



the
Breaking Winds
Bassoon Quartet

PRESSKIT

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The BWBQ

The Breaking Winds Bassoon Quartet is a one-of-a-kind chamber ensemble that plays original music for bassoon quartet with often-comedic performance elements. Dancing, pop culture references, skits, and accessory instruments set the joyous and sometimes surreal tone at BWBQ shows. The four women of the BWBQ began playing together in 2008 as undergraduate classmates at the Eastman School of Music, and since then they have developed a busy schedule of appearances at concert halls, schools, pubs, and community spaces throughout the United States. Their active Youtube channel has garnered a million views.

Advocates of creativity and collaboration in music education, the BWBQ have performed for hundreds of students from preschoolers to postgrads. They have most recently visited public schools in Texas, Illinois, Connecticut, and New York. In 2014, the group presented masterclasses at Southern Methodist University, University of Southern Mississippi, the Eastman School of Music, and the Red Cedar Festival of Bands. They also served as keynote entertainers for the Oregon Music Education Association and were featured performers at the International Double Reed Society conference in New York City.

The BWBQ premiered Scott A. Switzer's concerto *Breaking Out* in March 2013 with the Yale Concert Band. Since then they have performed as soloists with the Eastman Wind Ensemble, West Point Band, Northshore Concert Band, and Meridian Community Band.

The quartet's debut album, *Breaking In*, was released in June 2013 and is available through many major online music vendors. Their repertoire features original compositions, arrangements, and transcriptions by the members of the group. They have published sheet music to a selection of these pieces through TrevCo Music Publishing.

Where We Perform

The BWBQ is no stranger to the concert hall...or school...or even your local party. With the ability to adapt music, programs, and the group vibe with each individual event, the BWBQ has no bounds as performers. Just to name a few, the group has performed in schools ranging from Pre-K to the university level, retirement homes, recital halls, concert halls, weddings, parties, bars, subway stations, pizza parlors, and much more. You name it, and we can make a performance for your event and place!

For fees and detailed information, please email us at thebreakingwinds@gmail.com.

Press Highlights

“The Breaking Winds are about more than entertainment. They also strive to convey that music is meant to be interacted with and that it doesn’t need to be confined to one genre or another”

-Laura Pawlowski, *The Double Reed (IDRS)*

“The bassoon has also made the move into the world of pop. There’s a quartet of classically trained bassoonists that covered Lady Gaga’s greatest hits...That’s right—bassoon on MTV!”

-NPR, *All Things Considered*

“Not only is it creative and ingenious but they are great bassoonists too! It’s outstanding!”

-Lezlee Masson, bassoonist, Air Force Band

“You gals were awesome! The kids are still talking about the performance.”

-Brandt Leondar, Assistant Director of Bands,
Grapevine High School

“The Bassoon! Such an underutilized instrument in music, normally! Love!”

-Perez Hilton, Hollywood Gossip Guru



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Album



Funded by nearly 1,000 supporters through the website Kickstarter.com, The Breaking Winds released their debut album in the summer of 2013. This isn't your standard chamber music album– most tracks are less than five minutes long, and the solo instrument is occasionally a kazoo. The album was created to show a wide range of genres and is made up of all original arrangements and compositions written by members of The BWBQ. *Breaking In* not only showcases the scope of the bassoon's ability to flourish in genres other than the classical realm, but it also demonstrates the group's technical facility and easy collaboration while still incorporating the silliness and vibrant atmosphere of a live BWBQ concert.



Breaking In is available in both CD and digital formats at major online music services such as CDBaby, iTunes, Amazon, and Spotify.

Performance Highlights

- July 2015 Performing guests at Beijing Bassoon Festival
- April 2015 Massachusetts Outreach Tour
- April 2015 Clinicians and performers at New Hampshire Music Education Association
- March 2015 Clinicians and performers at Pennsylvania Music Education Association

- Sept. 2014 Masterclass and guest recital at University of Southern Mississippi (Hattiesburg, MS)
- August 2014 Switzer Concerto with West Point Band for International Double Reed Society Conference (New York, NY)
- August 2014 Performance at Joe's Pub at Public Theater night club (New York, NY)
- Feb. 2014 Masterclass & Collaborative Performance with Meridian Community Band (Okemos, Michigan)
- Feb. 2014 Switzer Concerto with Eastman Wind Ensemble (Rochester, New York)
- January 2014 Clinic and Recital at Oregon Music Education Association All-State Conference (Eugene, Oregon)
- June 2013 Switzer Concerto with Northshore Band (Evanston, Illinois)
- Feb. 2013 Premiere of Switzer Concerto with Yale Concert Band (New Haven, Connecticut)
- Nov. 2011 **TOUR** Chicago Outreach Tour
- June 2011 **TOUR** Lone Star Outreach Tour (Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas)

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Programs

K-12 Outreach

The BWBQ present a 30-60 minute program individually tailored to your class period or after-school program. Younger students learn about instrument design and how music plays a role in their daily lives. Older students are offered ways of enriching their own education with creativity and play. To everyone's delight, students and teachers take part in the performance, acting as conductors, percussionists, and even featured actors! A quick Q & A session wraps it up.

Colleges & Universities

High-energy recitals by the BWBQ are a painless and fun way to introduce university students to ways of thinking outside the boundaries of a typical orchestra or chamber music experience. At this level, the BWBQ frequently addresses topics of special interest to young artists, including self-promotion, audience engagement, and that mythical beast known as entrepreneurship. The performers will fine-tune their program to suit the particular needs of your chamber, music business, or studio class.

Collaborations

Everybody shines when the BWBQ performs with your band. As featured soloists, the Breaking Winds can perform pieces from their existing repertoire or learn the repertoire of your choice. For the encore, they might perform with a musician from your ensemble as their drummer! While in residence, the quartet is also available for masterclasses or individual performances.

Masterclasses & Clinics

Masterclasses with the Breaking Winds leave students with motivation, positivity, and new information to consider in their individual practice. Students are guided through exercises to demonstrate how thinking outside the box can allow them to blossom artistically. Chamber groups pick up on practical rehearsal technique and communication. For young double reed players, the biggest takeaway is often that they are not alone! Clinics for educators address how creative chamber music projects can add enormous value to any student's education.

Sample Repertoire

Classical & Classics

- Air on a G String**
J.S. Bach, arr. B. Harrington
- Also Sprach Zarathustra**
R. Strauss, arr. B. Harrington
- Bassoonicana**
arr. Andrew Balent
- Bassoonists Holiday**
Leroy Anderson, arr. Fraser Jackson
- Chinese Dance from The Nutcracker**
P.I. Tchaikovsky, arr. Y. Katayama
- Confidence**
F. Mendelssohn, arr. Eryn Bauer
- Happy Birthday**
arr. The BWBQ
- Last Tango in Bayreuth**
Peter Schickele
- Libertango**
A. Piazzolla, arr. L. Ziemba
- Yuletide Fantasy**
D.H. Carroll

Original Compositions

- Banana**
Bill Douglas
- BWBQ Theme Song**
Yuki Katayama
- Bassoonicana**
arr. Andrew Balent
- Hip Hop Bassoon**
Various, Kara LaMoure

Pop, Rock & Indie

- 15 Step**
Radiohead, arr. L. Ziemba
- The Cave**
Mumford and Sons, arr. K. LaMoure
- Disney Princess Party**
Various, arr. K. LaMoure
- Forget You!**
Cee Lo Green, arr. L. Ziemba
- La Bamba**
Los Lobos, arr. L. Ziemba
- Lady Gaga Saga**
Various, arr. LaMoure & B. Harrington
- Mirrors**
Justin Timberlake, arr. K. LaMoure
- Paradise**
Coldplay, arr. L. Ziemba
- Somebody That I Used to Know**
Gotye, arr. Pentatonix/trans. K. LaMoure
- While My Guitar Gently Weeps**
George Harrison, arr. B. Harrington

Collaborative Pieces with Wind Ensemble

- Concerto for Bassoon Quartet and Wind Ensemble**
Scott A. Switzer
- Bassoonist's Holiday (Bugler's Holiday)**
Leroy Anderson
- Four of a Kind for Bassoons with Band**
Jack Bullock
- Serenade for a Picket Fence**
Norman Leyden
- Thunder and Blazes**
Julius Fucik, arr. John Iskra

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