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Bowling Green State University. College of Musical Arts

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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 knew 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. Four 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 recreations 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 able to attend as many workshops as I was able to schedule in my day. I had the opportunity to attend a baroque flute master class by Jed Weitz. He is one of the leading baroque flutists in this era. I have been a very big fan of his for many years, and being able to meet him and play and teach in his class was a very 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. Thank you Pro Musica for making it possible for me to attend this very special music event.

Charles Saenz
2017 Pro Musica Faculty/Staff Award
for Exceptional Service to Students

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 Weitz. He is one of the leading baroque flutists in this era. I have been a very big fan of his for many years, and being able to meet him and play and teach in his class was a very 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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Trumpet in the International Trumpet Guild Solo Competition. He came away with first prize and a dream. Saenz’s winning performance in the college competition set the trajectory for his career. After winning, he realized he wanted to be a performer and college professor. That meant putting “blinders on,” and concentrating on performance and teaching. But his first year was spent starting small, building benchmarks along the way. It kind of propelled my career in a direction that led here.”

Saenz has been a professor of trumpet at Bowling Green State University for 16 years. During that time he’s remained an active performer. He’s been a member of the Tower Brass Quintet, an ensemble that draws on his mastery of multiple styles. But he still comes back to the Chaynes’ Concerts. It serves as the centerpiece of his first year, released in December 2015, by Bevillarpo. The concerto, Saenz said, has been “a signature piece” that he has been studying and performing for more than 20 years. “I’ll put it away for a few years and then bring it back after the different point in my playing,” he’ll find some things easier, and other aspects just as difficult. “It really challenges, in different ways, my physical abilities on the instrument,” he said. “But along with that it’s very challenging harmonically. Its language is one that takes time to understand.”

In recording the CD he kept his students in mind. When planning a recital or a CD “I really think that students may want to perform in the next semester or so,” he said. “I would hope some of my students who have listened to the CD might say ‘I’m really interested in those pieces.”

The recording of the Chaynes Concerts with piano, played by his frequent collaborator and BGSO colleague Dr. Solomina Lius, serves a pedagogical purpose as well as an artistic one. Students, Saenz said, study and perform the piece with piano, not full brass. “If we’re recording it with instruments that exist with the presence of piano, it’s a situation that they will learn to deal with. Once he can direct them with that instrument. Now he can direct them to Eloquence. Encouraged at BGSO, Saenz is seeing his career come full circle. In fall 2015, one of his graduate students, Marcia Flowers, won the International Trumpet Guild Solo Competition. Jonathan Bitt was a finalist in 2016 and Bryn Powell was a finalist in 2017. The competition ‘was very important for me because it exposed me to a larger community within the trumpet world. I felt it was very important helping shape my career.”

In recording the Chaynes Concerts, a Binghamton University student, David Dupont, is to the background the students

Hannah Greer
Bands of America National Championship Competition
Independent Large Concert Band
November 11, 2017

The Bands of America National Grand Championship was held in Lucas Oil Stadium, which is the stadium that also hosts the Drum Corps International World Championship 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 sold out.

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 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 song with “An American Tail” by Erich Wolfgang Korngold as one of its prominently featured arrangements. There were other great high schools performing and it was great to see the type of repertoire each band programs their shows often from large orchestral works or operas) and 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 of the music programs and educators in the community in all one place, performing at such a high level and pushing each other to the next level. The audience is not just the next generation of educators and musicians as it was in the past. It was wonderful 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 discussions that opened my scope of what is possible for a high school marching band, but I also got to experience the vieing through the different bands how j ust advanced our students if we can equip them with music and the information and instruction and information that I 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.

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, which is one of the local central Bangkok. 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 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 to meet many different temples and observe what it is like to live a typical life in Thailand. The culture in Thailand was incredibly unique, 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 aspect of this competition was being a saxophone professor on the jury. After the first round of the competition, all of the competitors were invited to speak to the jury about performance and get constructive feedback. It is a rare opportunity to be able to play for some of the U.S. and European Saxophone teachers and it was very exciting. Jean-Marie Londex was unforgettable, 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 to participate in the Fifth International Jean-Marie Londex International Saxophone Competition.

During my time in Thailand, I was able to perform a concert at the Yamaha show room in downtown Bangkok. This was a very special experience, since Nishio, the Yamaha sales manager, knows me and I am from the United States. We performed a program titled "Unite: A Gathering of Musicians from Europe, Asia, and America," in which we performed the music of Piazzolla, Singlee and Nagaoka. In addition to music, I had a great deal of time to spend in the culture of Thailand. We visited the market, which was bustling with local shoppers and tourists buying all kinds of goods on the street. I was able to learn a lot about the culture of Thailand and about the world, and we had a lot of fun doing this because we know many of my all-time favorite flutists were also there. My internship at the 2017 National Flute Association Convention Internship program with the support of Pro Musica.

Francesca Leo
National Flute Association Convention Internship
Minneapolis
August 8-13, 2017

This past May I applied for an internship position with the National Flute Association at the 2017 Convention in Minneapolis. The NFA is one of the largest flute organizations in the world’s largest flute organization, and I have been a student for four years. I have always admired everything that the NFA does, from promoting flute and how it is cultivating a community of flute lovers around the world. It hosts annual conventions, which feature a variety of performances, master classes, competitions, workshops, lectures and a full exhibition hall featuring flute-related gear and accessory companies as well as many music publishing companies.

Two years ago, the NFA started an internship program through their convention office. I was thrilled to hear that they were looking for flute interns. I immediately applied wanting to be a part of it. While I was interviewed and selected as a flute intern, I 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.

Estate Gifts to Pro Musica
Pro Musica is an organization dedicated to enriching the lives of its student members and to help students experience musical growth opportunities outside of the traditional classroom. Every dollar of your membership fees goes to support student grants. Please consider learning more about making an estate gift to Pro Musica.

Jazzy on the Taege
Victoria who performed in the William Bennett birth-
Trumpet in the International Trumpet Guild Solo Competition. He came away with first place and a $3,000 prize. Saenz’s winning performance was the entirety of the competition the trajectory for his career. After winning, he realized he wanted to be a performer and college professor. That meant putting “blinders on,” and concentrating on performance and committing to the teaching role starting small benchmarks along the way. It kind of propelled my career in a direction that led here.”

Douglas Wayland has been a professor of trumpet at Bowling Green State University for 16 years. During that time he’s remained an active performer. He’s played with the Toledo Jazz Orchestra, the Toledo Symphony and Michigan Opera Theatre. "I can’t imagine a day where I don’t play pieces that students may want to perform in the next semester or so," he said. "I would hope some of my students who have listened to the CD might say ‘I’m really interested in those pieces’.

The recording of the Chaynes Concertos with piano, played by his frequent collaborator and BGSU colleague Dr. Solungga Liu, serves a pedagogical purpose as well as an artistic one. Saenz, said, study and perform the piece with piano, not full orchestra. While if an orchestra is available there will be an interaction with that. But now he can direct his own arrangements. Ensconced at BGSU, Saenz is seeing his career come full circle. In fall 2015, one of his graduate students, Marcus Flores, won the International Trumpet Guild Solo Competition. Jonathan Bitt was a finalist in 2016 and Bryn Powell was a finalist in 2017. The competition was a very important for me because it exposed me to a larger community within the trumpet world. It felt like it was helping shape my career.

In her nomination she wrote: “During his time here, I have watched as the music department has grown. His frequent writing on Buffett gives him a strong understanding of the industry and an ability to participate in Buddhist rituals at many of the temples in Bangkok. He was able to travel to Cambodia and Vietnam and I admire everything the NFA does and many of my all-time favorite flutists were also members of the NFA. Thanks to Pro Musica, I had the wonderful opportunity to stage manage for flute superstars such as Christopher Murphy and see the world and about the saxophone. I am deeply grateful for the support of future students through Pro Musica. Every dollar of your membership fee goes to support student grants. Please consider learning more about making a estate gift to Pro Musica for Donald Dupont, 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. That I had been accepted as one of 12 interns for the 2017 NFA Convention, I was beyond excited! My internship at the 2017 National Flute Association convention internship program is to supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards and supporting travel grants/awards.
I was 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 my prospective grad school options. Another reason I wanted to apply for this internship was to meet board members of the National Flute Association, and I absolutely loved the kind of work we do. Being more involved with the National Flute Association in the future is something I am very interested in, and through my internship I was able to 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 many new friendships that will last my entire life. I became very close with a number of my fellow interns. I met Raffi who has been on Instagram for many years in person at this convention and we were able to talk about things such as professional development via social media and our own professional plans once we graduate from school. In addition, I was able to catch up with many old friends I have met at various summer festivals and flute events which also happened to be attending. I even ran into BGSU flute students and graduates who were in attendance, including Torrey McClure, Beyanna Riedlinger, Paul Muni, Taylor Fruncio, Chappy Libbey, Rachel Wood, Kim Lewis and Laura Pillman!

I had an amazing time interning at the 2017 National Flute Association Convention, and it was truly an experience that I will never forget. I am looking forward to furthering my involvement with the National Flute Association in the future, and I want to thank Pro Musica so much for helping to fund my travels to this convention! Pro Musica is truly a wonderful organization and has helped me to attend so many music festivals and competitions in the past that I may not have been able to afford otherwise. I appreciate their contributions and am really looking forward to being more involved with this organization as a student co-chair member this school year!

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The events at PASIC were gone very quickly so I did not get a chance to see one, however, there were several band performances 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 ‘The Musician’ on a nearly empty stage. I was there to support the young percussionists that were performing there and I was very impressed with the performance.

I attended another concert at the Indiana University Musical Arts Center where I saw the Mallet Quartet perform an eclectic program. I got to meet the composer at the post concert reception and was able to get a CD of some of his latest work. It was an amazing experience for me. It was an event I was very familiar with as I have attended the event several times including when he was a junior at New Mexico State University, Saenz played Charles Chaynes’ Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra in B flat. This concert is one of the most well-known works for the trumpet and orchestra.

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