

Research Grant – Spring 2014

Faculty member: K. Thomas Brantley

Unit: School of Music

Project/Proposal Title: International Trombone Festival – June 4-7, 2014

Abstract:

The International Trombone Festival is an annual conference of the world's most distinguished and important trombone performers and teachers. Approximately five hundred trombonists from around the world attend each year, and approximately 15-20 trombonists are selected as "faculty" members for the conference. I have been offered one of these positions as a faculty member, and my attendance at the festival will garner international attention for the USF School of Music. The funds will be used to pay for conference fees and travel expenses associated with my attendance.

Proposal:

The International Trombone Festival offers me the opportunity to support several areas identified in our College's strategic goals and objectives.

First, the conference offers the opportunity to advance my work in research, creative, and scholarly endeavors. I will be leading sessions of trombonists each day, working on various aspect of performance practice and rehearsal techniques. I will also be meeting with members of the international trombone community to assemble research for my new book project, a collection of etudes for trombone study to be published with the Carl Fisher Music Publishing Company. Feedback from trombonists at the festival will allow me to assemble the best and most useful manuscript possible for the Carl Fisher Company.

Second, attending the festival provides me with the opportunity to interact and network with leading trombone performers and teachers from around the world, without having to travel to their individual campuses or orchestra halls. Attendance at the festival allows me to be part of the international discussion on issues of the day that affect the trombone teaching and performing community.

Third, I will be leading some workshops at the festival specifically directed at Community participants. The International Trombone Festival always has a specific outreach component for hobbyists and community members who may not be professional trombone teachers and players, but who provide a lot of support for those of us who are. So as to attract and grow this constituency, the festival always hosts a few events specifically for Weekend Warriors (our term for the non-professional musicians) and I'll be part of this, too.

Fourth, I will have some performance opportunities at the festival, including informal jazz sessions as well as formal concerts that allow faculty to prepare new works quickly for a recital at the festival. This is an opportunity for me to examine new works, participate in a performance before hundreds of other trombonists, and collaborate with trombone teachers and performers from across the world.

Finally, I have served as a judge for one of the most important competitions at the festival, and this will be my opportunity to hear the finalists in the round that will determine the winners. USF has a School of Music alumnus who is participating as a finalist in one of the other competitions

(one that I did not judge) so this will also offer me the opportunity to hear him perform and compete. The finalists and winners of these competitions are the most highly sought after students for recruiting, so this will be a perfect opportunity for me to do some recruiting of future undergraduate and graduate students for the USF School of Music.