July 16, 2015

Penn Band
Summer Camp
July 18, 2015
1:30 PM
Iron Gate Theater
Our Benefactors

35 persons, including members and alumni of The University of Pennsylvania Band, together donated over $3,600 towards scholarships that supported ten students in attendance at this year’s program. For the gift they provided to our students, they have our deepest gratitude and thanks.

A Note from Our Fearless Leader…

What a great week!!

This week was jam-packed and successful. Over a dozen pieces of music, three performances (including the Battleship NJ), the Idina Menzel concert, a walking tour, a 3D printing workshop, Talent Night, and a rabid audience of 4th and 5th graders at the University Museum.

Wow…

At this 12th edition of our annual summer music camp for high school musicians, we learned that light and music have a lot in common. If you pass light through a prism, you can separate light into its component colors, e.g. the colors of the rainbow. Music is not much different in that there are different parts that comprise the whole. While we used the color analogy to learn a little about musical counterpoint (especially with the hymn, “Here I Am Lord”), the analogy extends further to describe the central roles played by the many individuals who contributed to this year’s program.

I am only one of the many colors of the rainbow that is the band camp. I can’t possibly be effusive enough about the contributions of counselors Brooke Yanovich, Nora Lueth, and Linnea Phillips: a veritable “Dream Team” of counselors that didn’t only perform at the highest level, but redefined it. As Santa Claus, they brought Christmas to Band Camp. For this, they have my deepest gratitude. Hands down, these three individuals stand as some of the best counselors to ever serve this program. Definitely take the time to thank them for what they did for your children this week.

Steven “The Hype Man” Birmingham and Brian “Bud Abbott” Greenberg have been involved with Penn Band Camp for several years now. But the story is not their years, but their mileage (in the positive sense!). The amount of work, personal time, and intellectual capital they’ve given year in-and-out to our outreach endeavor has had tremendous impact on countless young people. My friends always have my gratitude and remain the blue to my red.

Penn Band Nation, including Greer Cheeseman, our alumni, and the undergraduates of the Band always rally around this program in various ways, including contributions of time, labor, and finance. This includes Tom Hensle, Josh Cooper, Jacob Reeder, Joey Licata, Ellen Williams, Ana Cohen, Sam Rehrig, Robin Acker, Joseph Coyne, Kelly Ha, Lauren Mendoza, Kristi Littleton, Matt La Fronz, John San Soucie, Jordan King, Jonathan Calles, Jake Ponto, Steven Meisler, and Colleen Brace.

We also thank our partners at Musicopia, including Denise Kinney, Juliette Tyson, Meredith Haines, Steven Lanciano, and Jesse Mell for our ongoing partnership and collaboration; The Platt Center for Student Performing Arts (Laurie McCall and Maria Fumia-Dietrich); The Vice Provost’s Office for Undergraduate Life; Penn Athletics; Education Commons; The Battleship NJ; The Penn Museum; and Penn Hospitality Services.

And last but not least: my wife and two children. They are my rainbow every day.

Until Next Year!

Dr. G
Musical Selections

The Star Spangled Banner  
Francis Scott Key  
Arr. Bill Moffit  
Conducted by Brooke Yanovich

March Grandioso  
Roland Seitz  
Arr. by Alfred Reed

Here I Am Lord  
by Dan Schutte  
Arr. K. Gupta

These Dreams  
Martin Page and Taupin  
Arr. Jerry Nowak

Featuring soloists Natalia, Thaisia, Josh, and Hailey

Gospel John  
Jeff Steinberg  
Arr. John Tatgenhorst

~Intermission~

Space Jam  
Featuring Cris and Kelvin  
by Mark James  
Arr. Matt Conway

Hooked on a Feeling  
Jessie J, Ariana Grande, Nicki Minaj  
Arr. Ishbah Cox

Bang Bang  
By Jason Désrouleaux and Jon Bellion  
Arr. Michael Brown

Trumpets  
Fall Out Boy  
Arr. Matt Conway

Uma Thurman  
by Stephen Schwartz  
Arr. Jay Bocook

Defying Gravity  
Featuring soloists John, Avery, and “the Altos”  
by Stephen Schwartz  
Arr. Jay Bocook

"Who needs Flutes?"
Meet the Campers!

Avery Greenberg: Avery is a rising sophomore at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School who plays trumpet in the school’s jazz ensemble, concert band, and VIA National Champion marching band. Additionally, he spends a lot of time at Penn going to football games, basketball games, and attending band camps. Lastly, Avery would like to thank his parents and brother for their support. He cannot wait until next year’s camp!

Bobby Oquendo Jr.: Bobby is an 8th grader who goes to John B. Stetson Charter School in Philadelphia PA. He likes to play football, baseball, and basketball at his school. He plays baritone.

Cristerfer Aviles: hi im cris i l9ike long walks on the beach and lov drumming waiting to go to college …….. fmoig _cristerfer_Aviles ima teen coming up in the world with music and a new perspective on life and Drumming is the best thing ever.

David (Davey) Hiester: Davey is a multi-instrumentalist and composer from Philadelphia, PA who is a rising sophomore at Central High School. He would like to thank his family for supporting him in all of his musical endeavors and the people who make Penn Band Camp the place it is. When he is not playing or writing music, Davey enjoys playing sports and spending time with friends and family. His original compositions can be heard at: https://soundcloud.com/davey-hiester!

Emily Smith: Emily is a rising Senior at Friends Select School. This is her 5th year at Penn Band Camp; however, this is her first year playing the Tenor Saxophone (previously alto). Her favorite part of the week was playing on, and visiting, the USS New Jersey Battleship.

Grace Miller: Grace will be a junior at Central Columbia High School in Bloomsburg this fall and she is super excited to be part of the STEM program through Bloomsburg University. Grace plays trumpet, dabbles in mellophone, and collects other instruments to learn.

Hailey Kozuchowski: Hailey is a rising freshman at Upper Merion High School. She plays the alto saxophone. This is her 1st year at Penn Band Camp. She is excited to return to camp next year and continue to play music in the summer! She would also like to thank the sidewalk for keeping her off the streets.

Jacob Hayman: Jacob is a rising sophomore at Central High School. He plays trombone. This is his first year at Penn Band Camp. He cannot wait until camp next year.

John Wisniewski: John is a rising junior at Holy Ghost Prep. He plays trumpet, baritone horn, and trombone. This is John’s 3rd year at Penn band camp.

Josh Formola: Josh is a Junior at North Brunswick Township High School in North Brunswick, New Jersey. He plays alto saxophone (2 years), guitar (3 years), and bass (4 years). His favorite part of camp was learning new music and making new friends. He wants to go to college to become a music teacher. He wants to thank his mom, step-mom, and grandfather for supporting him in his endeavors.
Kelvin Brown Jr.: Kelvin plays the tenor drums in the drumline. Kelvin is an upcoming junior in high school. Kelvin lives in Philadelphia PA. and his favorite part of camp is having fun learning music. One of Kelvin's aspirations is winning a medal in a DCI drum core. While not playing drums Kelvin loves to have fun with family and stay fit.

Lily Pollock: Lily Pollock is a rising 8th grader who attends Haverford Middle School. She has been playing trumpet since 2nd grade and plans to stick with Penn Band Camp for many more years. While she does enjoy a peaceful meal at Chipotle, she would prefer eating a breakfast of donuts with Penn Band Camp.

Mary Sitris: Mary plays trumpet and loves to run and work out. She would like everyone to know that her valve oil smells like strawberries.

Natalia Grosso: Natalia is a rising senior at Renaissance Academy located in Phoenixville, PA. She has been playing the trumpet for nine years now and enjoys every minute of it. Her favorite part of the Penn Band Camp was playing on the Battleship in Camden, New Jersey. She hopes to continue her trumpet playing for as long as she can as well as become an emergency doctor as a full time career.

Olek Gierczak: Olek "Okel" Gierczak is a rising freshman that will attend the University of Pennsylvania. He is the first 6-year-old to be enrolled in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. He aspires to develop his skills in the fields of Computer Science and Physics, as well as continue to develop his musical abilities. He is absolutely appalled that Chipotle would dare change its monetary policy to harm the people that rely so heavily on its products.

Rebecca (Becky) Ferguson: Rebecca is a 14-year-old freshman from Newburgh, New York. She plays the double trigger bass trombone, as well as euphonium. Rebecca has played in All County Band as first chair on Euphonium and first chair on her bass trombone in All Country Jazz Band.

Ryan Walchonski: I play bass, but I do not "crank it up".

Wallis (Walli) Chen: Walli is a rising freshman at Bishop McDevitt High School. She has been playing music for many years, but has only recently gotten into percussion, which is the section she currently plays in. Aside from music, she enjoys playing softball, as well as having extravagantly-dyed green hair. For anything else you may need to know, peep her Instagram @chenxpenn. {}

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Wavy Chen: Wavy is a Junior at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg PA. She plays piano, drums, mallets, and bass. This is her third year at Penn Band Camp. She hopes to become a counselor.

Thaisha Vega: Thaisha is a junior at Kensington CAPA. She plays trumpet, and has been playing for 4 years. Thaisha is in All-City Band and a jazz combo in her school. She hopes to be in the Military Band and someday become a lawyer.
Meet the Staff:

Dr. Kushol Gupta: Kushol Gupta, Ph.D., Assistant Director of the Penn Band and Program Director of the Summer Music Camp, has served with the Penn Band since 1998 and is intimately involved with its day-to-day operation. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from the University of Pennsylvania to complement his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Biochemistry and Pharmacology. Kushol is an avid arranger, as well as a trombonist and tubist. In 2006, he was the lead author of Images of America: The University of Pennsylvania Band (published by Arcadia Publishing), which details the first 100 years of the organization’s history. During his tenure with the Band, he has spearheaded the program’s high school outreach efforts, including the establishment of three high school honor bands: The Palestra Honor Band, Band Extravaganza Day, and the Southwest Airlines 4th of July High School Honor Band. In 2004, he established the Summer Music Camp. Between 1993 and 1999, he was a staff member and drill writer for the Allentown (NJ) High School marching band program.

Steven Wesselton Birmingham: Steven has a BA in Economics and an MSE in the Management of Technology, both from UPenn. He has lived in Switzerland and France, and currently resides in Dover, DE where he serves as Chief Information Officer at Delaware State University. Steven is a former Vice-president of the Penn Band and a member of the Band’s honor society, Fanfare. He often teaches college courses and gives seminars on communications, leadership, negotiations, and project management. When not traveling, speaking, or working, Steven can be found in the kitchen, in an online game, or hanging out with friends.

Brian Greenberg: Brian is graduated from Penn’s Wharton School in 1991, back before they invented smartphones, web browsers or electric lights. As the modern world formed around him, he made his way from Philadelphia to Wall Street, where he currently serves as a director in Deutsche Bank’s Global Technology group. He spends his spare time at his home in northern New Jersey with his wife and two sons, and back to Penn, where he seeks out Philadelphia’s secret fountain of youth - the Penn Band. This summer, he is once again joined at camp by his son, Avery, who despite being a toddler just the other day, now claims to be rising high school sophomore.

Nora Lueth: Nora is a senior in Penn Nursing, originally hailing from Sioux Falls, SD—yes people live in South Dakota! In her free time, she enjoys singing, musical theatre, reading good books, drinking iced coffee, watching copious amounts of television and movies, and of course, playing the saxophone in the Penn Band. At Penn, she serves as president of the Penn Sirens (an all-female singing group), is the coordinator of the PennArts pre-orientation program, and is a general member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. Nora hopes to one day become a Family Nurse Practitioner and plans to work in the emergency department of any major city when she graduates (ah!) next year. And last but not least, she is SUPER jazzed to be a part of the Penn Band Summer Camp this year and can’t wait to give back to a group that has given so much to her.

Linnea Phillips: Linnea is a rising senior at Penn, pursuing a bachelor of science in nursing. After graduation she hopes to further her education to specialize in maternal/newborn health and midwifery. Linnea joined the Penn Band as a sophomore, and abandoned her upper-woodwind ways in favor of the Drumline, where she is primarily a cymbal player. Linnea is a co-section leader of the drumline, and a member of the Penn Band Council. Though she has lived in several states, Linnea currently resides in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, and is in Philly for the summer doing research on a Lung Resuce ECMO program and working in the School of Nursing. This is her first year being involved in Band Camp, and she is excited to be involved! She does not smile.

Brooke Yanovich: Brooke is a rising junior in the College of Arts and Sciences. After finding her calling as a Music major with a concentration in Theory and Composition, she has set out to learn all of the instruments. So far, she has learned flute and trombone and is currently using the summer to learn the clarinet, trumpet, piano and snare drums. This is her second year as a counselor, and she looks forward to many more!
Matt Buchberg (CIT): Matt is starting a Nuclear Energy Technology program at Salem Community College after transferring from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He has played trombone for 9 years in various groups including ensembles, bands, and marching bands. He has been attending Penn Band Camp for 5 years. Some of his favorite activities at Band Camp are playing games, cooking, reading, and of course playing music. He wants to wish everyone a happy band camp.

First Annual End of Camp Awards 2015

The Pint-Sized Powerhouse Award goes to Lily Pollock, for proving that strong chops come in small packages.

The One Second Award goes to Jacob Hayman for outside the box thinking on nametag creation and for holding down the fort on second trombone.

The Allstar Award goes to Hailey Kozuchowski for being our most athletic sax.

The Percussion Princess Award goes to Wavy Chen for her leadership and snare skills in the drumline.

The I Can’t Say I’m in Love Award goes to Walli Chen, for giggling so hard she couldn’t get the words out.

The Top Chop Award goes to Thaisa Vega-Gonzalez for best above the staff performance.

The Crank It Up Award goes to Ryan Walchonski for refusing to crank it up.

The River Song Award goes to Becky Ferguson for being the most loyal Whovian and having the greatest companion potential.

The Baby Quaker Award goes to Olek Gierczak for being the newest member of the Penn Band.

The Fortetissimo Award goes to Natalia Grosso for being our favorite Friendly, Fiesty, Feline-loving, Flugel horn player.

The Greek Lady Award goes to Mary Sitsis for her intimate knowledge of Greek cuisine and her Greek ancestry.

The Captain Kelvin Award goes to Kelvin Brown Jr. for battleship enthusiasm and leading the charge for a new cadence in the drumline.

The Traveling Minstrel Award goes to Josh Formola for bringing his guitar everywhere... including Wawa.
The Bachelor Award goes to John Wisniewski for being the most knowledgable guy around on who Kaitlyn should REALLY choose.

The Amazing Grace Award goes to Grace Miller for being the most flexible and all around most awesome camper.

The Eminemily Award goes to Emily Smith for dropping sick beats at the talent show.

The Jack of All Trades Award goes to Davey Hiester for playing not one, not two, but eight instruments.

The Butterfingers Award goes to Cristerfer Aviles for dropping his sticks and also being oh so sweet.

The Pump It Up Award goes to Bobby Oqendo for talent show engagement and overall enthusiasm throughout the camp.

The Kite and Key Award goes to Avery Greenberg for his vast Penn knowledge and tour guide skills.

Thank you all for an amazing week, enjoy the rest of your summers! And always remember….

“Cross on the GREEN, not in between!!!!!!!”

-Dr. G