



Musick Notes

June 2010
Year 1 in Review

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My beloved family and friends,

My first year teaching has come to a close. It has been a blessing to share this exciting year with you. For more stories from the year, be sure to visit my blog: <http://musickfamily.net/jill/blog/>.

Looking Back

Looking back on this first year at BFA, my first year teaching, my first year living overseas, I thank God for His continued faithfulness and many blessings. He grew my orchestra from 2 to 7. He removed the students' initial skepticism toward orchestra. He brought us through the emotionally turbulent times in February. He provided friends within the BFA community as well as the German community who encourage me. He eased my transition into a new language and culture. Join with me in thanking God for this year!

Money from Berlin

In my last newsletter I left you a teaser – what did the orchestra decide to do with the 50 Euros we received from playing at a church in Berlin?

We are contributing half of the money to a school for blind children in Tajikistan. They

need funds for a special scanner that will read books and convert them into Braille.

Part of the money also paid for a gift for the one senior in orchestra, J.K. Due to financial difficulties, he had been unable to purchase an orchestra hoodie, so the orchestra decided to buy his hoodie. We presented it to him at the Spring Concert.

With the leftover money, the orchestra went to the Eiscafe in town and ate ice cream together.

Spring Concert

We had our Spring Concert on June 6. Performers included Middle School Hand Drums, Piano Class, Guitar Class, High School Choir, and High School Orchestra.



High School Choir sang “Wonderful World” with props and acting.

It was a concert of farewells: to the choir director Michele, the seniors, departing staff, and departing students. The final piece that the orchestra played was “The Turtledove,” a traditional English farewell tune. I had originally learned this piece in Elgin Youth Symphony; we played it every year as a goodbye to the seniors. That same piece, arranged for string orchestra, will become a new tradition at BFA’s Spring Concerts.

The concert was a satisfying ending to a year that has been hard in many ways, yet very fulfilling.

Work Weeks

As part of our effort to keep the school affordable, staff members spend two weeks each summer working on various projects around the school. My first week involved work in the maintenance department (helping with oil changes and checking school vehicles for needed repairs) and tasks at the elementary school (painting the gym and moving the library to a new location).



New elementary school library

This week I have been working at the front office as a receptionist. I have been mentally stretched as I answer the phone in both English and German. I have been called on to do things as simple as give out phone numbers, and as difficult as informing a

plumber that a drain that was repaired last week in one of the dorms is no longer draining. Praise God that my German skills are developing!

Amidst the work has been the fun of the World Cup. If you are unaware of the events, please be aware that both the USA and Germany took first in their respective groups, thereby advancing to the Final 16. If you do not know what that means, go to www.fifa.com and educate yourself on the sport that unites the world like none other. It has been my privilege to experience the World Cup culture in Germany. It changed private, quiet Germans into loud, enthusiastic supporters cheering for their home team! Now, as I head “home” for the month of July, I feel a bond with both the USA and my new “home,” Germany.

What’s Up Ahead

June 28 – I fly into Chicago O’Hare at 2:15pm (Zurich to London to Chicago)

August 1 – I return to Germany!

I ask that you pray for the following:

- **Praise** God for blessing me with a wonderful first year of teaching, full of growth and excitement.
- **Praise** God that I get to come home!
- **Pray** that my time this summer would be spent well and that I would be able to reconnect deeply with friends and family.
- **Pray** for the students as they spend quality time with family this summer.
- **Pray** for the beginning orchestra and band that Katie and I are starting at BFA next year.

God bless you all!

~Jill Musick

