

Fall 2016

## Pro Musica Newsletter, Fall 2016

Bowling Green State University. College of Musical Arts

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# The Pro Musician

Fall 2016

## New Faces

College of Musical Arts welcomes new faculty

### Promoting Musical Excellence

*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 music students.*



#### **Burger to Teach, Perform as Fulbright Specialist in Malaysia**

Dr. Cole Burger has gone to Southeast Asia for a few weeks each of the last two years, even traveling to Thailand unknowingly in the midst of a coup—albeit a “very peaceful” one—in 2014. But the trip he will take this May, back to Malaysia for a third time, will be a little different.

The instructor of piano in the college will teach piano, present recitals and master classes at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur as a Fulbright Specialist. Part of the U.S. State Department’s prestigious Fulbright Scholar Program, the specialist program promotes short-term collaborative projects linking American scholars with counterparts at host institutions in more than 140 countries.

The fourth-year BGSU faculty member wasn’t really aware of the availability of international travel through the Fulbright Program until his colleague, Dr. Elaine Lillios, spent the 2013-2014 year as a Fulbright Scholar in Greece. Then, in Malaysia last summer, he heard about the specialist program at the U.S. Embassy, with whom he communicated about a placement with a Malaysian university.

Burger credits two other colleagues, Drs. Robert Satterlee and Solungga Fang-Tzu Liu, for their help in establishing his connection in Southeast Asia. They spoke on his behalf with Mongkol Chayasirisobhon, a Thai “impresario,” who studied in the U.S., has both musical and business training, and sets up concerts and teaching opportunities for American musicians. “We have a chance to share what it means to teach and learn classical piano music,” said Burger, whose international trips to teach and perform have also included one to China, in 2007, and five to Europe. To go abroad, and to welcome international students to BGSU and elsewhere in America, and help change lives through music—that’s diplomacy at its best,” he maintains.

Such opportunities were among the attractions to apply for the Fulbright, as was the chance for professional development and a learning experience in general, Burger noted. “Just because I have a doctoral degree doesn’t mean I don’t have more to learn, and you learn a lot from travel,” he pointed out.

**Caroline Chin**

Assistant Professor of Violin  
 Master of Music, Juilliard School  
 Bachelor of Music, Indiana University

Described by the *Chicago Sun Times* as "...riveting and insightful, who lights up in passages of violin pyrotechnics," Caroline Chin has concertized throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. She performed her solo debut at age 12. An avid chamber musician, Chin is currently a member of the Hudson Piano Trio. She has been an invited guest at the Consonances Festival in France and the Schiermonnikoog Chamber Music Festival in Holland, the 2 Rivers Chamber Music Festival in the UK, the Scotia Festival in Canada and the Newburyport Chamber Music Festival in Massachusetts.

**Ryan Ebright**

Instructor in Musicology  
 Ph.D. in musicology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
 Master of Music in musicology and vocal performance, Peabody Conservatory

Dr. Ryan Ebright's research focuses on music for the voice, stage and screen, with an emphasis on 20th-century opera, minimalism and 19th-century lieder. His current project, *Making American Opera for the Modern Age*, centers on the negotiation of cultural politics, artistic innovation and the politics of institution and genre in the creation of new American operas from the 1980s to the present. Presenting regularly at regional, national and international conferences, Ebright has written for *The Grove Dictionary of American Music*, *Notes*, *MAKE: A Literary Magazine*, and has an article forthcoming in the edited collection *Rethinking Reich*.

*What unique experiences will you bring to your students?*

Like many members of our academic faculty, I am a practicing musician, so I look for ways to combine performance and scholarship. While learning about musical minimalism in the undergraduate 20th-21st-century music history survey last fall, the students and I put together an in-class performance of Terry Riley's *In C*. It gave us a unique perspective on the music and was a lot of fun as well! I also want to connect students with the wider music community, both at BGSU and beyond. The graduate students in my contemporary American opera seminar last fall documented the history of the BGSU MicroOperas program (online at <http://bgsumicrooperas.weebly.com>) and for the same course in Fall 2016, I am working to bring opera composers and artists from outside the University into the classroom.

**Michael King** (Director of Falcon Marching Band)

Doctorate of Musical Arts in conducting, University of South Carolina  
 Master of Music in instrumental conducting, Central Michigan University  
 Bachelor of Music Education, Michigan State University

While in residence in Columbia, Dr. Michael King served as a doctoral conducting associate. His primary responsibility at USC was assisting with the organization and instruction of the 375-member Mighty Sound of the Southeast. At CMU, King was conductor of the Symphony and University Bands; guest conducted the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony; led instruction of fundamentals and drill for the Chippewa Marching Band, and assisted in the undergraduate conducting and instrumental music education curriculum.

*What unique experiences will you bring to your students?*

I hope that I can bring a unique perspective to our music education students based on my past experiences in the public schools as well as to encourage in them a thirst for knowledge as it pertains to new music for wind instruments.

**Lisa Martin**

Assistant Professor of Music Education  
 Ph.D. degrees from the University of Colorado at Boulder  
 Master of Music Education, University of Colorado at Boulder  
 Bachelor of Music Education, University of Illinois

Prior to Dr. Lisa Martin's appointment at BGSU, she served as a graduate instructor at the University of Colorado. She also spent nine years teaching band and orchestra in Illinois and Colorado, specializing in instruction at the middle school level.

**Message from the President**

Time marches on and our Spring 2016 newsletter has become a Fall 2016 newsletter. We hope you've had a good summer and early fall and are enjoying the brilliant colors of the fall leaves.

Continuing the theme of change from the last newsletter, Dean Jeff Showell retired as of June 30, 2016, and Dr. William Mathis has assumed the role of interim Dean of the College of Musical Arts while a national search is being conducted. Dr. Kathy Moss found it necessary to step down as co-president of Pro Musica for personal reasons.

A number of students travelled over the summer using their Pro Musica grants, and you'll learn more about their experiences in the winter newsletter. This fall newsletter features student experiences from the 2015-16 year. I hope that you as members/donors to Pro Musica appreciate learning what your financial contributions have made possible.

For those who live close to Bowling Green, we anticipate hearing some of our talented students perform at the Wood County Library in Bowling Green and at Way Library in Perrysburg during the winter. Watch for information about these concerts.

The annual Celebrity Server event, which was chaired with grace and enthusiasm as well as a lot of hard work by Karol Spencer for 5 years, has been suspended for this year. Karol is enjoying working in her garden and visiting grandchildren and no one else stepped up to take her place as chair. We also did not want to conflict with other fund-raising efforts within the College of Musical Arts.

The membership renewal letters are coming soon. We hope you will renew your membership, encourage others to join, and take pride in supporting talented and hard-working music students who greatly appreciate your interest and support. Remember, very penny donated to Pro Musica goes to support students. Keep warm!

Ellen Dalton  
 President

Martin's research interests include music teacher identity development, assessment practices in music education and music teacher evaluation. She has presented her research locally, nationally and internationally, publishing her work in the *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, the *Journal of Historical Research in Music Education* and *Music Education Research*. In addition, she has written regularly for *The Instrumentalist*.

*What attracted you to the College of Musical Arts at BGSU?*

There are so many reasons I was drawn to the College of Musical Arts at BGSU. Foremost, I was wholly impressed with the caliber and quality of the faculty here. Not only are they outstanding musicians, teachers and scholars, but they are also genuinely caring, engaging and kind people—those you'd hope to know even if they weren't your colleagues!

Moreover, as a music educator, I was attracted to BGSU's strong reputation for training effective music teachers. Our program strikes a critical balance, demanding our students meet high performance standards while also cultivating core pedagogical skills necessary for success in the music classroom. I also value how much hands-on experience is available to BGSU's undergraduate music education majors, through our various community partnerships. Finally, I was drawn to the CMA because of the terrific students. We have invested, tenacious, dynamic student musicians here and they make teaching a complete joy!

**Watch for more new faces at the CMA in the next newsletter!**

# Student Essays



**Elizabeth Williams**  
The American String Teachers Association National Conference  
Tampa, Fla.  
March 2–5, 2016

In early March, it was my privilege to travel to Tampa, Fla., to attend the American String Teachers Association National Conference at the Tampa Convention Center. The conference consisted of four days of sessions related to teaching and performing string instruments. In addition, there were many networking opportunities and the chance to develop professional relationships. Not only did I grow as a performer and teacher, but I made several important professional contacts, which will benefit my future career and the more immediate work on my master's thesis.

I attended many sessions during the conference, but several really stood out. I had the chance to attend two separate sessions related to adult string teaching, which was particularly exciting as this is the subject of my thesis. Also related to my thesis was a session on

Audiation titled “You Are What You Hear: Strategies for Developing Audiation and String Skills.” One of the presenters of this session was Andrew Dabczynski, a highly respected music pedagogue and professor at Brigham Young University. I had the pleasure of speaking with him at length at the end of the session and discussed my interest of applying the principles of teaching beginning students through solfege, etc., to the adult beginner. I was delighted to discover that he is already using these techniques to teach adults, and he encouraged me to continue my research and contact him if needed. Dabczynski is one of several professional teachers I met who teach adult students and encouraged me to pursue my research on the subject.

Besides the sessions I attended specifically for research purposes, I also had the opportunity to attend a session on teaching body mapping to children, an extremely important issue given the high rate of performance injuries among string players. Not only did the session further my own kinesthetic awareness, it gave me practical ways to teach kinesthetic awareness to my students. And finally, another memorable session was the Viola Collegiate Level Master Class, where I had the opportunity to watch Helen Callus, a former president of

Fry Stegman, and assist some students of Woodmore Middle school in Woodville, Ohio, as they prepared and presented a session titled “Adolescent Voice Change: Enjoy it While it Lasts!”

The session was presented to approximately 200 choral directors seeking to know more about how to help students through the adolescent voice change in middle school choir. The presentation featured demonstrations of pieces, singing techniques and warm-ups appropriate for middle school singers along with references and documentation concerning the physical changes one's voice encounters at this young age. The students were very successful in presenting accurate and engaging demonstrations.

My role was to assist students, Nycz and Stegman before, during and after the presentation to make processes and logistics run smoothly. The presentation was very well-received and sparked a lot of interesting discussion afterwards between choral directors both struggling and succeeding with middle school voices.

It was powerfully beneficial to my student teaching experience to attend and participate in this conference with my classroom mentor teacher and be able to discuss overarching themes and ideas as we continue to move forward through the semester. I also cannot express how much of an educational experience it was for me to be able to play even a small role in the preparation of a conference presentation. This only adds to the myriad of experiences I have had during my professional year at BGSU before springing into my career as a licensed music educator. Overall, the experience I had at the conference was plentiful and greatly beneficial as I look to become a better choral music educator, even as a soon-to-be new teacher.

the American Viola Society, coach several talented viola students.

These are just a few highlights from an incredible four days of building professional relationships and growing as a performer and teacher. The connections I made and information I received will greatly benefit the writing of my thesis, and will continue to benefit me as I seek to launch my career in music education and performance. I am incredibly thankful to Pro Musica for making this opportunity possible!

## 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 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, association director of development, College of Musical Arts, at 419-372-9213 for a confidential conversation about how easy it is to continue your support of future students through Pro Musica.



Photo from left to right: Tracey Nycz, Justin Kohler and Dr. Sandra Fry Stegman

## Justin Kohler

American Choral Directors Association Central Division Conference  
Chicago  
February 25–27, 2016

The American Choral Director's Association Central Division Conference was held from February 25 to February 27 in Chicago. Each day of the conference featured sessions focused on the development of skills in the professional career of a choral director and, in some cases, a music educator. Concerts throughout these three days feature talented music students from the middle school to collegiate level from all around Ohio. The generous grant from Pro Musica enabled me to attend this event and grow my skills as a future choral director and music educator.

As a student teacher attending this conference with my coordinating mentor teacher, Tracey Nycz, the benefits were many as I was able to learn new teaching, organizational and presentation strategies for use in the classroom. Another amazing benefit was having the opportunity to shadow Nycz, Dr. Sandra

## Helen West

North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference  
Texas Tech University  
Lubbock, Texas  
March 10–13, 2016

On the 20-hour drive from Bowling Green to Lubbock I developed a stronger rapport with some of the younger members of my studio. As one of the oldest persons in the saxophone studio, I was in charge of one of the two rented vans and rode with six undergraduate saxophone boys. I have little opportunity to interact with these individuals, so driving with them both ways allowed me to get to know each of them a little better. On the ride home we stopped in Oklahoma City for dinner and to see several sights. I've included a picture of us on the Skydance Pedestrian Bridge, one of the attractions we visited on our layover.

At the conference itself, I saw performances by some of the most renowned classical saxophonists in the world. At the Saturday evening concert, Claude Delangle played “Rhapsody for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra” by Claude Debussy, and Kenneth Tse played the US premiere of Zhou Long's “Temple Bugler for Soprano Saxophone and Orchestra”. I also watched master classes given by Fred Hemke and Eugene Rosseau, two of the most famous saxophone educators of the last century. In both master classes I took notes on these famous educators' musical perceptions of



Photo: Dr. John Sampen (right) in a photo opt with BGSU alumni and current students who participated at the 2016 North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference. Helen West is in the middle of the second row from the top.

standard repertoire. I will use their suggestions and ideas when I work on these pieces myself, or am coaching future students. As an educator, I also enjoyed watching their individual teaching styles. Both men are quite funny and have an easy, relaxed rapport with students. Eugene Rosseau is slightly more docile than Hemke, offering gentle suggestions or telling a story about his own experiences with a given piece (usually the stories involved Rosseau's direct work with the composer). Hemke, on the other hand, was

very animated, critiquing students aggressively with an obvious passion for the music. He was never mean and always offered praise, but it was very clear that his goal for the master class was to make the student into as professional of a player as possible in the limited time.

I also attended an "informance" by Harvey Pittel that focused on developing the musical line. This was an incredibly beneficial session for me, and gave me several new ideas on how to develop my musicality and overall tone on the saxophone. The informance ended with a performance of Antonio Vivaldi's *Concertino in d minor for 2 violins*, arranged for 2 soprano saxophones, played by Pittel and Brandford Marsalis.

During the conference I was also able to make several important professional connections. I reconnected with my saxophone professor from my undergraduate degree and watched him perform a classical solo with live, interactive electronics programmed by another professor of mine. I also met and developed a relationship with Dr. Andrew Dahlke, the on-call saxophonist for the Philadelphia Orchestra and saxophone professor at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado.

Dahlke is a wonderful saxophonist and recently transcribed all the *Bach Cello Suites* for saxophone, as well as developed a new classical mouthpiece. I purchased *Suite No. 2 in d minor* and discussed with Dahlke the possibility of my taking some lessons from him when I am visiting my parents in Colorado, where they live.

I also met Dr. David Dees, the saxophone professor at Texas Tech University and the official host of NASA Biennial Conference 2016. A fellow BGSU saxophonist and I were actually able to help Dees and the Texas Tech saxophone studio setup for registration at the conference.

The name tags for the conference attendees were discovered to be in incorrect alphabetical order and the conference organizers were understaffed and would not be able to alphabetize the name tags correctly before registration began. Kendra and I, who were wandering about the campus before the conference began, noticed the chaos and offered to help out. The saxophones from Texas Tech who were helping with registration were very grateful and continued to thank us through the remainder of the conference.

Going to NASA was also incredibly beneficial because it allowed me to visit many exhibitors and tryout multiple types of equipment for my saxophone. At the conference I was able to compare various mouthpieces from various vendors side by side. I ended up purchasing a mouthpiece created by Dahlke.

I would like to thank Pro Musica for the funding that contributing to my attendance at the North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference in Lubbock, Texas.

## Other News



### New Editor of Pro Musica

You may have noticed a new editor for the last issue of the *Pro Musica*.

We said goodbye to long-time editor, Dr. Penny Thompson Kruse this past spring as she left the Pro Musica Executive Committee after many years of service.

We were very fortunate to have Judy Hudson join the EC and assume the duties. Hudson served as an English teacher for the Bowling Green Public Schools prior to her recent retirement.

We welcome Judy on board as we say a huge THANK YOU to Penny on her years of service on the EC. Pro Musica is very fortunate to have Penny continue to serve as a member of the board.

### Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition

The College of Musical Arts announces the tenth annual **Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition** will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 18–19, 2017 in Bryan Recital Hall. Finals are on Sunday at 3 p.m.

Pro Musica will once again provide the annual 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 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 Kristina Devine at (419) 372-9213 or [kmdevin@bgsu.edu](mailto:kmdevin@bgsu.edu).

### Student Performances at the Way and the Wood County Public Libraries

Information on two concerts, which were being scheduled for next semester as the newsletter was going to print, will be forthcoming.

Coordinated by Dr. Christopher Dietz, the "Coffee Classics" at the Wood County Public Library and the concert at the Way Library in Perrysburg will feature current CMA students.

### Naslada Bistro Fundraiser

Watch for upcoming news on another week-long Pro Musica Fundraiser at Naslada Bistro in Bowling Green this spring.

## PRO MUSICA

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