

Dear Friends of the Academy,

Thank you very much for your generous grant towards the costs of my music festivals and trip. With the funds granted, I chose to extend my trip and flew to New York City and audited the Imani Winds Chamber Festival.

This festival was a chamber festival taken by the leading wind quintet, Imani Wind Quintet. The festival included masterclasses with the quintet members as well as groups and outside musicians they brought in. I was able to audit masterclasses taken by the Akropolis Reed Quintet and Andrew Brady, Principal Bassoon of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. The performances I watched included an awe-inspiring New York premiere of a concerto for bassoon and reed quintet, performed by Monica Ellis and Akropolis Reed Quintet. As a bassoonist in a reed quintet, this performance alone made the entire trip worth it. Thanks to this grant, I was fortunate enough to even have the funds to receive a bassoon lesson from Monica Ellis, the bassoon player of the renown Imani Wind Quintet, which is an experience I will never forget.

This opportunity granted to me by the Friends of the Academy has assisted me greatly and as I return home to Perth, I am completely awe-struck by this experience. Getting to experience the New York music culture as well as be enthralled by the brilliant playing of the musicians I met on my travels has completely inspired and I am so excited to return to my studies and put the knowledge gained in this experience to use. This trip has inevitably widened my horizons and benefitted my career as a musician, and I am eternally grateful to the Friends of the Academy for making this trip possible.

Thank you very much,

Warm regards,
Stephanie