories to last a lifetime.

Finances are a challenge in college and without monetary help from Pro Musica I would not have been able to go to Greece to study.