

FROM THE DESK OF JOHN SAMPEN

We continue our hectic but rewarding pace at BGSU as we begin the final weeks of spring classes. I am always amazed at the renewal of springtime which brings new life (and lots of smiles) to our campus. One benefit of college teaching is the never-aging student body (students on campus always remain at ages 18-21) – I think this helps me “feel” young even though my body is definitely experiencing middle age. It is exciting to be part of the discovery and educational process of our music business and I love having the opportunity to learn from my students as well as to share with them my own experiences.

Many of you know that we have welcomed a new Dean this year – Dr. Lee Riggins. He comes to BGSU from Kansas City and seems to enjoy his new home and role in our college. The faculty profile has significantly changed with recent retirements or faculty resignations from such people as David Melle, Wendell Jones, Robert Thayer, Robert Moore, JaFran Jones, Ivan Hammond and upcoming retirements of Mark Kelly and Richard Cioffari. We will miss these people who have given so much to the college. As for curriculum, our new one-year performance certificate is almost up-and-running. More details will be forthcoming.

My own performance activities have

been overwhelming. Our family continued its summer activities at Interlochen Arts Camp and we look forward to our fifth summer of performing and teaching in the northern pines of Michigan. Last October I soloed with our BGSU Philharmonia on the New Music & Art Festival. I also premiered a new Eugene O’Brien concerto with the Indiana University Orchestra and am planning upcoming concerto presentations of new music by Marilyn Shrude (at Northwestern University) and John Beall (at the University of West Virginia). Dr. Shrude and I enjoyed a two-week November concert/master class tour in Germany and Poland – the people were wonderful and we saw some great historical sites and opera productions but the weather was terrible (cold and snowing). In January, composer/engineer Mark Bunce and I completed a six-concert tour in Canada and Alaska (see photo). We loved the scenery in Calgary and Vancouver, hated the 20 below weather in Edmonton and Regina, and were absolutely stunned by the beautiful mountains and lakes in Anchorage. I met some wonderful players and teachers on these travels but I returned to Bowling Green with



“On Tour” – South of Anchorage

tremendous pride for our school and students.

As always, I send my best wishes for spring. Please stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Sampen

CONCERTO WINNERS THROUGH THE YEARS

Shown here is our impressive list of saxophone concerto winners during my seventeen year tenure at Bowling Green State University. Our records may be incomplete, so I would appreciate your corrections or additions. All of these individuals earned a solo performance with our university orchestra or band and each played a fantastic performance. (Some events particularly stand out in one’s memory, such as the exploding stage spotlight during Chris Corde’s cadenza). It has been an honor for me to have worked with all of these alumni and with many others who deserve to be on this list. Congratulations!

1993/94	AMANDA MATERNE (<i>Dubois Concerto</i>) KIRK O’RIORDAN (<i>Ibert Concertino da Camera</i>)
1992/93	CHRISTOPHER CORDE (<i>Creston Concerto</i>)
1990/91	WESLEY MILLER (<i>Husa Elegie et Rondeau</i>) DAVID RICE (<i>Milhaud Scaramouche</i>)
1989/90	SUSAN COOK (<i>Ibert Concertino da Camera</i>)
1987/88	DENNIS LINDSAY (<i>Maurice Tableaux de Province</i>)
1983/84	MATTHEW BALENSUELA (<i>Maurice Tableaux de Province</i>)
1982/83	LORI MOOREHEAD (<i>Husa Elegie et Rondeau</i>) PHILLIP BERG (<i>von Koch Concerto</i>) JAMES UMBLE (<i>Ibert Concertino da Camera</i>)
1980/81	JOSEPH MURPHY (<i>Dahl Concerto</i>)
1979/80	THERESA WITMER (<i>Villa Lobos Fantasia</i>)

ALUMNI UPDATE

Zavaan Johnson (BM 1983) was married in the fall of 1993. **David Rice** (BM 1993) reports a fantastic year as a Fulbright Scholar studying with Londeix in Bordeaux, France. Besides playing special concerts in Paris and Berlin, Rice has had time to vacation in other European countries, including Morocco where he and his wife Beth enjoyed a camel ride. **Wesley Miller** (BM 1989) has been named saxophonist for the Tulsa Philharmonic Orchestra. He currently lives in Columbus, OH where he works at Coyle Music and continues playing in the Black Swamp Quartet with **Brian Thomas** (MM 1987) and **Susan Cook** (BM 1992). Cook teaches at Muskegon College and also works for Coyle Music; she will move to Toronto during the summer of

1994. **Bill Bousfield** (BM 1991) and **Christopher Vollstadt** (BM 1993) are playing cruise ships in the Caribbean. Expecting new babies in their families are **Valerie Brokow** (MM 1984)/**Doug Brokow** (MM 1985), and **Todd Huston** (BM 1982).

Allan Fisher (BM 1983) is teaching public school in New York City. **James Umble** (MM 1984) enjoyed a one-year residency in the DMA program at the University of Michigan before returning to his teaching position at Youngstown State University. **Tracy (Bowerman) Phillips** (BM 1981) is teaching elementary music in the Eaton School System near Oxford, OH. **Marty Spitzer** (BM 1981) lead his Bellbrook marching band in the 1993 Liberty Bowl Parade. **Craig**

Young (BM 1989) is pursuing a master's degree at Ohio State University. **Amanda Blevins** (BM 1993) is working at Coyle Music and developing a private studio in Columbus. **James Martini** (MM 1993) has accepted a high school band position in East Stroudsburg, PA. **Shannon Ford** teaches a large private saxophone/clarinet studio in Toledo. She continues her activities with Sax 4th Avenue Saxophone Quartet which includes alumni **Kevin Heidbreder** (MM 1985), **Stanley George** (BM 1989) and **Jason Yost** (BM 1993). Yost has recently started his masters at BGSU and continues his band teaching position at St. Johns High School. **Sarai Hedges** (MB 1993) is teaching business at BGSU.

NEWS FROM HOME AND ABROAD

Saxophonist/music history/ethnomusicology major **EDWARD WALLACE** is pursuing a second year of studies in China as funded through grants from the BGSU Asian Studies Committee and the BGSU Committee for International Education. Concerning his experiences, he writes, "I am currently studying Chinese language and martial arts at Shandong University; however my major focus is on independent study of Chinese music. My study of Chinese music is both broad and specific. I am working on gaining a decent knowledge of traditional Chinese instruments and art forms such as Beijing Opera, while at the same time focusing on specific research topics such as festival percussion music and the musics of different minority nationalities of China. My role in China has not been one of performer. However, currently I am in the process of forming a foreign students' ensemble with a new Hungarian student who is on sabbatical from teaching at a music academy in Hungary - her specialty is medieval music. I am introducing her to the works of Ryo Noda. This should be interesting."

Fulbright Scholar **DAVID RICE** is completing a year of study in Bordeaux, France working with world-renowned teacher/artist Jean-Marie Londeix. Since Londeix will retire at the end of 1994, this is truly a unique opportunity. David writes: "I had my technique exam about a week ago and I placed 4th in Londeix's

class. We had to prepare all majors and minors in regular scales, thirds, fourths - three times in one breath with 16 different articulations...Presently, I am preparing for my concert in Berlin, playing *Le Frene Egare* by Francois Rosse. I practice 5-8 hours per day! My lessons are on Wednesdays. From 1:30-3:00 is the "superior class" (playing with piano in front of other students) and at 3:00-7:00 I have a class lesson with three other people (an American, a German and a French student). In addition, I perform in a saxophone quartet and am playing tenor in Londeix's saxophone ensemble."

Our BGSU saxophone studio experience has been enhanced by the presence of foreign students **Marco Albonetti** and **Yiannis Miralis** (see photo). Both currently play in the Transcontinental Saxophone Quartet where they have been instrumental in organizing European summer quartet concerts in Italy and Cyprus. **MARCO ALBONETTI**, who is pursuing a one-year BGSU performance certificate, comes from Faenza, Italy, and he studied at the Conservatory G. Rossini in Pesaro. He has won honors in at least nine national and international competitions in Italy and has performed many prestigious concerts, including a special tour of South Africa and a recital at the Ravenna Festival in Salzburg. Marco is the first Italian musician to study classical saxophone in the USA! **YIANNIS MIRALIS** is a native of Nicosia, Cyprus.

He holds degrees from the Pedagogical Academy and the Greek Conservatory in Nicosia. Besides serving as saxophonist (and violinist) in the National Guard of Cyprus, Miralis has presented performances in Germany and England. The recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship, he completed a bachelor of music degree from Lawrence University in 1993 and is presently continuing his education at BGSU as a graduate assistant in music education.



Yiannis Miralis and Marco Albonetti



JAMES UMBLE – ALUMNI FOCUS

BGSU Alumni James Umble (MM 1984) is currently assistant professor of saxophone at the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University, a position which he has held since 1984. Nationally active as a soloist and clinician, Umble has recently released a compact disc entitled *Dejeuner sur l'herbe* which has been nominated for a Grammy award and is regularly aired on radio stations throughout the state.

Mr. Umble began his musical studies at Susquehanna University where he earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree. Following graduation, he travelled to Bordeaux, France and studied with the reknowned saxophonist Jean-Marie Londeix. Jim ultimately received the prestigious Medaille d'orr (Gold Medal) in music performance for his work at the Bordeaux Conservatory. Upon returning to the USA, he taught high school band for three years, then

pursued his masters degree at BGSU, serving as graduate assistant for John Sampen. He is now completing a doctorate from the University of Michigan under saxophonist Donald Sinta.

Jim's performing and research activities include the 1988 premiere of Paul Turok's *Improvisations* at the 1988 World Saxophone Congress in Tokyo. Umble also toured Japan with Londeix and the International Saxophone Ensemble of Bordeaux. In February of 1994, he premiered Marilyn Shrude's new *Concerto for Saxophone* with the Youngstown State University Wind Ensemble as part of the Dana School's 125th Anniversary Celebration. Last month Mr. Umble soloed with the Youngstown Symphony, premiering a new concerto by Dave Rivello and performing *Fantasia* by Villa Lobos.

Jim's scholarly research has lead him back to Bordeaux to pursue a book on *The Life and Pedagogy of Jean-Marie Londeix*. He has presented excerpts of this study at the regional NASA convention in Manitoba, Canada last February with Londeix in attendance. In addition, he has conducted personal research on MIDI instruments and computer applications and is organizing a MIDI studio at Youngstown State University.

Russell Petersen

Transposed Score.

For James Umble and the Dana School of Music Wind Ensemble

Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Wind Ensemble

Marilyn Shrude

The image shows a page from a music score. At the top, it says 'Transposed Score.' and 'For James Umble and the Dana School of Music Wind Ensemble'. The title is 'Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Wind Ensemble' by Marilyn Shrude. The score is for a wind ensemble and includes parts for Flute (1, 2), Oboe (1, 2), Clarinet in Bb (1, 2), Bass Clarinet in Bb, Alto Saxophone in E (1, 2), Tenor Saxophone in Bb, Baritone Saxophone in Eb, Bassoon (1, 2), and Horn in F (1, 2). A portrait of James Umble is overlaid on the score. The tempo is marked 'J. ca. 80'.

CURRENT EVENTS

Our outstanding 1993/94 saxophone class was comprised of twenty undergraduate students and five graduate candidates hailing from the states of Massachusetts, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Georgia, New York, Ohio, Italy and Cyprus. Seniors who will graduate in August or December of 1994 include David Laub, Amanda Materne, Kristy Weyand and Chris Corde. Chamber music was a big focus this year with three traditional SATB quartets, our enlarged saxophone choir (featuring a brand-new Selmer bass saxophone!) and a first-time jazz saxophone quartet coached by grad-assistant Russ Peterson. Our in-coming freshman class for 1994/95 should be very strong. I was overwhelmed but pleasantly excited about the volume of talented prospective freshman.

Sax 4th Avenue Quartet continues a "loose" association with BGSU (Jason Yost is working nights on a master's degree and Shannon Ford is "almost" finished with her document). This popular group has been honored with a special featured performance at the April National MENC meeting in Cincinnati. Black Swamp Quartet has re-organized in Columbus and has pursued an active schedule of concerts and clinics, including a featured program at the prestigious Phillips Collection in Washington D.C., a one-month tour in Florida over Christmas and an October alumni recital in BGSU's new art gallery.

We are proud to recognize two 1993/94 BGSU concerto winners (out of three winners for the entire college) – graduate student Kirk O'Riordan (*Ibert Concertino da Camera*) and senior Amanda Materne (*Dubois Concerto*). We also have just learned that Megan Compton received the Freshman Out-



"Practicing on the Slopes"

Lisa Fiorilli, David Laub, Marco Albonetti, Russ Petersen, John Sampen

standing Bandswoman Award, and the Transcontinental Saxophone Quartet (Russell Peterson, Marco Albonetti, Amanda Materne, Yiannis Miralis) is a semi-finalist in the National Fiscoff Competition. They will compete for top honors during mid-April in South Bend. Besides a heavy spring calendar of public school concerts, the quartet will tour Europe this summer with at least six scheduled recitals in Italy and Cyprus.

Special visiting guests to our campus included Ryo Noda (composer/saxophonist from Osaka, Japan), Allen Rippe (professor from Memphis State) and Steve Jordheim (professor from Lawrence University).

Associate Dean Richard Kennell has been conducting research with participation from our saxophone studio, video taping selected students for "problem solving" analysis. Dr.

Kennell has already published extensively on the phenomena of studio teaching – watch for forthcoming articles and publications.

Saxophone social events included a one-day ski trip to Mt. Brighton (see ski photo). Along with the usual weekend parties at Amanda's and Chris Corde's apartments, we also enjoyed weekly basketball games (7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays) with a few "hardy" saxophone majors and other music graduate students. We are also hoping to schedule a "broom hockey" game this spring and/or soccer with our international students. Some of our athletic graduate candidates continue their "whiffle ball" games in the courtyard during practice breaks (and sometimes instead of practicing).

