Other News

Celebrity Server V

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Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition

The College of Musical Arts announces the ninth annual Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 19–20, 2016 in Bryan Recital Hall. Finals are on Sunday at 3 p.m. The competition is co-chaired by Dr. Conor Nelson and Dr. Susan Nelson. Pro Musica will provide a reception in the Kennedy Green Room following the finals. Pro Musica members are invited to attend any part of the competition.

In honor of Wayland's love of chamber music and his contribution to BGSU, the College of Musical Arts has dedicated the competition in his name. This competition was founded by Doug and Carolyn and Robert Lineback.

As a boy of six growing up in El Paso, Ill., a town of just under 3,000 residents, John Sampen learned to play the piano. His mother, who also played, provided him with his initial musical experience. Several years later his father introduced the clarinet and saxophone to him. While his parents main livelihood was owning a hardware store, their appreciation and love of music kindled a matching enthusiasm in all four children who played instruments. By the time John entered El Paso–Gridley High School, he knew that he wanted to pursue a career in music and to play the saxophone.

Sampen spent two summers at Interlochen Arts Camp in northwest Michigan at the encouragement of his father who had served as a counselor. At IAC, he studied the saxophone with Frederick Hemke, a strong influence in the classical saxophone world. Hemke's mentoring influenced and shaped his musical experiences. Not surprisingly, Sampen remained at Northwestern earning his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. Moreover, his achievements secured him a place on the list of Distinguished Alumni of the Bienen School of Music.

While at Northwestern, he met his wife, Marilyn Shrade. He reiterates that she has influenced and mentored his growth as a musician and composer. They've grown together sharing musical ideas, traveling and performing throughout their lives.

The Pro Musician

Winter 2016

Dr. John Sampen,

Pro Musica Faculty/Staff Award for Service to Students

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34 years of marriage. They left Northwestern when Sampen accepted a position — one of three openings in the United States — at Wichita State University. They remained there for three years until relocating to BGSU when his current position opened in 1977.

Countless photos and posters cover the walls from floor to ceiling in Sampen’s office. A closer look reveals innumerable photos of his former students, reflecting John’s pride in their accomplishments. Furthermore, the genuineness and sincerity of his pride is evident when he speaks about them and is mirrored by one of his student’s comments about the saxophone studio. “We have an incredibly fruitful dynamic of exchange of ideas, peer support, mentorship, experimentation, innovation, and genuine collaboration and friendships that exists within our studio, and without the vision and leadership of Dr. Sampen, none of that would be possible.”

An example of the global impact of Sampen’s leadership dates back to the late 80s when few opportunities for students to play the saxophone existed in Taiwan. Several students from Taiwan came to study with him at BGSU. After earning their degrees, they returned home and subsequently established saxophone programs throughout Taiwan. One of his most memorable travel experiences took him there not only to perform, but also to visit those programs. Unquestionably, those programs reflect just how significant and far-reaching his influence has been. They are a testament to the success of his saxophone studio at BGSU.

Sampen’s steadfast mentorship continues to influence current students and alumni today. An advocate of healthy living, he cycles and plays basketball. He stresses that the health of a musician is paramount. Playing music requires both physical and mental stamina, as musicians often face injuries from hours of intensive practice. To that end, he is protective of his health serving as a role model for his students. Reading is another form of relaxation as is traveling to the music requires both physical and mental stamina, as musicians often face injuries from hours of intensive practice. To that end, he is protective of his health serving as a role model for his students. Reading is another form of relaxation as is traveling to the music scene. I was also able to meet new colleagues and former students from Taiwan. After earning their degrees, they returned home and subsequently established saxophone programs throughout Taiwan. One of his most memorable travel experiences took him there not only to perform, but also to visit those programs. Unquestionably, those programs reflect just how significant and far-reaching his influence has been. They are a testament to the success of his saxophone studio at BGSU.

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Students can be assured that retirement is still in the distant future.

Brian Sears
International Music Conference and Electroacoustic Barn Dance
Denton, Texas and Fredericksburg, Va.
September 26 – October 3, 2015

My visit and performances at the International Music Conference and Electroacoustic Barn Dance were enriching educational experiences that taught me great lessons that will be valuable to me as I continue my professional development. During the week I was able to reconnect with colleagues I had met at previous events and follow up with them to see what new contributions they had been making to the electroacoustic music scene. I was also able to meet new colleagues who are working in the same field that I am, and exchange ideas while simultaneously exposing a new audience to my artwork.

The week began in Denton, Texas, at the International Computer Music Conference. Throughout the seven days of the conference, there were concerts, keynote presentations by Jonny Harrison and Miller Puckette, and paper presentations by composers and researchers from around the world. On Saturday, I performed my piece Reverberance in Voertman Hall. I shared the stage with many other composers including Russell Pinkston (UT, Austin) and Keith Kirkhoff.

Throughout the rest of the week, I was able to see some of the work that my colleagues had been working on first hand, and meet some amazing composers such as Adrian Moore and Panayiotis Kokoras.

After the events of the week came to a close, I traveled to Fredericksburg, Va., for a completely different experience.

Co-Presidents
Ellen Dalton and Kathy Moss

Message from our New Co-Presidents

In the words of the old Bob Dylan song, "The times they are a-changin'."

This is a year of great change in leadership for Pro Musica. Karol Spencer, after many years of sterling, enthusiastic and passionate service as president, finally put her foot down and said “no more.” Her shoes are very hard to fill. After many discussions among the executive committee, we stepped forward to be co-presidents. This required some tweaking of the by-laws by the board but it was accomplished and here we are.

At the same time Linda Szych, long-time administrative secretary to the Dean of the College of Musical Arts, the person who kept the records for Pro Musica, retired and was not replaced. Leslie Galan, budget coordinator, stepped in to assume the role of Pro Musica liaison. And the BGSU Foundation is undergoing changes in some of its record-keeping policies.

Celebrity Server V on October 3, 2015, was a success—fun was had by all, music students performed wonderfully and over $8,000 was raised to add to the money generated by memberships to fund music student travel grants.

As we write this message, the snow is blanketing Bowling Green in its crisp, white glistening flakes and yet we are thinking ahead of our spring fund raiser. Keep reading for more details about this scrumptious endeavor!!

Keep warm!!
Ellen Dalton and Kathy Moss
Co-Presidents

Student Essays

Jacob Sandridge
Root Signals Music Festival
Jacksonville, Fla.
September 10-12, 2015

Early in May 2015, I was invited as a guest to the Root Signals Electronic Music Festival. The festival is a three-day event that programs composers from all across the nation. This year over 40 composers attended, myself included. Several Bowling Green State University alumni also were in attendance, including composers Thomas Beverly, Carter Rice and Matthew Harder, and percussionist Michael Vencelli.

My performance was scheduled for Saturday. I performed my original composition for one performer and live electronics via Max/MSP. The work, titled Stung Koi Rong, was inspired by a small wooden frog that my friend brought to me from Thailand. The frog is hollow, with ridges on its back, and when it is played, it makes a sound similar to a cricket. In addition to playing the instrument, the performer is instructed to whistle and rustle a plastic bag. All of the sounds are produced via live processing of acoustic sounds in Max/MSP. These elements combine to form an atmospheric work. The title roughly translates as “frog sound” in Thai.

The performance was well received, and I learned about the amount of preparation it takes to put on a festival of this magnitude. It was a great opportunity to make connections with musicians from outside academia, and to assimilate their ideas with my own ideas. It was encouraging that BGSU was well-represented at this conference and I am glad that I was able to contribute to furthering the notion that the University is a hub for contemporary music.
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Thank you all for your support of our talented and amazing students who have benefited from your generosity.

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Where will YOU go next with 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 dollar of your membership fee goes to support student grants. Please consider learning more about making an estate gift to Pro Musica.

Contact Tony Wagener, director of development, College of Musical Arts, at 419-372-4261 for a confidential conversation about how easy it is to continue your support of future students through Pro Musica.

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In honor of Wayland’s love of chamber music and his contribution to BGSU, the College of Musical Arts has dedicated the competition in his name. This competition was founded by Doug and Carolyn and Robert Lineback to enable students the opportunities to create and perform in chamber music groups. 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 Tony Wagner at (419) 372-4261 or awagner@bgsu.edu.

Naslada Bistro Fundraiser
Mark your calendar for a special Pro Musica fundraiser from April 18-23, 2016 at Naslada Bistro, 182 S. Main Street, in Bowling Green. The bistro will donate a portion of your bill to Pro Musica during this weeklong event. Just be sure to mention Pro Musica when you order. Naslada Bistro takes great pride in using only the freshest ingredients to prepare authentic European and American cuisine, and to promote excellent, healthy meal choices. Homemade meals with no preservatives and unique signature soups are its specialty. To view the menu and the bistro’s hours, visit www.nasladabistro.com. Please let others know about this special event!

Executive Committee Members
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Christopher Dietz, Vice President
Vincent Corriga, Secretary
Jane Milbrodt, Treasurer
Jeffrey Showell, Dean
Myra Merritt and Ellen Dalton, Publicity
Tony Wagner, Director of Development, Foundation Office

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