About Summer Bassoon Extravaganza

Mission Statement

Our goal is to foster excellence and to make SBE an outstanding learning experience relevant to the players’ abilities. SBE strives to provide a positive atmosphere conducive to learning with a faculty/student ratio that facilitates learning in a personal, meaningful and enduring manner.

History

In 2002 Summer Bassoon Extravaganza, a long-time dream of Dr. Shelly Unger, became a reality with the encouragement and support of Chris Weait, a nationally recognized bassoon pedagogue and colleague. Summer Bassoon Extravaganza continues as a one-of-a-kind musical experience for bassoonists. SBE promotes musical excellence offering participants access to nationally recognized faculty and guest artists, a low student to teacher ratio and a supportive learning environment. The weeklong camp features master classes, chamber ensembles, bassoon choir, reed making, an introduction to contrabassoon, special focus sessions and private instruction. In the past focus sessions have included topics such as instrument repair, history of exceptional bassoonists worldwide, an introduction to Baroque bassoon, musical interpretation, audition skills, extended techniques for bassoon and more. Positive outcomes are an outgrowth of this exceptional learning experience. SBE moved from Emory at Oxford to the Emory University main campus, which is nestled in the peaceful, tree-lined suburban neighborhood of Druid Hills in 2005.
SUMMER BASSOON
EXTRAVAGANZA FAQS

Who attends?
Summer Bassoon Extravaganza serves aspiring bassoonists. Most campers will be rising 8th-graders through college. However SBE usually has a handful of adult bassoon aficionados, who attend during the day, making camp a part of their summer activities as well. For the past several seasons SBE has drawn campers from more than 15 states.

What about the programming? How are the days filled? SBE begins on Sunday afternoon with an opportunity for participants to meet one another. We go to dinner as a group. Following dinner, faculty, counselors and campers get acquainted with one another through a series of team building activities. The “regular” schedule begins Monday morning with auditions for chamber ensembles. Typically, audition music—a lyric and a technical excerpt or suggested literature—is sent with the camp packets. Students choose which of these they will play. Days are filled with chamber music, bassoon choir, reed making, master classes and special focus sessions. Members of the SBE faculty present a recital. Camp concludes with a concert, featuring small ensembles and the bassoon choir.

SBE makes programming relevant to the playing ability of each participant. Campers have an opportunity to play solos and/or orchestral excerpts in master classes where they will be coached by one or more of the faculty. Several campers will be selected to practice with a professional pianist and present their solo with piano accompaniment in a master class. There will be special sessions for those who wish to concentrate on improving their overall technique.

What about the faculty? The SBE faculty consists of some of the finest bassoon pedagogues from across the country. Often one or more of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra bassoon section leads a master class. Brief bios are included in the registration/flyer.
What about the accommodations, meals and security? Campers and faculty stay in a state-of-the-art residence. Food services at Emory are first rate. In addition to faculty and camp counselors keeping a “watchful eye” the university has campus security staff and policies in place.

What are the anticipated outcomes? SBE promotes musical excellence that is an outgrowth of an exceptional learning experience. One of many long term benefits is the camaraderie that develops and extends far beyond the camp week. Bassoonists are so used to being few in number—often the only one at their respective school—that they are thrilled to get to know and have the support of other bassoonists.

The $795 cost includes all camp activities, room and board as well as the 2013 camp T-shirt.* Students may elect to have individual lessons with one or more of the faculty. There will be several private instruction packages from which to choose. Participants may want incidental money for soft drinks, candy and pizza. These seem to go hand in hand with recreational time.

This year, SBE is offering two special incentives. If you and another bassoonist in your area name each other on the registration form, each will receive a discounted price of $745. Returning campers also receive a $50 discount. Please call to inquire about an interest-free individualized payment plan.

*Day Camper Cost is $650 does NOT include overnight accommodations or breakfast. (Lunch and dinner are included in the fee.)
Founding director of Summer Bassoon Extravaganza, **SHELLEY UNGER** is a freelance bassoonist and contrabassoonist as well as an artist affiliate bassoon instructor at Emory University and Reinhardt University. Dr. Unger plays in metro Atlanta, with the Symphony Orchestra Augusta and in regional orchestras throughout the Southeast, and on occasion performs with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. She has given numerous solo and collaborative recitals, including a performance of Bernard Garfield’s second quartet at the International Double Reed Society Conference shortly after its 2006 world premiere in Philadelphia. In 2004-05, she was visiting professor of bassoon at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she played with the Missouri Quintet and gave multiple solo performances. She maintains a large private studio and has taught for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Talent Development Program as well. Dr. Unger’s students have won numerous awards and scholarships, including the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award, the Atlanta Federation of Musicians Scholarship Competition and numerous awards in the Music Teachers National Association Competition. Each year more than a dozen of the bassoonists at All-State in Georgia are her private students. Her major teachers include: Sidney Rosenberg, Bernard Garfield, Ben Kamins, Eric Arbiter and Carl Nitchie. She earned a BM from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, a MM from Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and a DMA from the Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia. In addition she did post-graduate work at Temple University. She has performed in Seoul, Republic of South Korea, Lithuania, Taiwan and Israel. In 2006 she established Emory Bassoon Day, an annual event that continues a tradition of bringing world class bassoonists and some of the most sought after bassoon pedagogues to Atlanta and the Southeast. Guest artists have included: Sue Heineman, Richard Svoboda, Robert Williams, Marc Goldberg, Kristin Wolfe Jensen, Jeff Keesecker, John Hunt and others.

**MICHAEL DICKER** holds music performance degrees from UCLA, the University of Michigan, and the Juilliard School. His teachers include Norman Herzberg, Bert Gassman, Harold Goltzer, Mitchell Lurie, and Mehli Mehta. He has performed with the United States Military Academy Band at West Point, the Colorado Philharmonic Orchestra, the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, Neu Wesphälische Philharmonie, the Belgian Radio Symphony, the Essen Philharmonic, the Deutsche Operam Rhein, and the Toledo Symphony. He currently performs as principal bassoonist of the Peoria
Symphony and the Heartland Festival Orchestra. As chamber musician Mr. Dicker has been a prize winner of the Coleman Chamber Competition. He has performed as a member of the Lincoln Center Foundation Woodwind Quintet, the Lieurance Quintet, and currently is a member of Sonneries Quintet. During his association with Fox Products Corporation beginning in 1979, Mr. Dicker has presented clinics in Germany, Italy, Belgium, Portugal, Japan, and Thailand. Mr. Dicker has served as bassoon instructor at Wichita State University, Musikschule Bochum. Since 1986 he has been a faculty member at Illinois State University where he is professor of bassoon (on leave 2014).

JEFFREY MCCRAY is Associate Professor of Bassoon at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he has taught since 2006. Dr. McCray performs with the Moran Woodwind Quintet, artists-in-residence at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is the principal bassoonist of the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, a member of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic and a frequent guest performer with the Omaha Symphony. Dr. McCray holds a bachelor's degree in bassoon performance and a master's degree in orchestral conducting from Northwestern University, where he studied with Robert Barris and Victor Yampolsky. He also studied with Bernard Garfield, former principal bassoon of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and earned a master's degree in bassoon performance from Temple University. In 2007, Dr. McCray completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Michigan State University, where he studied bassoon with Michael Kroth. He has served on the faculties of Baylor University, Western Michigan University, Albion College, and the University of Michigan-Flint; he has held positions with the symphony orchestras of Battle Creek (MI), Lansing (MI), Waco (TX), Allentown (PA), and Haddonfield (NJ); and has performed extensively with the Grand Rapids (MI) Symphony, Delaware Symphony, Opera Delaware, and the Pennsylvania Ballet. An advocate of contemporary music, Dr. McCray has appeared as both bassoonist and conductor in concerts of contemporary music throughout the United States. His recording of M. William Karlins' Four Inventions and a Fugue, for bassoon, piano and female voice (on Hungaroton Records) received praise from numerous critics. Recent performances of note include a performance of Dan Welcher's The Wind Won't Listen with the Grammy-nominated Chiara String Quartet. Dr. McCray is also a national-level competitive bodybuilder, most recently winning the light-heavyweight class at the 2012 NPC Warrior Classic in Colorado.
JENNIFER PHILPOTT, a gifted music educator and bassoonist, specializes in working with young musicians. A native of Fayetteville, GA, she was an honor graduate of Georgia State University where she received a bachelor's in music education. She has done post-graduate work at the University of Tennessee. Her teachers include: Carl Nitchie, Ron Wirt, Liz Burkhardt, Shelly Unger, Eric Stone Miller and Keith McClelland. She has attended workshops and conferences with Daniel Matsukawa, Marc Goldberg, Chris Weait, Richard Svoboda, Frank Morelli, Michael Dicker, Roger Soren, Carl Nitchie, Juan de Gomar, William Davis, Shelly Unger, Marita Abner, Jeff Keesecker, and others. While living in Atlanta, she performed regularly with the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra, was a member of Young Audiences of Atlanta and was an active free-lance bassoonist. During her graduate studies in Tennessee, Mrs. Philpott played principal bassoon with the Symphony of the Mountains. She has been on staff with Summer Bassoon Extravaganza since its beginning in 2002. In 2006 Mrs. Philpott began educating students privately and in the public schools. Many of her private students made the Georgia All-State Band and played with Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, Metropolitan Atlanta Wind Symphony and Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony. She is currently living with her husband Air Force Band clarinetist Joseph Philpott, their son Joshua David and their dog Max in Illinois.

Pianist LAURA GORDY has distinguished herself as a powerful champion and performer of contemporary music, with over 80 commissions and premieres, and many professional recordings. She co-founded and co-directed the award-winning new music ensemble Thamyris, and has performed with Sonic Generator, Bent Frequency, and Medici Trio. A sought-after collaborative recitalist, Dr. Gordy has had the honor of sharing the stage with many renowned musicians, including Richard Stoltzman, Alexa Still, Cecylia Arzewski, Martin Chalifour, Christopher Rex, and Richard Svoboda. Dr. Gordy earned degrees in piano performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (highest honors), Rice University Shepherd School of Music, and the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. She studied piano with Aloys Kontarsky (Cologne, Germany), Amanda Penick, Mary Norris Tipton and Jeanne Kirstein, and harpsichord with Eiji Hashimoto. A scholarship student at the Aspen and Round Top Music Festivals, she has also received study grants from the Goethe Institut and The King Baudouin Foundation. She has performed throughout the United States and in Europe, Asia and Latin America. A former member of the Emory University music faculty, she has taught piano, chamber music, theory and Javanese gamelan. She teaches piano, accompanies various ensembles and performs works of and collaborates with select contemporary composers.
GUEST ARTISTS

SHANNON LOWE serves as the Assistant Professor of Bassoon at Valdosta State University. She received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Bassoon Performance at SUNY Stony Brook. While at Stony Brook, she was in the bassoon studio of the renowned performer and pedagogue Dr. Frank Morelli. She received both the Bachelor's in Music Education with a Performance Certificate and Master's of Music in Bassoon Performance from the University of Florida, under Dr. Arnold Irchai, former principal bassoonist of the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra. Currently, Dr. Lowe is the principal bassoonist of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and Albany Symphony Orchestra (GA). She has performed with orchestras in the Southeast, including the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, Florida Orchestra, Macon Symphony and Central Florida Symphony. For six seasons, she was principal bassoonist of the Gainesville Chamber Orchestra. During the 2008-2009 Season, she frequently performed as bassoonist with the Amato Opera Company in New York City. Dr. Lowe is a founder and member of The Scirocco Quartet, which has performed to high acclaim throughout the Southeast and Southwest. In 2012 the quartet was a showcased as a featured performance ensemble at the National Flute Association Conference in Las Vegas. In June 2011 she performed at the 2011 International Double Reed Society Conference as a member of the UF Wind Trio and in July toured Brazil as principal bassoonist with the American Chamber Winds and performed at the prestigious Campos do Jordão International Music Festival. She has participated in the Sarasota Music Festival and international Music Festival in Burgos, Spain. She has premiered contemporary works for the bassoon at the Florida Electroacoustic Music Festival as well as the Third Practice Electroacoustic Music Festival in Richmond, Virginia. In 2013 she performed the Mozart Bassoon Concerto as soloist with the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra.

OTHER 2014 FACULTY AND GUEST ARTISTS TBA
"Bassoon camp was the highlight of my summer. Not only did I get to learn about reeds and playing in small ensembles, but I listened to some amazing bassoonists and met some great people. I would highly recommend bassoon camp to anyone who plays bassoon." -Emily S. 2013

"I think the camp is AWESOME! I started friendships that will last for the rest of my life. The seminars and masterclasses are very informative and fun. The reed making classes are awesome because you actually have enough time to make reeds from beginning to end. The guest artists and counselors are also fantastic. By the end of the week you see the faculty and the campers as one group. It is very laid back and relaxing. I would recommend this camp to any high school bassoonist that wants to get more out of their summer." -Jarrett C. 2011-2013

"It was a well chaperoned and safe experience." -Andy L. 2012

"I really enjoyed the time I had with friends, and the camp really motivated me to get serious about my playing." -Sarah R. 2012-2013

"The Bassoon Extravaganza gave me my initial outlook on bassoon playing. The unique group setting is unlike any environment with its reed workshops, bassoon quartets, and ensemble playing. There is no other place in the Southeastern United States that will allow you to work with multiple professional players all at the same time! Without this week long institute I would have never fallen in love with the bassoon." -Sandra B., "From the Top" Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award Winner

Summer Bassoon Extravaganza at Emory University is a fantastic way for aspiring bassoonists, from those just learning bassoon to more experienced players, to spend a week in the summer soaking up all things bassoon. Bassoonists of all ages attend, from middle school, high school, and college students to more seasoned adult players. While at camp, there are opportunities to perform in a huge bassoon choir (think of a pipe organ sound coming from 30+ bassoonists), in chamber groups, or to demonstrate one’s skills with a solo performance in a masterclass. Bassoonists are exposed to bassoon literature of all kinds, and have opportunities to hear it performed by other students in masterclasses (where professional bassoon instructors coach them), and in a faculty/staff recital. Students also perform in chamber group recitals and in a bassoon choir concert. Private lessons are available from the bassoon faculty, and lessons in reed-making are also available. There are opportunities to attend special
sessions on a variety of topics, including instrument repair, the history of the bassoon, or composers who write music for bassoon, and much more. Faculty on staff include professional bassoonists from around the country. There was even a focus session by the bassoonists from the Atlanta Symphony orchestra, which always includes short performances by them. Vendors are available to purchase bassoon supplies, try out different bassoons, and even purchase a bassoon! There is plenty of time for socialization and fun once bassooning is done for the day. In all, Summer Bassoon Extravaganza is an excellent opportunity for bassoonists to experience a world where everyone around is also interested in bassoon - a really fun place to be for a week! Vicki S. -Attendee since 2006

I attended Bassoon Extravaganza 2002 as an adult who was returning to my bassoon after a hiatus of too many years. It was just what I wanted- a week of almost total emersion in bassoon. The days were filled with bassoon choir rehearsals, small ensembles with individual instruction from a faculty member and classes on various topics such as doing an audition or reed making. The faculty were outstanding teachers as well as performers and students get plenty of exposure to both of these characteristics. I heartily recommend it to students of any level or age for an exciting week to improve your playing as well as an introduction into the culture of bassoonists. -Allen G. 2002

I attended SBE in 2008. At that point, I had only been playing bassoon for a little less than 6 months. I was very intimidated that first day because I was surrounded by all these players that had so much more experience on the bassoon. I was worried that I would be looked down on for being so inexperienced, but to my delight, I was embraced by my teachers and my peers. During bassoon choir, I was challenged with music that was just hard enough, but not too much. I was placed in a quartet with others my same skill level, so I didn’t feel dwarfed at all. During the social times, my peers treated me equally and forgot all about my lack of experience on bassoon. I enjoyed SBE because it gave me an opportunity to be with incredible bassoonists, but not feel down because I was less experienced. I also learned a lot about the bassoon and progressed in leaps and bounds during my SBE experience. The teachers were incredible and worked directly with me and my peers [they] were welcoming and friendly. SBE is a great time for bassoonists of any skill level. Don’t miss the chance! -Brad N. camper 2008, counselor 2013