

STUDIO UPDATE

# NEWSLETTER

BGSU SAXOPHONES



INCLUDING SPECIAL  
NOTE FROM DR. SAMPEN

IN THE WORDS OF NELSON HENDERSON, "THE TRUE MEANING OF LIFE IS TO PLANT TREES, UNDERWHOSE SHADE YOU DO NOT EXPECT TO SIT." NO MATTER WHAT YOUR CURRENT PROFESSION OR STATION IN LIFE, MAY YOU ALL CONTINUE 'PLANTING TREES' FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS.



## FROM DR. SAMPEN

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Who would think we would still be dealing with a pandemic in April of 2022, but here we are again! Fortunately, our BGSU classes have generally returned to normal, and we have enjoyed a relatively safe and active school year.

If you haven't followed the campus news, you should know that the ten-story Administration Building has now been demolished and the university is preparing a new entrance to the campus via Court Street. Our College of Musical Arts is largely unchanged, but the building is still attractive, and we often are greeted by dozens of "honking" Canadian geese as we arrive at the front door. These birds live in the two nearby ponds where they enjoy singing along with the beautiful sounds emerging from the recitals of Bryan Hall.

In early December, two of our alumni (Erin Rogers, MM 2005 and Garth Sunderland) organized a wonderful portrait New York City "birthday celebration concert" for Marilyn Shrude. This was a special experience, and we were honored to have many friends and alumni in attendance. And in March, I toured with my colleague Mark Bunce to the states of Tennessee and Mississippi. Of particular interest was our great residency at Tennessee Tech with Matt Younglove (DMA 2017). This summer, Dr. Shrude and I will again be in Maine for the Hemke "Snow Pond" Saxophone Institute.

A special thanks to graduate student Jimmy O'Donnell for publishing and distributing our 2022 Saxophone Sentinel. And thanks to all of our loyal alumni for your continuing support to BGSU in so many ways. Marilyn and I send our best wishes to you for a healthy and happy spring season and summer vacation.



## FROM THE EDITOR

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As the completion of the Spring 2022 semester nears, we saxophonists at Bowling Green State University can reflect back on this wonderfully full year with fondness. As a studio, we have accomplished and experienced much, and have had a fantastic time along the way doing what BGSU does best: making music together. As an incoming graduate student, I had a general sense of the culture here. However, what I eventually came to experience first-hand was far beyond my expectations. Collaboration and musical experimentation is alive and well in the saxophone studio, and at the BGSU College of Musical Arts as a whole, and we in the saxophone studio have spent the 2021/2022 school year proving this fact. However, it is not only our current members who have displayed excellence, but also our alumni who continue to amaze and inspire through their actions. BGSU certainly has a profound reputation of cultivating lasting success and talent! I sincerely hope that as you read through these pages, you will feel inspired, proud, and maybe even a bit nostalgic! BGSU is truly a wonderful place, and I hope to capture even a sense of that in this newsletter. Thank you for your continued support!



# PUMPKIN CARVING

Keeping with studio tradition, the BGSU Saxophones met at City Park on Halloween to carve pumpkins and celebrate the fall weather.



Great memories were made, and even greater designs were carved into the pumpkins!

# CAROLING

After a two-year hiatus, the saxophone studio returned to the streets of Bowling Green for "door-to-door" holiday caroling!



Starting at the Sampen/Shrude house, the studio sang and played holiday music for the neighbors of Maple Street.



Fall 2021

# WHEN SAXOPHONISTS STRETCH

On December 3rd, the saxes met in Bryan Recital Hall for a yoga session led by our very own Elizabeth Mumford.



The above pose was a studio favorite!

Spring 2022

## A MASTERCLASS FROM A FAMILIAR FACE

The Studio was privileged to welcome back Dr. Preston Duncon (MM 1999) for a masterclass and performance. Dr. Duncan is currently a senior lecturer of saxophone at the University of Minnesota.



Dr. Duncan heard performances from: Kirby Litz, Carl Ng, and the A Poco Quartet (Quentin Brown, Elizabeth Mumford, Hannah Wren, and Kaitlyn Wincup).

## A NEAR CLEAN SWEEP

Our saxophone studio received fantastic results at the BGSU Concerto Competition this past fall: three of the four winners were saxophonists! They all played their concertos with large ensembles during the spring semester.



Pictured are: James O'Donnell (top left), Elizabeth Mumford (bottom left), and Carl Ng (top right). Elizabeth and James both played the Tomasi "Concerto" (Elizabeth played movement 1, and James played 1 and 2) while Ng played Noda's "Gen."



Bonus: Dr. Sampen also performed on the same night as Carl, playing the first movement of the Bolcom "Soprano Saxophone Concerto."

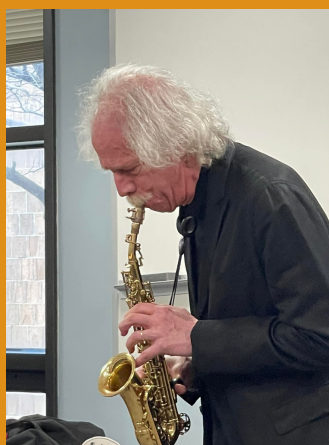


# BLUE LOU COMES TO BGSU

In late February, BGSU welcomed back Lou Marini Jr. as part of the Hansen Series. Marini gave lectures, a masterclass, and performed in a concert with the Wind Symphony and Jazz Lab 1.



Fun Fact: Marini Jr's father was Dr. Sampen's predecessor as BGSU's saxophone professor!



Spring 2022

# FROM NORTHWESTERN WITH LOVE

We were privileged to welcome Professor Taimur Sullivan from Northwestern University to BGSU on April 8th!



While here, Professor Sullivan gave a performance, a lecture on technical practice techniques, and a masterclass. Studio performers included Garrett Evans, James O'Donnell, and a duo of Carl Ng and Violet Meltzer premiering "Butterfly Lovers" by our very own saxophonist/composer, Aaron Chung.

## OUR GRADUATES

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In the coming weeks, we will be saying goodbye to some of our current studio members as they move on to the next chapters in their lives. We who remain at BGSU wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors!



### JOSHUA TUTTLE

Joshua will be graduating with his Master of Music in saxophone performance! Afterwards, he will be moving to Cincinnati to pursue his DMA at the Cincinnati Conservatory. "I'm so grateful for everything I have gained while at BG. I could not have asked for a better environment and group of people to work with for the past two years. I will always cherish the lessons and experiences I have enjoyed here."



### CARL NG

Carl will be graduating with his Master of Music in saxophone performance! He plans on pursuing performance opportunities in Canada and the US. "Studying at BGSU is one the most rewarding experiences in my musical career. Not only have I had the opportunity to study with a Master Saxophonist - Dr. John Sampen - but I have also benefitted from studying with all the BGSU faculty, who have made me a better Musician and scholar."

## OUR GRADUATES

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### MARGO ALIBECKOFF

Margo will be graduating with a BM in Music Education! Afterwards, she hopes to secure a K-12 teaching job. "I'd like to say a huge thank you to Dr. Sampen and the saxophone studio for all the help and support over the past four years!"



### KAITLYN GRELLA

Kaitlyn will be graduating with her BM in Music Education! She is planning on continuing her education, with hopes to receive a master's in Music Theory. "Thank you to Dr. Sampen and the saxophone studio for always providing a supportive and uplifting environment for me to grow as a musician and person over the past four years."

## OUR GRADUATES

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### DEREK EAST

Derek will be graduating with his BM in Music Education! He hopes to find a teaching job (preferably band) in either the NW Ohio or Nashville, TN areas. "I am grateful for my time at the BGSU Saxophone Studio with Dr. Sampen. I have learned so much musically and personally in the last four years and am thankful for all the amazing experiences I have had at BGSU!"



Artwork by Pin-Hua Chen (MM 2013)

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## STUDIO ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- Carl Ng, James O'Donnell, and Elizabeth Mumford won three of the four winner's spots in the BGSU Concerto Competition
- James O'Donnell and Joshua Heaney were both semifinalists in the William C. Byrd Young Artist Competition in Flint, Michigan
- Kaitlyn Wincup was elected the District President for the Tau Beta Sigma Sorority's North Central District
- The Rosarium Quartet (consisting of Joshua Tuttle, Joshua Heaney, Carl Ng, and Violet Meltzer) progressed to the semifinal round of the North American Saxophone Alliance college quartet competition
- The Rosarium Quartet also received first place at the Wayland Chamber Competition in the graduate division
- The Trichrome Trio (containing Joshua Tuttle) received second place in the graduate division and Kairos reed quintet (with Elizabeth Mumford) received first in the undergraduate division of the Wayland Chamber Competition.
- Kaitlyn Wincup and Hannah Wren were awarded the John A. Hage Marching Band Leadership Award.

## ALUMNI UPDATE

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- Balenseula, Matt (MM1985) was named the James B. Stewart Professor at De Pauw University where he has been teaching musicology for many years (perhaps since the 1990s). Matt is an accomplished author with many books, including his award winning "Norton Guide to Teaching Music History."
- Braet, Andy (MM 2009) - Since 2013, Andy had been playing saxophone in the Band of the Irish Guards in Great Britain. Recently, however, both Andy and his wife, Kim, transferred to the Royal Air Force Band. Andy have frequently been soloing with the band, including performances of the Demersseman FANTASIE and the CARNIVAL OF VENICE.
- Duncan, Preston (MM 1999) was a special guest performer and clinician at BGSU on February 6, 2022. Preston lives in Minneapolis where he teaches at the University of Minnesota.
- Braslawsce, Jacob (BM 2020) - Following his BGSU graduation, Jacob moved to England where he recently completed his master's degree in Music, Technology, and Innovation at DeMontfort University (Leicester, UK). Jake is now back in Ohio--future career is unknown.
- Han, Xiao (2010-2014\*) - has returned to China where he is teaching middle school music and continuing saxophone activities when possible. He completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in Sydney, Australia. He was married in 2019 and the couple just recently had a new baby girl on December 31, 2021!
- Hamm, Soren (MM 2018) was just named winner of the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra's Bushell Competition! He will be debuting as a soloist on the Ibert CONCERTINO during the Seattle Symphony's 2022-2023 season. Soren is an adjunct woodwind teacher at Pierce College in Puyallup, Washington.

## ALUMNI UPDTATE (CONTINUED)

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- Holmes, Michael-Weiss (BM 2004) - has added a new saxophone teaching position as Professor of Saxophone at the Florida Gulf Coast University. Michael also continues with his teaching position at Roosevelt University and with his free-lance work with the Chicago Symphony.
- Karpuszk, Zach (BM 2017) and Alissa Jacobs (Nursing 2020) were married on October 23, 2021.
- Massey, Justin (MM 2015) completed his doctorate from West Virginia in 2019 and is now back in Toronto where he teaches a large woodwind studio and works in a "running specialty store." Justin loves training for various marathon races and has recently participated in a 10 km run.
- Ronmark, Erik (MM 2001) - In 2021, Erik was named President and CEO of the Detroit Symphony, becoming the organization's first new executive leader in 17 years! Erik had been previously serving as the DSO's vice president and general manager.
- Sevel, Drew - (MM 2012) is an Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University, where he works in an integrative medicine clinic. Drew specializes in studying chronic pain and mindfulness meditation. He is also a creative artist with his "rope duo" presentations involving dance and elegant movements in performance while hanging from a high suspended rope.
- Welp, Lindsey - (MM 2021) - is currently a DMA student at the University of Georgia where she is studying with Dr. Connie Frigo. Lindsey was a concerto winner at BGSU in 2020-2021 and she has continued her winning ways by taking a top prize at the 2022 LaGrange Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition. Also, her saxophone quartet, Mixed Media, won 1st prize at the Coltman Competition in Texas.



## ALUMNI UPDTATE (CONTINUED)

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- Ibrahim, Michael (MM 2002) has just been named Director of the School of Music at Ohio State University. Michael has formerly served as the saxophone professor and Director of the School of Music at West Virginia University.