TESTIMONIALS

"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. The faculty includes 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 immersion 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