

MEET JULIA REISS (BUTI'19,'20)

Meet Julia Reiss, a euphonium player from West Palm Beach, Florida! Julia attended the Tuba and Euphonium Workshop and the Young Artists Wind Ensemble in 2019 and planned to return for both programs in 2020. Currently, Julia is a student at Interlochen Arts Academy a fine arts boarding high school in Northwest Michigan offering grades 9-12, as well as a post-graduate year.

Why did you choose to attend an arts boarding school?

"I chose to attend Interlochen starting in my sophomore year because I wanted to focus on music at a higher, more prestigious level. Everyone at Interlochen is passionate about what they do, and over the past two years, I have been able to surround myself with amazing, talented musicians that share the same passion that I do. Every day I get to pick up my instrument and go to Wind Symphony rehearsal, Chamber Music, and even Studio classes. I have attended many masterclasses with world-renowned musicians and have been able to learn so much from each of them. They helped me grow as a musician in ways that I never thought were possible."

What is the balance between arts and academics at Interlochen Arts Academy?

"The daily schedule is set up where all of your academics take place in the mornings, and they are split into three time slots, with alternating class days. Everything in the afternoon is arts-related. The academic teachers are well-aware that many majors have lots of obligations, so they try not to overload the students and spread assignments throughout the semester accordingly."

Why did you choose to attend BUTI?

"I chose to attend BUTI because a few of the trombonists in my studio at Interlochen attended BUTI in the past and always spoke so highly of it. BUTI's reputation as a premier music program excited me and I was thrilled to work with members of the BSO and gain insight into Boston University."

How do you think your time at Interlochen Arts Academy prepared you for BUTI?

"At Interlochen, I play my instrument at least 5 hours a day between ensemble rehearsal, chamber, and individual practice time. I learned to be efficient with my practice and manage my time well. At BUTI I was playing my instrument for over 6 hours a day, which can get very tiring if you are not used to it. Because I would play for long periods of time at Interlochen, I was able to build endurance so that I didn't get tired quickly and injure my embouchure. At Interlochen, we are constantly learning new repertoire and we have a concert every 4 weeks. That meant that we were required to learn our music and be prepared when we arrived at rehearsal. In the Young Artists Wind Ensemble, we were expected to arrive at the first rehearsal with all of our music learned and performance-ready so all we had to do is fine-tune some things since we only had 2 weeks before the concert. Since I had to do that at Interlochen, it was no surprise for me once I got to BUTI."

What was your favorite part of BUTI?

“One of my favorite parts of BUTI was being able to go to the Tanglewood main grounds with my friends each week to watch the Boston Symphony Orchestra play. We get a grounds pass so we can go to each concert for free, which is amazing. Sometimes we would bring a blanket and some snacks and pick a spot in the lawn to sit and enjoy the concert, and sometimes we would sit in the seats inside the shed. There are about three BSO concerts a week and they are always performing different repertoire so we get to hear plenty of great pieces. Sometimes we were even able to watch their weekend rehearsals in the mornings. It’s great to be able to relax with your friends and watch a great concert as well.”

How has BUTI and Interlochen Arts Academy helped you grow?

“Both BUTI and Interlochen gave me the opportunity to gain a lot of exposure to higher music education and great musicians that love what they do.”

Advice to students interested in attending an Arts Boarding School?

“If you have the opportunity, take it. It will change your life like it changed mine. Manage your time well. It is easy to get distracted. You will be around your friends 24/7 and there are constantly so many great things to do. Being organized and following a schedule is very helpful.”

Fun fact about Julia! Before she left for the academy, she was on a Junior Olympic Synchronized Swimming team for 5 years. They competed on the national level. Although this has been a strange year, she is excited for new opportunities ahead and audition for BUTI next summer.