Reflections from DuWayne & Dottie Hansen

The students at the CMA! DuWayne began taking piano lessons when he was 10. For whatever reason, he fell in love with classical music from the very first day. When he had a paper route, he would spend the little money he made on classical recordings (78 rpm), however, he had to make them into the house because his mother thought his interest in such music would soon pass. Dottie began piano lessons when she was seven. She was attracted to the organ in high school and played for Sunday night services at her church. Her grandma always heard her play and gave her a monitory reward for every service she completed. Dottie’s father played trombone quite well. Although he majored in engineering, he began the marching band at Lashig University when he was still a student. Throughout his lifetime, he played in several dance bands, a number of community orchestras and often in church with his daughter. DuWayne’s mother’s side of the family was involved with music in many ways. His great-grandfather was a first-rate fiddler, playing fiddle strings, and his uncle owned a music store where DuWayne spent a great deal of time as he was growing up.

Musical Background

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DuWayne was a huge success! We raised over $16,000 for the College of Musical Arts. The Hansen Musical Arts Series was initiated to promote the music curriculum guide for Ohio teachers. Copies of the guide are in several editions can still be purchased on eBay and at the State Department of Education, and eventually BGSU. When DuWayne moved to Ohio in 1969, Dr. E. Richard (Dick) Shoup became a close friend and mentor. Shoup was supervisor of music at the Ohio State Department of Education, and eventually asked DuWayne to serve and edit the first statewide music curriculum guide for Ohio teachers. Copies of several editions can still be purchased on eBay and other websites.

Hansen Series

The Hansen Musical Arts Series was initiated to help students and faculty profit from the wisdom and experience of those who have excelled in the music profession. Exposing people of significance can make and leave a lasting impression—sometimes remaining in the memory for a lifetime. The idea for the series was formulated with former Dean Richard Kennell. Kennell always wanted the extra mile in making each of the residences a unique success. Faculty members help select the visiting musicians through a faculty committee appointed by the Dean of the College and currently headed by Dr. Kenneth Thompson. Fortunately, DuWayne has been most supportive in carrying on the series tradition, now in its 13th year. Dottie and DuWayne are excited in expressing that every session offered over these 13 years have been highlights of their lives!

Hansen Fellowship Program:

Our latest funding initiative evolved from discussions with DuWayne, Dr. William Mathis, chair of Music Performance Studies, and other music faculty members. The question was “What can we do to attract the finest students in BGSU?” This question is relevant because the College of Musical Arts currently enroll such students and how might we help the College enroll more of these students. The Music Fellowship Program is based on the notion that the best students could significantly benefit from a series of professional experiences that would parallel their undergraduate studies. Dottie and DuWayne hope these additional experiences, which will be covered by the Fellowship, will not only be attractive to exceptional students, but help them graduate “one step ahead” of students from other schools of music.

Closing Thoughts

Dottie and DuWayne have been richly blessed because of their lifelong association with BGSU. The family of students and faculty of the College of Musical Arts and the University have welcomed us home. We have reached far more from our support of the University than we ever could have imagined when we began. Indeed, for us, BGSU is the “gift that keeps giving!”

4th Annual
Celebrity Server Night

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Visiting the College of Musical Arts

The College of Musical Arts at Bowling Green State University is the largest and most comprehensive music school in Ohio, offering degrees in music composition, music education, music theory, music performance, music technology, music business, and music therapy. The College is home to the Caesar F. Tower, which houses the Department of Music and the College of Musical Arts. The College is also home to the Musical Arts Center, a state-of-the-art performing arts complex.

Bowling Green State University

Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0290
extremely rewarding experience. The journey there was a challenge, but my colleagues, Thomas Beverly and Andrew Selle, and I were elated and running on adrenaline when we exited the airport into the streets of Athens. We had a free afternoon upon arrival, so we could become oriented. We found the metronome and walking routes to the conference sites. A brief opening ceremony and concert started the activities on Sunday evening.

Monday morning included a levy of concerts and paper sessions, oftentimes with two events happening concurrently. This schedule continued through the conclusion of the conference on Friday. I saw great performances by works of Dr. Elaine Lillios, Thomas Beverly and Andrew Selle. A staggering amount of new technology was used in the concerts. I was most intrigued by a custom peripheral a composer had built to sense height, pitch and yaw of hands above the board, similar to the existing Leap Motion technology, but more dynamically responsive.

Friday evening’s concert consisted of video works, collaborations between video artists and composers in a wide variety of styles. My piece was featured on Friday’s video concert as well. This event was originally scheduled in one of the smaller halls in the Onassis Center, but two days before the performance the venue was changed to a movie theater. I have never had a screening in a real movie theater. I converted my video to a different format the day before the concert, so it could be loaded onto the digital movie theater projector. The thrill of seeing my piece on the big screen was indescribable. My work was well received and will have two more performances later in the year.

The other major component of the conference was paper sessions. I attended lectures by giants in the field including Jon Chowning, inventor of FM synthesis, and Jean-Claude Risset, a composer known for his work in the field of electronic music and pioneering the creation of many auditory illusions.

The conference was an incredible learning experience and I could not have traveled to attend it without your generous support.
The session, “The Healing Power of Music Therapy,” presented by Dr. Richard Fratianne, addressed how burn victims are helped by music. We learned how the brain functions with respect to emotions, memory, pleasure and how the body responds to music. The doctor stated, “Music has the capacity to activate and integrate all three levels of brain response.” He also told us that “Music therapy diverts patients’ attention away from pain.” Tests were performed on patients and the results showed that stress hormones were lowered as a result of their work with music therapists. Pain and anxiety levels were reduced. Music promotes healing.

Another session was “Evidence-based Music Making Wellbeing.” Clavinoros were used with patients suffering from addiction. Familiar songs are played for the patients to trigger a response or realization. The instruments are also used with the elderly suffering from dementia. Health issues treated with music therapy can yield profound results.
The students at the CMA! In fact, DuWayne was hired to teach graduate courses and develop the graduate program. Needless to say, both Dottie and DuWayne have taken great satisfaction in the enormous growth of the CMA, in numbers and in quality!

Favorite Memories of BGSU

From the very beginning, Dottie fell in love with the faculty and students in the Department of Music. In those days, music was a department in the College of Education. Dottie says, “They were like a family,” and, in the same vein, she has kept in touch with a number of musical alumni and former music faculty. She especially admired William Alexander and his wife, who were most kind. Mrs. Alexander became an SAU Patroness and often invited the chapter to her house for a meeting or ceremony. Dottie liked Kennedy’s approach to teaching music theory.

DuWayne fell in love with Dottie and family remembers the many hours they spent involved in musical activities at BGSU. The environment at BGSU influenced their daughter, Beth, as she went on to major in music education and performance at Ithaca College and currently teaches music (strings) in Fairport, NY.

DuWayne particularly admires faculty members who did so much to build the reputation of the school, especially emeritus faculty members Mark Kelly, Virginia Marks and Dr. Ivan Trinder, former Associate Dean Jan Pirolo, and BGSU Distinguished Artist Professors Drs. John Sampen and Marilyn Shropshire—two of the most outstanding individuals on the faculty while he was there.

Musicians

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