Amanda Van Wechel

Profile

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 second year as Co-Director 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 alumnus, 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 secure 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. The new system streamlines the work in Van Wechel’s office and also allows faculty and staff to have more information sooner regarding prospective students. She and her two graduate assistants schedule visits, trial lessons and auditions for prospective students.

Van Wechel had the on-the-job training for this position when she was a master’s student and is excited to see a new software program implemented this past summer. The music director for the Undergraduate Admission System, Van Wechel supervised the project and was excited to see when students received a personalized message from Van Wechel. The new system streamlines the work in Van Wechel’s office and also allows faculty and staff to have more information sooner regarding prospective students. She and her two graduate assistants schedule visits, trial lessons and auditions for prospective students.

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Amanda Van Wechel is the coordinator of Undergraduate Music Admissions. She loved working with Moss and learned an enormous amount of information and skills. They made such a great team that the two even contemplated submitting a video to be on the “Amazing Race.” Van Wechel graduated in 2010. She loved to play the clarinet, but felt there were opportunities that would combine her love for music with her other strengths. When she was an undergraduate student at Luther College, she minors 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 finds 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 of the choices. Those students usually want to audition on bagpipes or ukulele. 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 meeting, 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 athletic, outdoors people. They enjoy biking 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 Bolin, Jane Milbrodt, Karol Spencer, Pam Makara, Vincent Corrigan

Middle Row: Bruce Moss, Corazon Nelson, Cody Greenwell, Penny Thompson-Krause, Myra Merritt, Bernice Schwartz

Back Row: Ryan Hunt, the late Doug Weyland, Vanessa Chapman, Jeffrey Showell, Linda Brown

Not Pictured: Janine Baughman, Tina Bunce, Ellen Dalton, Thomas Headley, Amanda Van Wechel, Ronald Woofter, Enoch Wu, Jim Zimmerman

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Dr. Penny Thompson-Krause (newsletter)
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Tony Wagener (Director of Development)

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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.

In Memoriam Douglas Wayland

My dear friend, Douglas Wayland passed away last week, just a few months after his 90th birthday. In times like these, 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 that, though still heartbroken, I came away comforted! I looked for the word friend in the Bible, because Douglas was a true friend, not just to me, but to many others. The two scriptures that stood out were: Proverbs 17:17 “A friend loveth at all times…” and Proverbs 18:24 “…but a friend who sticketh closer than a brother.” As I looked on Facebook at all the heartfelt expressions of love and gratitude and received in-depth explanations of what was compressed into a 20-minute presentation, I participated in a panel discussion before a highly receptive audience. Even more beneficial, the question and answer session that followed was wonderful with insightful questions and ideas that challenged my points in a way that brought learning to both panelists and audience members.

The conference rekindled my enthusiasm for film media scoring, an art often overlooked by scholarly review. I am grateful for the opportunity for my paper, which I was given to attend and participate in this event.

Daniel Parsley

2013 KISS Salzburg Summer

KISS is a non-profit consortium that sponsors programs throughout the world. The KISS Salzburg program is affiliated with the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Teaming with American faculty, it provides high quality, educational opportunities for American and Austrian music students. As an assistant faculty member, I taught for choral literature. I was also a faculty member, I taught a non-credit, four-weeks long, the musicians I met will always be remembered. I attended the 2013 Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, an intensive four-week program, in Burlington, Vt., where I had the pleasure of performing Mendelssohn’s ’Saxophone Quartet No. 2 with four talented musicians from across the country. Students in the festival range from age 25, with the majority being college age. I heard other students perform in chamber ensembles or as soloists and was highly impressed with the talent displayed by all age groups.

Concerts and master classes were performed in the beautiful Southwick Hall. A typical week consisted of evening concerts and master classes. Twice a week we received lessons from teachers of our preference. During the first week I studied with my professor from BGSU, Matthew Manchur, and the last two weeks I studied with Karen Ritchie.

I returned from the festival with a new love for chamber music. Although the festival is only four weeks long, the musicians I met will always remain lifelong friends.

Michael Kasinge

Music and the Moving Image Conference

The 2013 Music and the Moving Image (MAMI) Conference was held at NYU Steinhardt in New York City, but the location was not what made the trip worthwhile. At the conference, I attended numerous diverse presentations, ranging from the differences in cultural entertainment standards between the cultures to the subdued styles of experimental films. I was able to participate in conducting the entire symphony orchestra, and I also led group excursions throughout the city. I was also given the opportunity that I was given to attend and present research to the audience, and I was able to attend numerous sessions.

Working at KISS Salzburg gave me relevant teaching experience at the collegiate level. Furthermore, the connections fostered with both American and Austrian faculty members may prove to be extremely important in my future. I refined my conducting skills by working with choral and orchestral ensembles. I led four talented musicians from across the country. I was also the 2013 residence director for KISS Salzburg. This position included the oversight of the student residence in Heinrich Haus Youth Hostel and communication between KISS faculty, host staff, and students. As Assistant Director of the KISS Chore, I was given the opportunity to conduct sectional and pieces. One of the most engaging opportunities with this ensemble was conducting the entire company.

Karen Nyrie

That same year, however, he was awarded the Richard Wagener Scholarship Foundation Award for study at Bayreuth. He decided to go to Bayreuth instead. Doug actually lived with his German grandparents in Germany as a child and remained there until he was around six years old. Germany was his first love. Later in his life, he began to travel, perform and eventually lecture extensively. His career was international. Bowing Green is like a mini-museum—a reflection of his many years of international travel, with exquisite artifacts and collectibles from around the world. As you know, Doug was a linguist and sang repertoire in over 25 different languages, several of which he spoke fluently. Doug’s Final Week…

Pro Musica 3rd Annual Celebrity Server and 30th Anniversary Party

Coffee Classics: Wood County Library, March 8, 2014, 10:30–11:30 a.m. Memorial Concert for Douglas Wayland: TBA

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. Please consider learning more about making an estate gift to Pro Musica!

Contact Dr. Jeffrey Shallow, dear at 419-372-2711 for a confidential conversation about how easy it is to continue your support of future students through Pro Musica.

Be sure to visit and like us on Facebook at BGSU Pro Musica!