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The opportunity to attend a baroque flute master class was to meet board members of the National Flute Association in hopes of someday becoming a board member myself. I am currently a board member of the Southeast Michigan Flute Association, and I absolutely love the kind of work we do, especially doing more involved with the National Flute Association in the future. I am very interested in, and through my internship I was able to meet and work directly with MBA 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 flutists I have been following for the rest of my life. I became very close with a number of my fellow interns.

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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 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.

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Student Essays

Hannah Greer

Bands of America National Championship Competition
Independence High School

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 world championship 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 greatness 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 Chase 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 Oklahoma had a show centered around the story of “The Verdi Requiem” 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 programmed (often from large orchestral works or operas) and how these pieces were connected to separate storylines.

BOA Grand Nationals is such a wonderful experience for career connections and professional development because you literally have the December Band Festival where programs and educators in the community in all one place, performing at such a high level and pushing each other to reach the next level. The audience is made up of other educators and musicians as well as it was another wonderful way for me to meet and connect with music educators who have the same interests, passions and goals as I do. Not only did I get to engage in conversations that opened my scope of what is possible for a high school marching band, but I also got to experience the various techniques of these bands just how advanced our students can be if we can equip them with the proper resources and information. I can say without a doubt this was a life-changing experience for me and I am so thankful to Pro Musica for sponsoring my trip to this competition.

Christopher Murphy

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

This past summer I attended the Fifth International Jean-Marie Londeix Saxophone Competition with the support of Pro Musica. The competition was held at Mahidol University in Thailand, which is one of the local central banks. It is difficult to describe all the benefits from attending this event, but I will do my best. There were easily 60 international saxophonists that I was surrounded by for 2.5 weeks of my stay in Thailand. This was one of the best educational benefits 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 immersion in a new culture. I was fortunate to be able to participate in Buddhist temples, learning about many different temples and observe what it is like to live a typical life in Thailand. The culture in Thailand was incredible. The food, which was unbelievable, 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 part 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 play for some of the U.S. and European’s greatest saxophonists. Jean-Marie Londeix was unforgettable, and it would be difficult to have another opportunity to do so.

Caleb Burkhardt

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

Thanks to Pro Musica, I had the wonderful opportunity to compete in Thailand for the Fifth Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition.

I am a jazz saxophonist, who is currently a senior at the University of Michigan. Last year I performed with the University of Michigan Jazz Orchestra, which is a professional ensemble led by Kevin Sun. I have also performed at various clubs and venues in the downtown area of Chicago, as well as performed with various professional groups in New York City. I have been performing for several years now, and I have always had a passion for the saxophone.

I was able to participate in this competition, which was held in Thailand, because of the support of Pro Musica. I was able to travel to Thailand and compete, which was a wonderful experience. I was able to meet and work with some of the best saxophonists in the world, and I was able to learn a lot from them. I was also able to experience a lot of new things, such as the food and culture in Thailand.

Overall, I had a great experience in Thailand, and I would highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in saxophone performance. Thank you to Pro Musica for supporting me in this competition.

Other News

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. The competition awards outstanding 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.

If interested in contributing to this cause, please contact Kristen Shafer at (419) 372-9213 or kmdevin@bgsu.edu.

Student Performances at the Way and the Wood County Public Libraries

Watch for information on spring chamber music concerts at both the Wood County Public Library in Bowling Green and the Way Library in Penrynburg.

Each concert will feature DMA students who received Pro Musica Travel Grants this past year.

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

Estate Gifts to Pro Musica

Pro Musica is an organization dedicated to supporting music education and the arts. Our mission is to provide an opportunity for students to 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, director of development, BSU Foundation, at 419-372-9213 for a confidential conversation about how easy it is to continue your support of future students through Pro Musica.
**Student Essays**

**Hannah Greer**  
**Bands of America National Championship 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 World Championships. It is the only stadium in the world that was built with acoustic 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 greatness 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 Chase* by Robert W. Smith and a piece called *Luminos* by John Mackey. Both pieces were originally written for symphonic band, but were specifically arranged for this ensemble. Union High School in Oklahoma had a show centered around “anger with the fight or flight response” theme. It was one of its prominently featured arrangements.

There were other high schools performing and it was great to see the type of repertoire each band projected. I often see from large orchestral works or operas how these pieces were connected to separate storylines.

BOA Grand Nationals is such a wonderful event for career connections and professional development because you literally have the December position in front of our sights. College programs and educators in the community at large are placed in front of such an incredible experience.

The audience is made up of other educators and musicians as well as they are an ever-growing and more open-minded group. I know that I have been an open-minded and willing to accept the many different types of people that I have been able to perform with.

**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 Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand. It is difficult to describe all the benefits from attending this event, but I will do my best. There were essentially 60 international saxophonists 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 immersion in a new culture. I was fortunate to be able to participate in Buddhist ceremonies and visit many different temples and observe what it is like to live a typical life in Thailand. The culture in Thailand was incredible, the food, which was unbelievable, 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 benefit from this competition is that the 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 play for some of the U.S. and European professors. After the second round, Jean-Marie Londex was unforthcoming, and it would be difficult to have another opportunity to do so.

**Caleb Burkhardt**  
**The Fifth Jean-Marie Londex International Saxophone Competition**  
*Mahidol University*  
Salaya, Thailand  
July 9-22, 2017  

Thanks to Pro Musica, I had the wonderful opportunity of being selected to attend the Fifth International Jean-Marie Londex International Saxophone Competition. The competition was held at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand. It was a life-changing experience for me and I am so thankful to Pro Musica for being able to attend this event.

**Nicolasa Leo**  
**National Flute Association Convention**  
*Minneapolis*  
August 8-14, 2017  

This past May, I applied for an internship position with the National Flute Association at the 2017 Convention in Minneapolis. The Flute Festival goes to play the world’s largest flute organization, and I have been a student for four years. I believe that attending the festival can give students a great source of education and information. I have attended the festival for four years, and I believe that attending the festival can give students a great source of education and information.

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The National Flute Association internship provided an endless amount of networking opportunities for me. I met many new professional flutists, the professors and board members of the National Flute Association that I wish to strengthen my knowledge of the field. I had the opportunity to manage the Competition, which was an opportunity for me to manage the Competition. I am very excited to be able to attend this event, and I believe that attending the festival can give students a great source of education and information.

**Other News**

**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. The reception is a fun way to show your 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.

If interested in contributing to this cause, please contact Dr. Kenneth Wetmore at (419) 372-9213 or kmdevin@bgsu.edu.

**Student Performances**

**Hannah Greer** on the stand at Between performances at Lucas Oil Stadium. You can see the background the students are preparing to go to the field.

**Christopher Murphy** at the College of Music, at Mahidol University.

**Sergio Nitchan** at the Yamaha showroom in downtown Bangkok.

This was a very special experience, since Nitchan is from Thailand, but I am American 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, Single and Nagae. The experience made the most beneficial aspects of the competition.

I had a great experience and learned about the world and about the saxophone. I am deeply grateful to Pro Musica in helping me attend this event.

**Testa Gifts to Pro Musica** Pro Musica is an organization dedicated to performing exceptional music and providing opportunities 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 a gift to Pro Musica.

**Francesca Leo**  
**My internship at the 2017 National Flute Association Convention**  
My internship at the 2017 National Flute Association Convention was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I had the opportunity to attend this event. I learned about the world and about the saxophone. I am deeply grateful to Pro Musica in helping me attend this event.
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 flutists in this era. I have been a big fan of him for many years, and being able to meet him and hear him play and teach 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!

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 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.

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As a result, Saenz says he’s comfortable playing a recital or in a jazz quartet, or with a trumpet section in a symphony, an opera orchestra or a big band, whether lead or solo. Students in the trumpet studio are called on to fill roles in the Falcon Marching Band, the Bowling Green Philharmonia, the wind ensembles, chamber ensembles including the Graduate Brass Quintet, and jazz bands, large and small.

“I learned from a very young age to be flexible,” he said. “I tell my students the modern day trumpet player has to be flexible. Players have their own strengths and specialties but it’s very valuable to be willing to stretch more than most musicians are. Those are things I try to instill in my students if they want to forge a career in music.”

Graduate student Edmund Gunther wrote in his letter of nomination: “Professor Saenz has started a Trumpet Warm-Up and Fundamentals Program that originated at 9 a.m. This class, which I teach in my capacity as a teaching assistant, is in my opinion the most important hour of the day for the trumpet studio. Whether I am leading the class or in attendance, I learn something new every time and it makes me a better musician.”

SAENZ studied with his father all the way through high school. While such an arrangement is often a recipe for failure, in this instance it worked. “He was very good at giving me space and trying to bring in a variety of learning experiences,” Saenz said.

From a young age, Ralph Saenz encouraged his son to be flexible. Saenz started working as a professional in Tex Mex and dance bands when he was 12. He joined his father in an area big band, playing trumpet and featuring the swing band repertoire. If his father played lead in the pit for a musical, his son was playing third. As a result, Saenz says he’s comfortable playing a recital or in a jazz quartet, or with a trumpet section in a symphony, an opera orchestra or a big band, whether lead or solo.

Students in the trumpet studio are called on to fill roles in the Falcon Marching Band, the Bowling Green Philharmonia, the wind ensembles, chamber ensembles including the Graduate Brass Quintet, and jazz bands, large and small. "I learned from a very young age to be flexible," he said. "I tell my students the modern day trumpet player has to be flexible. Players have their own strengths and specialties but it's very valuable to be willing to stretch more than most musicians are. Those are things I try to instill in my students if they want to forge a career in music."

Student Enrico Sohlo said Saenz gives each student personal attention, and helps them land jobs and auditions. Saenz knows Sohlo is interested in military bands, so he makes sure he's aware whenever an audition notice is posted.

Saenz actually planned to follow his father's footsteps and become a band director. Then in 1994 when he was a junior at New Mexico State University, Saenz played Charles Chaynes' Concerto for