

Appalachian State College Music Society Student Chapter

A General Report

This report focuses on the events, programs, and ideas formed by the Student Chapter of the College Music Society at Appalachian State University.

This report can serve as a guide for starting a student chapter, examples of events, and focuses on how we keep student interest in the College Music Society. It also speaks of our members' experiences at the CMS National Conference. The Executive Board of the Appalachian State College Music Society for the 2016-2017 academic year consists of Zach Bowyer: President, Zachary Lloyd: Vice-President, Rachel Tucker: Secretary, and Emma Lassiter: Treasurer.

The faculty advisor for the Student Chapter is Dr. Jennifer Snodgrass. The report was written over the course of the 2016-2017 academic year and the Fall 2017 semester.

Zach Bowyer, President

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Introduction

The 59th National Conference for the College Music Society (CMS) took place from October 26th to October 29th, 2016 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. At this conference, the students, alumni, and faculty from Appalachian State University were the largest representation of any institution from across the United States. A total of ten undergraduate students, one graduate student, five alumni (also representing other institutions and businesses), and six faculty came to represent Appalachian State and the amazing degree programs we offer. Before the conference, the Executive Board met and decided that a special initiative would be taken to try to spread the word about student involvement in CMS. We talked with Catherine Tlusty and Rachel McLaughlin, Presidents of the Student Chapters at North Dakota State University and Valparaiso University, respectively, about what they thought about this and ways that they thought we could do this. Through some collaboration, we came up with making small “flyers” about the newly formed College Music Society Student Association (CMSSA) and handing them out to any and all people we met and connected with at the conference. This could include students, business representatives, but most importantly, professors. We wanted to use the professors to get their students involved in their respective institutions. On these flyers, we also put my contact information in the event that a professor or student wanted to form a student chapter. I will discuss the reception of these flyers at a later point in this report. Also at this conference, a huge step was taken in getting regional chapters more involved in recruiting students to be in the organization. This idea is one that we, as an Executive Board at CMS, have been talking about for a long time. I will also discuss this later in more detail. Our Executive Board has been working extremely hard to bring new ideas and

programs to Appalachian State and to not only help students become more professional in their field, but also to get them out of their comfort zones and to help them experience new world and musical settings.

I, and the rest of our Executive Board and Student Chapter at Appalachian State, hope that you will listen to our ideas and implement them to your students and colleagues. The College Music Society has some of the most valuable resources for college professors and students. The discussion of engaging more students in the Society has been on the table for quite a while, but with the actions that we, as a university student chapter, as nine united regional chapters, and as a national organization, are currently taking, we will greatly involve more students, hopefully in the near future. It is our responsibility to continue the legacy of this superb organization and involving more students is the largest part of our mission, as members, advocates, and professional musicians in the College Music Society.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zach Bowyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

Zach Bowyer
President
College Music Society
Appalachian State University Student Chapter

New Beginnings at AppState CMS (2016-2017)

The College Music Society at Appalachian State has never seen a more diverse Executive Board and Student Chapter before this year. Our Student Chapter now includes students from all majors in the Hayes School of Music, including Music Education, Music Performance, Music Industry Studies, and Music Therapy. Our Executive Board also consists of students from new areas that have never been represented on the Board before. As President, I am a junior Sacred Music and Organ Performance double major hoping to go to graduate school for Sacred Music and Music History. In the future, I want to be a Music Minister for a large church and teach Music History or Sacred Music at a nearby institution. Our Vice President, Zachary Lloyd, is a junior majoring in Music Theory and Composition. He hopes to go to graduate school for music theory and become a theory professor one day. Rachel Tucker, our Secretary, is a sophomore majoring in General Music Education and wants to eventually go to graduate school for Music Theory, as well. She wants to teach high school music theory and other music courses and eventually go on to teach music theory at the collegiate level. Our Treasurer, Emma Lassiter, is a sophomore majoring in Choral Music Education and wants to continue in this path to eventually go on to become a Director of Choral Activities at a university. Our Executive Board has mostly seen either Music Performance or Music Education majors as Presidents or other members of the Executive Board, but we now have new perspectives of how we can better educate our Student Chapter and other members in the Hayes School of Music.

In addition to having a brand new Executive Board, we have also launched four brand new CMS Committees at Appalachian State. The committees seek to involve more students in the chapter in making decisions on what we, as a chapter, should be

accomplishing, how we can keep students interested in our events, and spreading word for programs that everyone in our school could find helpful. Our Executive Board members serve as the Committee Heads, but we are hoping to benefit even more students by electing Committee Chairs from members of our chapter. The Programs Committee, headed by myself, is designed to bring new and exciting programs to our chapter. This committee currently consists of four students, all who are either Music Education or Music Performance majors. The Membership Committee, currently consisting of two Music Performance majors and headed by our Vice-President, focuses on bringing more members into our club and how we can keep current members engaged. It also helps current members get the most out of their membership to the national organization. The Special Projects and Events Committee, led by our Secretary, concentrates on providing the members of our club, as well as the general public, with exclusive events that take a large amount of planning to execute. This committee currently has eight members, most of which are majoring in Music Education. Finally, our Community Engagement Committee, headed by our Treasurer, spreads information about our programs and special events with the public in forms of social media and posters. They also focus on how we can involve the public with the activities of our club. This committee has three members, two of which are Music Therapy majors and the other being Music Education.

We have seen great success from these new committees and our new Executive Board. The diversity, in the forms of majors and experience, that we have brought to lead this organization has proven to be very influential with recruiting new members.

Innovative Ideas at AppState CMS (2016-2017)

Our Executive Board has come up with many new programs, ideas, and interesting events for our student chapter at Appalachian State. First and foremost, we have largely increased our use of social media. We have split up the duties of the three large social media websites among myself, the Vice-President, and the Secretary. Our Facebook page, run by myself, currently has one hundred four “likes,” which means that we connect with one hundred four individuals when we post about our events, programs, and other club items. Our Twitter page, which is run by our Vice-President, currently has forty followers. We have had minimal use on this page, but we hope to start using it to interact with composers, educators, theorists, and musicologists on Twitter in the near future. Our Instagram page, headed up by our Secretary, is a place to advertise our chapter happenings in the form of pictures. We post on our Instagram fairly often and have one-hundred-seventeen followers on this page. Our new social media pages have definitely helped in keeping members in the club and definitely with getting new members involved. Our newest form of social media would be our website, which we designed through Weebly. This new site has proven to be so useful with advertising our personal information. This is run by our Treasurer.

Our new email has also helped with keeping members up-to-date and with letting others view the professional side of our club. We have a normal email account through Google Mail, but we have started using a new email service called MailChimp, where we can design a better email. An example can be found below:

Appalachian

STATE UNIVERSITY

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA 28608



Back to School Newsletter

August 15, 2016

A Note from the President

Good evening, CMS members!

First of all, welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! I have no idea where summer went, but I know that I am excited to be back at Appalachian with all of you and our incredible faculty. If you are a new student at Appalachian this year, then I hope that you enjoy everything that this wonderful institution has to offer. This year holds many new opportunities for us as a club and for us individually as we enhance our professional sides of ourselves as musicians. This newsletter holds a lot of very important information, so please read it carefully! Let me introduce myself to those that don't know me. I am a



junior double majoring in Sacred Music and Organ Performance. I hope to be a Music Minister in the future and go on to study Musicology, Music Theory, or Sacred Music in graduate school. With those degrees, I hope to either teach any of those subjects at the collegiate level. You can find me roaming around the music building either in the organ practice room (that is very hard to find and nobody seems to know about!) or in the concert hall blasting away at some hymns. The rest of the Executive Board and I are here to help you through our club and as friends with anything else you may need help with in the days ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us at any time with any questions you may have. I look forward to seeing all of you around campus!

Best wishes,

Zach Bowyer
CMS President

Schedule of Planned Events

Here is what we have planned so far for this upcoming semester! If you have any ideas for events or programs, please let us know!

- **Saturday, August 19: CMS Potluck Cookout (5:30pm)**
Come join us at the home of our club advisor, Dr. Snodgrass, for a night of food and fun! If you could bring a side dish or a dessert, that would be wonderful. Don't have a car? No problem! We will have a carpool system up and running for this event. [If you are interested in going to this event, please email our President, Zach Bowyer, at \[bowyerzh@appstate.edu\]\(mailto:bowyerzh@appstate.edu\).](#)
- **Thursday, August 25: CMS Introductory Meeting (7pm)**
This is our first formal meeting of the semester! We will have light refreshments available and we will be talking about CMS in more detail. This is also a great time to meet fellow musicians and learn more about our organization and more about what we can do to help you. This event will be in the Broyhill Music Center, however, the room number is TBA.
- **Thursday, September 1: Professional Development Series - Headshots (7pm)**
This semester, we will have a series dedicated to professional

development. In this series, we will have workshops on APortfolio, headshots, resume building, and other topics! This is the beginning of this series and for a \$20, a photographer will take three professional headshots of you in any stance of your liking, including with your instrument. This would be great for websites or future performances. The location for this event is in Rosen Concert Hall of the Broyhill Music Center. Please use the back entrance and come dressed and with your instrument!

National Conference News

So far, we have about fifteen people either interested or committed to going to Santa Fe, NM for the College Music Society National Conference in October! These conferences are a great way to make connections with other music schools across the world and develop the knowledge that we have gained in our everyday classes here at Appalachian. We have four hotel rooms reserved and room for about twenty people. Below, you can find a schedule of how travelling to and from the conference will work. You can also find details about how the College Music Society can help you financially in registering for and travelling to the conference. If you are at all interested in going with us to this incredible event, please email our Vice-President, Zachary Lloyd, at lloydzr@appstate.edu.

Conference Travel Details

Wednesday, October 26:

- Leave sometime in the morning for the Charlotte airport and depart on similarly timed flights, if not the same flight. This way, we can all get to the conference at about the same time and get to the hotel together.
- Make sure that you are travelling to Albuquerque, not to Santa Fe. We can take a bus to Santa Fe when we fly into ABQ. It is a lot cheaper than flying directly to Santa Fe.
- Arrive in Santa Fe later in the evening and check into the hotels.

Thursday, October 27 - Saturday, October 29

- National Conference events scheduled by the National Organization.

Saturday, October 29 - Sunday, October 30

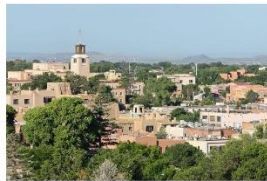
- Depart from Santa Fe depending on when you need to be home.

Internships and Travel Grants

The College Music Society offers internships and travel grants to students travelling to National Conferences. If you receive an internship, you are required to work for six hours during the conference at either the registration desk or as an assistant to some of the speeches and concerts. These are easy jobs and the Society pays your registration fee for the conference in exchange for your service. The link for the application for the internship can be found [here](#).

A few travel grants are also available to those that apply for them. These range from \$50-\$100 and are given to a student based on financial need. You can find the link to the application for the travel grant [here](#).

If you have any questions at all about any of this information, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Formation of Committees

The Executive Board has discussed and finalized the formation of several new committees that will benefit our club and the entire organization. These committees serve the members of the club and we want you all to be on them! Being a part of these committees would look great on resumes and would help your chances for running for future positions, either in our chapter of the College Music Society or in other clubs. Here are the new committees, who is in charge of them, and a brief description of what they will do throughout the year:

Programs Committee

Committee Head: Zach Bowyer

The Programs Committee will help the Executive Board in designing new programs for the club. This is the committee for people that are great at

brainstorming and who are creative in organizing events. We will also make a list of needed items for these events and give them to the Special Projects and Events Committee in order for them to carry out our requests. This committee will also work with the President on organizing events and ideas for the new Student Association of the College Music Society (CMSSA).

Membership Committee

Committee Head: Zachary Lloyd

The Membership Committees' main focus will be on recruiting and retaining members within the organization and student chapter. We will focus on recruitment events along side other organization committees, as well as on outreach within the school of music as it pertains to membership. Our goal in this committee is to bring to light the many opportunities and advantages that come with being a member of the College Music Society, and especially a part of the student chapter. We will also make sure that each and every member is getting as much out of their membership as possible.

Special Projects and Events Committee

Committee Head: Rachel Tucker

The Special Projects and Events Committee is a catch-all committee in which each member will assist with fundraising and outreach events through the entire process. This would include planning, organization of the event, and people to help set up, take down, and work the event. The committee could also include reaching out on social media when the club needs someone for a specific event or project such as a photographer for head shots or someone to give a presentation to the club.

Community Engagement Committee

Committee Head: Emma Lassiter

The Community Engagement Committee is responsible for the design and placement of posters and information for different events. The committee is also responsible for contacting internal professors in regards to involvement with the organization and for submission of photographic and written materials to CMS social media.

If you are interested in becoming a part of one of these committees, please don't hesitate to contact either the President or the Head of each of the individual committees.

Social Media Happenings

Instagram and Facebook

As a club, we are very active on Instagram and Facebook! Please give us a follow or a like using the links right below this paragraph. If there is something you want shared on either of our pages, send it in to our email (appstatecms@gmail.com) and we'll post it for you!



Facebook Website Instagram

Appalachian State College Music Society Executive Board

President

Zach Bowyer
bowyerzh@appstate.edu

Vice-President

Zachary Lloyd
lloydz@appstate.edu

Secretary

Rachel Tucker
tuckerrb@appstate.edu

Treasurer

Emma Lassiter
lassitered@appstate.edu

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You are receiving this email because you are a member of the Student Chapter of the College Music Society at Appalachian State University.

Our mailing address is:
Appalachian State College Music Society
Broyhill Music Center
813 Rivers St.
Boone, NC 28607

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

MailChimp

This new mail service makes it so easy to gain a visual aspect in our emails because we can insert pictures, change the color of text, and do so much more to make the email look more lively. We've received several compliments on how professional they look and how much people love receiving our newsletters, which definitely makes the effort worth it.

As an Executive Board and a Programs Committee, we have also developed several new programs for our club. We designed a new Professional Development Series that ensures students are ready for the professional world, including conferences, their specific field, and many other opportunities involving music in professional life. This series consisted of three different events and workshops that focused on diverse professional activities. Our first event was a fundraiser for our chapter members who were travelling to Santa Fe for the National Conference. Our Vice President is an amateur photographer and we advertised that we would be taking three professional headshots in any pose of the student's liking for only twenty dollars. We set up a backdrop in our concert hall and used the spotlights to get a more natural light than the average classroom lighting. Even though six students only showed up to get headshots, many students showed interest in the event and said that they would definitely come get them done if we had this event again in the future. The second event of this series was the most successful event and consisted of a workshop dealing with resumes, curriculum vitae, interviews, and other topics dealing with establishing yourself as a professional musician. Dr. Joby Bell and Dr. Jennifer Snodgrass, two skilled professors in these topics, spoke to students for an hour about how to correctly format a curriculum vitae, how to sell yourself in an interview, etc. We had about twenty students come to this workshop and received many good reviews about how the presentations helped everyone who attended. Our final event of this series was a

presentation by myself and our Treasurer about the benefits of having your own website. We presented about Aportfolio, a service that Appalachian State offers that allows current students to design a portfolio based website to display their achievements. Although we only had about eight students attend this event, we still got great feedback about how much it helped those in attendance.

Our student chapter also hosted a CMS Cookout at the home of our advisor, Dr. Jennifer Snodgrass, at the beginning of this school year. In addition, we had an event dedicated to Student Research that let members and non-members present their current research to the Appalachian and Hayes community before attending other conferences, such as the National Conference for Undergraduate Research. One of our last meetings of the year consisted of an Alexander Technique Workshop to help alleviate stress about juries and finals.

The Future of AppState CMS (2017-2018)

The future is both known and unknown for our student chapter. We have recently held elections for the 2017-2018 school year and the diverseness of the organization through our new executive board will grow dramatically. As a Senior, I will continue to serve as President and have had increasing interest in the field of Choral Conducting and Musicology. Our Vice-President will be our former Secretary, Rachel Tucker, who is a Junior General Music Education major interested in teaching Music Theory at the high school and collegiate levels. Our Secretary, Abbi Fleckenstein, is new to our Executive Board and fairly new to the Society. She is a Senior Choral Music Education major that is looking more towards a field of academia in music. Our new Treasurer, Logan Heafner, is a Music Industry Studies major and a Junior. Through his voice and presence in this program and in the Hayes School, we will be able to incorporate more ideas and programs that involve all students. We have also added two new positions to our Executive Board since the student chapter has grown exponentially. These positions are Editor and Member-at-Large. Our chapter's Editor will be Kaitlyn Jones, a Sophomore majoring in Choral Music Education. The Editor will be responsible for all of our social media accounts, our email account, and for making our event flyers. Our new Member-at-Large, who is responsible for representing the student members in our chapter, will be Emma Hammond, a Junior majoring in Flute Performance who is interested in teaching flute at the collegiate level. In addition, we have updated our committees and descriptions to be more well-rounded and so they can accomplish more. We now have the Programs Committee, which is responsible for brainstorming programs for our chapter, the Events and Outreach Committee, who puts those programs into action and spreads the word about our events to the public, and the

Fundraising Committee, which fundraises so we can fund our programs. The committee heads are elected from members not on the Executive Board. However, all Executive Board members are required to be on one committee (two members per committee) in order to help Committee Heads and bring ideas back to the Executive Board.

We hope for more growth in the future of our student chapter. We want to expand on programs we have formed this year and also get more students from more disciplines involved, especially from Music Industry Studies and Music Therapy. We want to find programs that are for specific music majors and for the all-around music major. This way, we can get specific groups interested in the organization and then come together to form a larger student chapter for larger events that are designed for everyone. We have started a new series titled “Professors Unwind,” in which Hayes School of Music professors come speak to our chapter and any public members who are interested about their passions, what first made them interested in music, their successes and downfalls, and any advice they may have to students who are stressed and questioning if they want to do music, altogether. This allows for the students to see their professors as actual people instead of placing them on this unattainable pedestal that we think we can never reach. We also hope to build on programs that we presented this year, including our Music Showcase and our Professional Development Series Workshops. To sum up this section, we hope for more growth, more diverse programs, and to be an organization for all musicians, not focusing on just one area of the field.

How We Keep Students Interested

Student interest in the College Music Society is definitely one of the areas in which our Executive Board has worked in the past year. Admittedly, we were extremely unprepared when we tried to present our student chapter to incoming freshman at our Club Expo back in the Fall of 2016 because we had almost no experience in explaining the organization, what it did, and what its purpose was. Therefore, we created our own student chapter website with our own mission statement that we believed easily described the functions of the College Music Society. Our mission statement reads, “The Appalachian State Student Chapter of the College Music Society strives to bridge the gaps in our academic study of music. As an organization, we prepare students to enter the professional world of music and academia, whether by entering the workforce or enrolling in graduate level studies. Through local and national activities, we connect students to peers and faculty members, forming bonds and facilitating discussion and potential research proposals.” This formal mission statement describes what our chapter and what the national organization can do for students in all areas of music, which was definitely needed in order to pursue gaining interest in the organization through undergraduate and graduate students.

In addition to creating our own website, we also created many new platforms of social media, including a Facebook page, a Twitter, and an Instagram. We can connect all of those to our mailing service (Mailchimp). We have also created numerous new flyers that are attractive to the eye and really help to spread our message. You can see some examples of those below:

PRESENTED BY APPALACHIAN STATE
COLLEGE MUSIC SOCIETY

UNAKA PRONG
VANILLA ENVELOPE
DOWNTOWN ABBY
LOGAN HEAFNER
THE BLUE WILD

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 8TH
8 O'CLOCK PM

COLLEGE MUSIC SOCIETY

MUSIC SHOWCASE

ROSEN CONCERT HALL
BROYHILL MUSIC CENTER

QUESTIONS?
APPSTATECMS@GMAIL.COM

TICKETS: \$5
CONCERT CREDIT FOR MUSIC MAJORS

**THE APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE MUSIC SOCIETY**

PRESENTS

STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 6:30PM
ROOM 225; BROYHILL MUSIC CENTER

Students, faculty, and community members are invited to come and hear about the incredible research that some of our members and other music students have been doing for conferences, such as the College Music Society Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference and for the National Conference of Undergraduate Research, which are taking place next month. These presentations serve as practice for the presenters and as a time for our community to hear about the research they have been conducting.

Questions?

Email us at appstatecms@gmail.com



THE COLLEGE MUSIC SOCIETY
PRESENTS

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15
7:00PM

BROYHILL MUSIC CENTER
ROOM 213

FEATURING DR. JOBY BELL AND DR. JENNIFER
SNODGRASS SPEAKING ABOUT CV'S,
RÉSUMÉS, NETWORKING, AND THE INTERVIEW
PROCESS FOR FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES.



APRIL 27 AT 5PM

APPSTATE CMS PRESENTS

Alexander Technique Workshop



STRESSED BECAUSE OF UPCOMING
FINALS AND JURIES? COME EXPERIENCE
ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE WITH HSOM'S
INCREDIBLE CORINNE CASSINI!

ROOM 322 (OPERA ROOM)
BROYHILL MUSIC CENTER
HAYES SCHOOL OF MUSIC



In addition to having more of an online presence, we've also just had more of a physical presence. Musicians are more introverted than extroverted and we have tried to change that, especially with our Executive Board. We spread the word about CMS to just about every person we see in the Hayes School of Music and on our personal social media accounts. We act excited about our events, which in turn, makes other excited and want to attend and even join the organization. A few uncomfortable moments can really go a long way for the productivity of your student chapter.

College Music Society Student Association

In the years since the first College Music Society Student Chapter formed at Appalachian State University, many different approaches have been taken to improve student involvement in the overall organization. In conversation with many of the past and current leaders of the College Music Society, it is evident that many people want more students in the organization. After a few attempts were made at forming different social media groups for the students of CMS, the Student Chapter Presidents from Appalachian State University, Valparaiso University, and North Dakota State University contacted each other to begin the process of what would eventually become the College Music Society Student Association. At that time, those Presidents were Zach Bowyer, Rachel McLaughlin, and Catherine Tlusty, respectively. We agreed that we should have one major social media of which all Student Chapter Presidents should be in charge. What we came up with was having a Facebook page where fans of the CMSSA can “like” the page. After this, the Presidents will go in to analyze the profiles of those who have liked the page and put them into a closed group that consists of those who are students in the College Music Society. During the 2016 CMS National Conference, the Presidents listed above passed out flyers to students in attendance about this group. As a result, the group grew exponentially during and in the weeks after the National Conference in 2016, but we have not seen much growth since then. Before the 2017 CMS National Conference, this page had one hundred two “likes” and there were thirty-nine members in the group.

With this group, we hope to expand the reach of the College Music Society to all music students who are on Facebook. We want to spread the incredible benefits for students that this great organization can offer and social media is the best way to do it. We

also want this group to function as a way for students to connect with one another, find similar interests, and eventually work on future projects in collaboration with one another. A larger goal for this group would be to motivate students with no student chapter at their university to form one of their own. If students can see the benefits of having a student chapter and can easily contact the leaders of chapters across the country, then, without a doubt, more chapters will be formed.

Another goal would be to have graduate students who have had good experiences with CMS in their undergraduate programs to go on to their new universities to encourage students at those institutions to join CMS. The CMSSA Facebook group could be beneficial to these new members because the graduate students could introduce the student to the group and act as a mentor in leading the new student member to find connections and become involved in the entire Society. This would also ultimately result in new student chapters.

Any questions about the College Music Society Student Association should be directed to one of the three Presidents listed above. Their emails are as follows:

- Zach Bowyer: bowyerzh@appstate.edu
- Rachel McLaughlin: rachel.mclaughlin@valpo.edu
- Catherine Tlusty: catherine.tlusty@ndsu.edu

Our Experiences at Conferences

The following reflections are from members of our student chapter. The members have chosen to remain anonymous.

2017 Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

“This past spring, I presented in the poster session at the CMS Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference in Towson, MD. I enjoyed participating in the poster session and was happily greeted by fellow CMS members, but the events leading up to the session were very stressful. It pains me to say this, because I love the College Music Society and have had so many great experiences with this organization, but this was the most unorganized conference I have ever been to.

I stayed at the conference hotel, and was surprised to see there were no signs or any sort of indicators that a CMS conference was taking place. The morning of my presentation, I was not exactly sure as to where I needed to be (due to the lack of maps and marketing for the conference), so I decided to ask the front desk clerks at the hotel. Neither one of them could provide me with any information, nor had any idea that conference members were staying at the hotel. Thankfully, I saw someone with a CMS nametag on who informed me that the poster session was taking place in Towson University’s art center.

Upon my arrival to the art center, I was sad to see, once more, that there were no signs or maps anywhere informing CMS members of where the conference events were taking place. While wandering around the arts center, I met two other people who were in my exact same predicament, and the three of us wandered around the art center for about 20 more minutes before finally seeing the registration table with the CMS logo on it.

Once I found the registration table, everything else about the conference was wonderful, but Towson, MD was a terrible location for this conference and there was not even close to enough marketing taking place for the conference and presentation locations.”

2017 National Conference

“The 2017 National Conference was an incredible learning experience and networking opportunity. I connected with so many professors at countless universities across the United States. It was nice to see how the administration of CMS wanted more students at the National Conference because we were some of the only students who were represented from across the entire country.

Even though the conference was a good learning opportunity, some things still stuck out that made CMS seem like it wasn't open for students. I heard from a few attendees that they didn't understand why students 'had to come' to these conferences. I heard about one of my peers being asked why they were there. I really don't understand why professors can't see that students want and need professional development, too. Without students in the College Music Society, we can basically say goodbye to the entire organization. How else are we going to maintain the strong reputation of this organization unless we have younger members replacing the older ones? I mean no disrespect at all to the distinguished professors who present at these conferences and have dedicated their lives to their research and work, but this is a topic that we really have to start thinking about.

I also don't really understand why the conference has such a high cost for students who want to attend. I have heard of other organizations charging close to nothing for students to attend their conferences and even offering scholarships for students to be able

to go to these amazing opportunities. The American Musicological Society is one of these organizations and they have amazing student turnout at their national conferences. I hope that CMS is able to do this in the future because we need more students at these conferences so that the students are not able to only network with professors, but with each other.

The conference really was a great learning experience, but I feel like CMS could benefit from learning the opinions of some students. We need to be taken as seriously as the professors who attend if we want to see this organization thrive.”