Winter 2017

Pro Musica Newsletter, Winter 2017-2018

Bowling Green State University. College of Musical Arts

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The events that I experienced in Indianapolis were of particular significance, not only for what I learned, but also seeing what it means to be a percussionist in the world today. I look forward to going to this event in the future and also some of the events such as the Ohio Music Education Association Profession Development Conference. I believe these events will help me in the future as both a percussionist and a music educator. Thank you Pro Musica for making it possible for me to attend this very special music event.

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Zachary Green
Percussive Arts Society International Convention
Indianapolis
November 9-12, 2017

The Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) is an event that is set often in Indianapolis, but also occasionally in Texas. Luckily enough for me the event this year was in Indianapolis at the Indianapolis Convention Center. I know this in advance, however the location was nothing like I imagined in my head. The convention center was much larger, and more grandiose than I had previously imagined. PASIC however did not use the whole convention center it was split with the Bands of America Grand National Championships. This was an event I was very familiar with as I have participated in it four times during high school. I was quickly overwhelmed by the number of events, and often had a hard time choosing between one event or another. Several events really stood out to me. These events were: Sound Off!, The Eastman Percussion Ensemble, So Percussion and the expo hall. 

"Sound Off!" was a presentation by Daniel Glass. In this presentation Daniel Glass and a small ensemble of percussionists performed reconstructions of silent era film music. In addition to the performance Daniel Glass explained the history of these pieces, and explained and demonstrated the instruments I was aware of this tradition however I've never seen a live demonstration. I am glad I received the opportunity. Eastman is arguably the most important college percussion ensemble, and their director Michael Burgett is well respected in the field. Programs were gone very quickly so I did not get a chance to see one, however, there were several branches of fairly new pieces for percussion ensemble. I valued this performance because as a percussionist in a percussion ensemble it gave me some reference on what I should be aiming for. So Percussion is a very well known percussion quartet. It has premiered many pieces for percussion ensemble from many recognizable composers such as Steve Reich and Steven Mackey. It performed Steve Reich's Mallet Quartet, which was beyond words. SP also performed a collection of pieces called Amid The Noise. This was very lengthy but it featured community participation, and corrosion a work extremes, which I am very fond of. 

The final event was the expo hall—a large room in which several percussion vendors were selling and demonstrating their latest equipment. I saw several state of the art things including Mallet Technics new Omega Vibe and Pearl's Mallet Station. In addition to the event at PASIC, I also got to see Bowie Green State University's Falcon Marching Band perform its show at the Bands of America Grand National Championships. The FMB was not competing as the competition is for high schools, but it was performing in exhibition which means it was a featured performance of the evening. I have seen these performances in the past, but it was a different kind of experience to watch a group that I have strong feelings towards, and are part of an institution I consider part of my identity.

I was also able to attend many workshops when I was not scheduled to work, and I had the opportunity to attend a baroque flute master class by Jed Wentz, who is one of the leading baroque fluteists in this era. I have been a very big fan of him for many years, and being able to meet him and have him teach me was an amazing experience for me. It also helped me to better understand some of the musical concepts I had heard while listening to his recordings!

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Hannah Greer

Bands of America National Championships Competition

Indiana University of Pennsylvania
November 11, 2017

The Bands of America National Championship was held in Lucas Oil Stadium, which is the stadium that also hosts the Drum Corps International competition and is the only stadium in the world that was built with acoustics in mind. It is a huge venue, probably the finest stadium any of the performing high schools had ever been in, and the audience was so large that Lucas Oil Stadium was half full!

While attending this competition I got to briefly talk to Greg Bimm, the band director at Marian Catholic High School from Chicago. Marian Catholic was one of the competing bands and Bimm is one of my idols in the profession. It was valuable for me to talk to him about his students and the progress they’ve made this year not only because I got to hear new pedagogical approaches but also because it was so cool to see that even Greg Bimm, one of the best educators in the country, is just a normal teacher trying to educate his kids. It made me feel like the level of great teachers he has achieved in his career isn’t so inaccessible for me.

Marian Catholic’s show was centered around the theme of “Nature vs. Machine” and so their song selection featured The Great Locomotive Chaser by Robert W. Smith and a piece called Luminous by John Mackey. Both pieces were originally written for symphonic band, but were specifically arranged for this ensemble. Union High School in Ohio had a show centered around an electric guitar, which was performed by the band’s percussionist, Ardis Rupperspoom as one of its prominently featured arrangements. There were other high schools performing and it was great to see the type of repertoire each band program chose (often from large orchestral works or operas) and how these pieces were connected to separate storylines.

BOA Grand Nationals is such a wonderful competition for career connections and professional development because you literally have the December recording of your private teacher (Dr. Conor Nelson) and a skype interview with some of the world’s best young saxophonists, and I was able to make many new connections with some of the world’s best young saxophonists.

The competition was held at Mahahal University in Thailand. It was one of the most beneficial aspects of the competition, as I consider many of these people my personal friends. We shared ideas about saxophone, music, politics and life through our adventures around Bangkok and constant interaction in a new culture. I was fortunate to be able to participate in Buddhist temples and in many different temples and observe what it is like to live a typical life in Thailand. The culture in Thailand was incredible. The people were friendly, the architecture, music and art that I was exposed to certainly changed my life. The people in Thailand were very kind to all of the competitors, and were excited to share what their life experience was like. Another important aspect of this competition was meeting the many saxophone professors on the jury. After the first round of the competition, all of the competitors were invited to speak to the jury about their performance and get constructive feedback. It is a rare opportunity to be able to participate in such a wonderful competition and have valuable feedback from such experienced and inspirational professors. It was a life-changing experience for me and I am so thankful to Pro Musica for sponsoring my trip to this competition.

Student Grant Recipients Caleb Burkhardt and Christopher Murphy attend the Fifth Jean-Marie Londex International Saxophone Competition in Thailand

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Christopher Murphy
The Fifth Jean-Marie Londex International Saxophone Competition
Mahidol University
Salaya, Thailand
July 9-22, 2017

This past summer I attended the Fifth International Jean-Marie Londex Saxophone Competition with the support of Pro Musica. The competition was held at Mahahal University in Thailand. It was the only saxophone competition in Thailand and it is one of the few NFA sponsored saxophone competitions that I was surrounded by for 2.5 weeks of my stay in Thailand. This was one of the most beneficial aspects of the competition, as I consider many of these people my personal friends. We shared ideas about saxophone, music, politics and life through our adventures around Bangkok and constant interaction in a new culture. I was fortunate to be able to participate in Buddhist temples and in many different temples and observe what it is like to live a typical life in Thailand. The culture in Thailand was incredible. The people were friendly, the architecture, music and art that I was exposed to certainly changed my life. The people in Thailand were very kind to all of the competitors, and were excited to share what their life experience was like.

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If interested in contributing to this cause, please consider learning more about making a gift to Pro Musica.

From left to right: Caleb Burkhardt and Christopher Murphy attend the Fifth Jean-Marie Londex International Saxophone Competition in Thailand

Estate Gifts to Pro Musica

Pro Musica is an organization dedicated to the future of music education and has established an estate gift program to help students experience music 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.

Michaela O’Moore, executive director of development, BGSU Foundation, at 419-372-9213 for a confidential conversation about how easy it is to continue your support of future students through Pro Musica.

Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition

The 11th annual Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition was held on March 24-25, 2018 in Bryan Recital Hall.

The competition featured a wide range of music and included all chamber music genres. The winners received cash prizes ranging from $500 to $5,000.

Other News

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The NFA competition was very important for me because it exposed me to a larger community within the trumpet world. I felt it was very important to help shape my career.

In her nominating statement she said: “During his time here, I have watched as the trumpet studio has grown in quantity and quality. Each year, more and more trumpet students, both undergraduate and graduate level are drawn to BGSU because of the reputation Charles has achieved. He is extremely attentive to every student. He truly believes that every student can succeed and he works hard to find the strength of each student and then build on that strength so the student becomes more confident. As a result, when one sees his students perform, they are all the music making, with nerves of steel.”

— David Dupont

Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition

The 11th annual Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition was held on March 24–25, 2018 in Bryan Recital Hall.

Pro Musica provides the event’s reception in the Kennedy Green Room following the competition, which provides a place for guests to enjoy the love of chamber music and his contribution to the college.

Each year, the competition costs approximately $5,000. An endowment has been established for the annual event. Pro Musica invites interested in contributing to this cause, please contact Kristine Bishop at (419) 372-9213 or kmdavis@bsgu.edu.

Student Performances at the Way and the Wood County Public Libraries

Watch for information on the spring chamber music concerts at both the Wood County Public Library in Bowling Green and theWay and Library in Pergyub. Each concert will feature CMA students who received Pro Musica Travel Grants this past year.

Student Grant Recipients Caleb Burkhart and Christopher Murphy attend the Fifth Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition in Thailand

The Fifth Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition was held in Salaya, Thailand, July 9–22, 2017.

Christopher Murphy

Murphy attended the competition and is noted for his versatility as both an orchestra and chamber musician. He is a former winner of the Leonard Bernstein Young Composers Competition and was named a Semi-finalist at the 2017 New York International Flute Competition. Murphy holds degrees from Bowling Green State University and the Eastman School of Music.

Caleb Burkhart

Burkhart, a native of Bowling Green, Ohio, is a saxophone major at Bowling Green State University, where he is also pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education. He recently enjoyed an international performance tour of Thailand and has been active in several professional organizations.

Burkhart has performed in the USA, Mexico, Canada, and Cuba. He has been a guest artist at the University of Miami, the University of South Florida, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is a member of the Wind Ensemble and the Wind Symphony at BGSU and received the David S. Byrd Scholarship in 2015.

The competition was held at Mahahol University, in Salaya, Thailand. The competition was closed to the general public and was judged by the following three judges:

- Bernice Schwartz, a fellow member of the Tower Brass and an adjunct professor at BGSU
- John David Anderson, head of the Wind Ensemble at the University of Miami
- Jean-Marie Londeix, a French saxophonist

The competition was held in Salaya, Thailand, July 9–22, 2017.

Thanks to Pro Musica, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the competition in Salaya, Thailand. This was a very special experience, since it is my first time traveling to a foreign country and I am from the United States. We performed a program titled “United: A Gathering of Musicians from Europe, Asia, and America” in which we performed the music of Piazzolla, Sinfonietta, and Nagao.

Aside from musical activities, I had lots of time to take in the culture of Thailand. We visited the market, which was bustling with local shoppers and taking in the sights and smells of Thailand. I was very interested in dishes from The World’s Best Pad Thai that we ate every day in a street restaurant to a deep fried scorpion from a street vendor. I had a great experience and learned about the world and about the saxophone. I am deeply grateful for the support of Pro Musica in helping me attend this event.

Statement of interest in the competition and the why the internship would benefit them professionally, a letter of recommendation from my private teacher (Dr. Corin Nelson) and a Skype interview providing their application had passed the first round of reviews. The NFA selects a total of 12 internships each year directly related to the internship.

-direktor of development, BSGU, at 419-372-9213 for a confidential conversation about how easy it is to continue your support of future students through Pro Musica.

That I had been accepted as one of 12 interns for the 2017 NFA Competition, I was beyond excited! My internship at the 2017 National Flute Association Convention was one of the most beneficial aspects of the competition.

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I was also able to attend many workshops when I was not scheduled to work, and I had the opportunity to attend a baroque flute master class by Jed Wentz, who is one of the leading players. I was also able to meet and work directly with NFA board members. I intend to apply for this internship again next year, and continue to build these connections with members of the board.

This experience also gave me the opportunity to develop new friendships that will last my entire life. I became very close with a number of my fellow interns. I met flats that I have been on Instagram for many years in person at this convention. The events that I experienced in Indianapolis were of particular significance, not only for what I learned, but also seeing what it means to be a professional musician. SP also performed a collection of pieces called Extremes, and featured a work called Aura. This experience also gave me the opportunity to appreciate their contributions and am really looking forward to being more involved with this organization as a student co-chair member this school year!