

PRESS RELEASE

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4 American musicians chosen for cultural exchange with Sarajevo Philharmonic

Four young American musicians have been selected for an **International Cultural Exchange** program that will take them to Bosnia-Herzegovina for 10 months to perform with the Sarajevo Philharmonic. **Kevin Pfister, Bassoon**, from Ambler, Pennsylvania; **Daniel Worsham, French Horn**, from Kenosha, Wisconsin; **Jessica Young, French Horn**, from Denton, Texas; **Kevin Dombrowski, Trombone**, from Chicago, Illinois, will perform in opera, ballet and symphonic concerts from September 2014 through July 2015.

The International Cultural Exchange program is coordinated and sponsored by the Bosnian-Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts and Sciences (BHAAAS) in cooperation with the Sarajevo Philharmonic.

The mission of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts and Sciences is to provide connections between Bosnian-Herzegovinian and scientists, musicians, artists, and professionals in North America to build bridges of cooperation between our countries. The Academy promotes the spirit of intellectual diversity and free exchange of ideas in the belief that knowledge is shareable wealth.

The Sarajevo Philharmonic was founded in 1923 and has played an important role in shaping the musical life of Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Sarajevo Philharmonic is a full-time orchestra that currently performs in the National Theatre in Sarajevo and tours throughout the region.

The Sarajevo Philharmonic operated without interruptions throughout the siege of Sarajevo from 1993-1995. Although Sarajevo was exposed to daily bombardment from the surrounding hills which killed over 10,000 of its citizens, the Philharmonic held nine concerts in the 1993-1994 season, 21 concerts in the 1994-1995 season, and 41 concerts in the 1995-1996 season. Out of those 41 concerts, 10 were held prior to November 1995, when the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed. The Philharmonic lost two musicians during the siege.

The International Cultural Exchange Program for Classical Musicians starts in September 2014 and the participants will return to the United States in July 2015. Selection of the musicians was done by Conductor and Artistic Director Diane Wittry, who is a BHAAAS international member; Samra Gulamovic, director and conductor of the Sarajevo Philharmonic; and Eldin E. Karaikevic, BHAAAS project director. The applicants submitted copies of their performance resumes and unedited DVDs of their playing. The applicants also included a short video about why they wanted to participate in the program. Below are their biographies and photos.



Kevin Pfister, Bassoon, received his MM in Bassoon performance from Northwestern University where he studied with Christopher Millard. He received his BM in Bassoon Performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music through studying with Barrick Stees. Prior to going to the institute, he studied with renowned pedagogue Shirley Curtiss in Philadelphia. There, he also was a member of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and the Advanced Study Weinstein Woodwind Quintet at Settlement Music School. He plays with the Canton Symphony and is also the founder of Bow Tie Bassoonist Reeds & Cane co.



Daniel Worsham, French Horn, is a recent graduate from the University of Minnesota. While completing his degree in performance, he studied under the Minnesota Orchestra's Principal horn Michael Gast and Caroline Lemen. Dan plays with small ensembles and orchestras throughout Wisconsin, the greater Twin Cities region, and Chicago. He is on the substitute list for the Minnesota Orchestra well as the Green Bay Symphony, and the Kenosha Symphony. He is also a published composer, arranger and transcriber. His arrangements and original pieces for chamber groups have been played by musicians all over the US and continue to gain popularity in other countries.



Jessica Young, French Horn, graduated summa cum laude with a BM in horn performance and music theory from the University of North Texas, where she was also the winner of the concerto competition. Jessica has participated in the Kent/Blossom Music Festival, the American Wind Symphony Orchestra, and the Sound of America Band. Her teachers include Dr. William Scharnberg, Ron Lemon, and Richard King.



Kevin Dombrowski, Trombone, recently graduated from Yale University where he earned a Masters in Music Performance and before that he earned his Bachelor's in Music Performance at the Eastman School of Music. As an orchestral musician, he has played with the West Virginia Symphony, National Repertory Orchestra and the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra. As a soloist, Kevin has won several competitions and notably had the chance to play in Aarhus, Denmark for the International Trombone Association's solo competition. He is also an avid chamber musician and enjoys playing with the Handsome Dans Trombone Quartet.