

## Brown bagging with style: Logan Series packs more than background music

by Sean Dougherty  
*The Collegian*

"It was better than I thought it would be."

This is the response of many Behrend students after attending the Chicago Winds' performance earlier this month, the debut performance of this year's "Music at Noon: The Logan Wintergarden Series" schedule.

This response implies that students expected a classical performance to be less than entertaining. There are definite stereotypes surrounding classical music, and to a greater extent,

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live classical performances. The Logan Wintergarden Series has helped provide an easily accessed opportunity for students, faculty and the community to listen to classical music and decide for themselves if they enjoy it.

At every level, the Logan Wintergarden Series is making classical music exceptionally approachable.

"It is easy to have a concert series," explained David Stuntz, director of music and concert schedule planner. "The challenge is to create one aimed at people who otherwise wouldn't come."

To meet that challenge, the organizers of the Logan Wintergarden Series have set some unorthodox performance

guidelines. The performers are expected to explain each song they present. Their choice of clothing is to be relaxed in relation to typical dress. The length of each performance is always less than one hour. Admission is free and the setting is casual.

Each performance is held at noon, which is generally convenient for students and faculty. To continue this mid-day theme, audience members are invited to bring lunches to the performances. All of these steps are taken to get people involved in classical music and to create an understanding of fine music.

Typically, fine musicians perform in great concert halls, in fine dress, and without the audience chomping on cookies from the Wintergreen Cafe. Since the Logan concerts are quite opposite of the above, one might question the Logan performers' standing in their relative fields.

These musicians are unquestionably top-notch, however. Many of the performers have studied or are tenured at some of the nation's best musical institutions, including the Julliard School of Music and Northwestern School of Music. Others have toured the globe or performed with well known symphonies. Perhaps the fact that Logan performers can play in the Wintergarden's stripped-down setting is a measure of their excellence.

The Logan Wintergarden Series is provided through the Harry A. Logan, Jr. foundation. Kay Logan, the wife of the late Harry A. Logan, Jr. and foundation trustee, came to Behrend last year wishing to fund a concert series.

In arranging the first year of concerts, Stuntz was assisted by Mrs. Logan, who has formerly taught music, and Provost and Dean John Lilley, who completed undergraduate and doctorate work in music and is a trained conductor.



Mike Schell/*The Collegian*

**Bring the noise:** Audience members crowd the Wintergarden for a dose of the fine arts, courtesy of the Chicago Winds. The performance was the first in a series of six concerts aimed at breaking down the barriers between students and classical music.

Lilley is very pleased by the success of the Logan series.

"The arts are dependant upon support from the enlightened citizen," he explained. "Our hope is that the love of music created here at Behrend will continue with the students so that the arts will be supported in the future."

The first Logan concert was held on Oct. 2, 1990, a short seven months after Kay Logan first expressed her interest in a concert series. The Cavani String

Quartet performed that day, and the Wintergarden was set up with 75 white folding chairs. As noon approached, the seats quickly filled, leaving many unsuspecting patrons standing.

Since that initial performance, the individual concerts have drawn more than 300 students, faculty and community members. Space limitations are becoming a problem, but some individuals don't mind.

"Lately it's too crowded," Stuntz said. "What a delightful problem to have to face."

### Music on the way...

#### Eastman Opera Theatre

Wednesday, Nov. 3

By performing in English, members of the Eastman Opera Theatre shatter the stereotypes surrounding this classical music form.

#### Oberlin Trio

Wednesday, Feb. 26

The members of the Oberlin Trio, all proven performers and sought-after teachers, draw from their experiences at some of the world's most prestigious conservatories of music.

#### The Percussion Group

Wednesday, Oct. 16

Hailing from the University of Cincinnati, this group incorporates such obscure "instruments" as cactus needles and garbage cans into its innovative performances.

#### Prism Quartet

Tuesday, Jan. 21

With a repertoire drawing from classical transcriptions, modern jazz and original material, this group is a true "cross-over" act.

#### Annapolis Brass

##### Quintet

Thursday, March 26

America's first full-time performing brass ensemble, Annapolis Brass dazzles audiences with trumpets, French horn, trombone, and bass trombone/tuba.

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