

### **MEET YELIM SONG (BUTI'19,'20)**

Meet Yelim Song (BUTI'19,'20), an oboe player from Seoul, Korea. Yelim is a student at Walnut Hill School for the Arts and attended the Oboe Workshop at BUTI in 2019. She was planning to attend the Young Artists Wind Ensemble in 2020. Walnut Hill School for the Arts is an independent boarding and day high school offering a transformational educational experience purposefully designed for student artists in grades 9-12.

#### **Why did you choose to attend an arts boarding school?**

"I chose to attend Walnut Hill because I was amazed at the fact that students there can focus on academics and arts together. At my previous school in Korea, this was impossible and to practice, I had to make up my own time and push it into my schedule without intervening in my academic works. My experience at Walnut Hill has been spectacular! It is convenient to balance out spending my time on academics and arts. There are also tremendous exciting opportunities to perform and collaborate. Beyond that, the diverse community of our school inspires me as a person and a musician."

#### **What is special about the music department at Walnut Hill School for the Arts?**

"There many reasons why the music department at Walnut Hill is special. First, we are very diverse. We have a lot of International Students which means many come from different backgrounds and cultures. We get to collaborate with everyone and learn from each other. Just like how our backgrounds differ, everyone's way of expressing things musically is different, but the process of sharing ideas and putting them together harmoniously is something very special." Yelim also explains that "everyone loves music and is willing to improve. Our practice rooms are always packed and I see everyone wanting to practice more and improve themselves. Our department is also very supportive and we encourage each other."

#### **Tell us about the January Project.**

"The music department selects a theme every January and the entire department gets to practice and perform, whether by singing as a choir or playing our instruments. In January, we don't take any art classes and instead, we rehearse for the January Project. Besides rehearsing together, we have guests come in for lectures and our academic faculty teach us about the theme. I love how our whole music department gets to come together in one place and perform all together with our whole hearts. The product of this project has always been very inspirational for us and the community and also becomes a proud work of us."

#### **Why did you choose to attend BUTI?**

"I was looking for a summer intensive that could help me stay motivated and improve. The faculty were people who I really admire and have always wanted to meet and learn from. I thought BUTI would be the perfect place to be."

**How do you think your time at Walnut Hill School for the Arts prepared you for BUTI?**

“My time at Walnut Hill enabled me to open myself up a lot. I didn’t have many opportunities back in Korea to collaborate with others, but by being at Walnut Hill, I learned how to create music and learn from each other. Walnut Hill made me have more ambition towards improving and becoming a better musician. I was prepared to be active and eager to learn more from the spectacular faculty at BUTI. I was able to build my confidence in playing at Walnut Hill which helped me to express my music confidently at BUTI.”

**What was your favorite part of BUTI?**

“My favorite part of BUTI was making reeds with the other students in my workshop. If I was stuck and the teacher was helping another student, I was able to reach out to the student beside me for advice on what to do with my reed. Although the reed making process is very challenging, it was fun realizing the fact that we were all in this together.”

**How has BUTI and Walnut Hill School for the Arts helped you grow?**

“Both BUTI and Walnut Hill helped me grow significantly as a musician. At both places, I valued and put effort in the precious and rare opportunities given to me, met amazing teachers who supported me and taught me incredible things, met talented peers who were encouraging, and broadened my horizons.”

**Advice to students interested in attending an Arts Boarding School?**

“Without hesitation, I would say if you are considering attending an Arts Boarding School, you one-hundred percent should attend. At Walnut Hill, we get to collaborate with different people so it is important to be open-minded and respectful. Even being able to attend an Arts Boarding School is much appreciated opportunity so really try everything you can, learn as much as you can, and experience new things.”