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NEWS TIPS

SATURDAY, JAN. 22: BASSOON PLAYERS FLOCK TO UD FOR FREE WORKSHOP

From 10 to as many as 30 high school and college bassoon students, music educators and professional bassoon performers from the Dayton and Columbus areas will participate in the University of Dayton music department's first annual Bassoon Day workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 22, in Reichard Hall.

Robert Jordan of Yellow Springs, adjunct professor of music at UD, has planned a day of activities and seminars designed to ease bassoon playing and teaching. It's a "difficult and often misunderstood" low-range instrument in the woodwind family, he said.

Activities will be held in room 104 and in the adjoining band rehearsal room in Reichard. The schedule includes:

- 1:15 to 2 p.m., a reed-making class led by Robert Jordan and several of his freshman students. They will demonstrate the process from cane to finished reed in a "cooking show" approach, showing the processes on prepared samples of the reed at different stages of completion. The process involves cutting, shaping, soaking, folding, wrapping with wire and sanding until the finished two-inch reed is complete. It's the reed that generates the vibrations of air that produce sound, Jordan said. "A bassoon is a truncated cone; it's just a cone that's had an end lopped off. If there's no reed, there's no sound," he said;
- 3 to 4 p.m., performances by the Grove City High School and Miami Valley bassoon quartets and UD bassoon students; and
- 1 to 3 p.m., Fox Products Corp. of South Whitley, Ind., will debut its new, acoustically improved bassoon, which has been two years in development. Bassoon manufacturer Miller Marketing of Wayne, Pa., will also have instruments on exhibit.

"We're hoping to create a better understanding of the bassoon, making it easier for bassoonists to play better and providing teachers with tips to bring back to their students," Jordan said.

For more information, call Robert Jordan at (937) 767-9046.