

11/3/22 Music Hour Recap

Last week, we were lucky to hear from wonderful oboist Vera An! She taught us about the place of oboes in an orchestra: it helps them keep in tune and often has beautiful solos. Then, we received a demonstration of the instruments which consists of the reed and 3 main pieces of the body (the upper and lower sections then the bell). The reed can be adjusted by the oboist themselves or by someone else in order to manipulate the sound that is produced and needs to be soaked in water for around 5 minutes to ease playing. In addition, there are different styles of reeds that can be found throughout the world. Vera, during her performance, showed us what an oboist needs to do when the oboe gets blocked with water and demonstrated how she uses some tools to dry and blow out the inside of the oboe.

Next, Vera performed some beautiful solos for us from famous orchestral pieces including Bizet's *Carmen*, Strauss Jr.'s *Die Fledermaus*, the "Overture" from *The Barber of Seville*, Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2, and Miyazaki's *Totoro* cartoon. To end off the session, many of our members asked questions about the oboe itself, Vera's experiences, and we discussed how the instrument sounded to our music hour members (many enjoyed it!).

Tomorrow's Music Hour 11/10/22

Tomorrow, we will be hearing from percussionist, Alan Puglisi. His bio is shown below:

Alan Puglisi is a freelance percussionist in the Nashville, TN area. As a performer, he has worked extensively as a pit musician with several local theatre companies, appeared as a guest artist with the Vanderbilt Steel Band, and as a featured soloist with the Vanderbilt Wind Ensemble and Belmont Orchestra. As an educator, he worked for several years teaching with Metro Nashville schools, Williamson County schools, and Vanderbilt University. Alan received a Bachelor's of Music from Vanderbilt University in 2010, and then his Master's of Music from Belmont University in 2012: both in Percussion Performance. Currently, he serves as the principal timpanist for the Music City Brass Ensemble, a Nashville based brass band.

Additional Notes

Lastly, Lynne wanted to share a video of a harpist she enjoys on YouTube by the name of Sunita Staneslow. You can find the link to one of her videos where she plays several instruments including the harp, fiddle, and washboard [here!](#)

Have a great rest of your week everyone!

-Hubert :)