

Name: Aric MacDavid **Hometown:** Mountain View, California **Major:** Bassoon Performance

Instruments: Bassoon, Alto Saxophone **Musical Involvements:** Bassoon with the UPS Symphony Orchestra, 1st Alto with the UPS Jazz Ensemble, Bassoon Ensemble, Concert Band

Involvements Outside Music: Being a music major is pretty much a full-time job (which is a sign that the music department is a good one), but there are occasional opportunities where I have free time. I like to spend it composing new music for fun, watching Netflix, and spending lots of time with the friends (most of whom I met in the music department).

Favorite thing about Puget Sound and the School of Music: I have two favorite things about the Puget Sound School of Music. The first is the faculty. Every single one of the professors that teach classes here are experts in their fields. It blows my mind how knowledgeable and exceptional all of the faculty members are. Whether they're the conductor of an ensemble, a music theory professor, or even a school of music secretary, they will always be there to answer your questions and support you in your musical growth. My other favorite thing is all the amazing opportunities you get as a student in the School of Music. You get to perform with world class musicians. Last year (as a freshman), I got to perform with Arturo Sandoval, Victor Wooten, and T.S. Monk in the Jazz Ensemble. In the Symphony Orchestra, I had the opportunity to travel to Bainbridge to perform Mahler's Symphony No. 1 in a joint concert Bainbridge Symphony. Not only does the School of Music provide incredible performance experiences for its students, it also hosts incredible events such as the Conductor's Institute and, in March of this year, the National Society of Composers conference

On why I chose Puget Sound: When I was a first semester senior in high school, I was asked randomly by a fellow peer of mine, "Have you applied to Puget Sound?" I had never heard of the school before, much less anything regarding the quality of its School of Music. But, on a whim, I applied to the school even though I never considered it to be one of my top choices. However, when I toured the school in February, I fell in love with the school. Well, I didn't actually fall in love with the school; instead, I fell in love with the people. I was welcome to the school with open arms and every person that I met, whether they were a student or a faculty member, were so kind to me and made me feel wanted, and, more importantly, valued. It was this caring, tight-knit community that pushed me to choose this school over the many others.

Favorite musical memory at Puget Sound (so far): There are so many amazing memories that I have had made since arriving here at Puget Sound. It's really hard for me to choose just one, but I'll pick one that inspired me to pick this school. When I first toured this school, I was sitting in with the Wind Ensemble and they were playing a band arrangement of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. Halfway through the rehearsal, the bassoon students that attended the school had to leave. This meant that I was going to be playing through the piece with only one other prospective bassoon student. I was playing the 1st bassoon part and I was able to read a lot of the passages in tenor clef and ended up playing the bassoon solo in "Baba Yaga" flawlessly. After the rehearsal, the director, Dr. Gerard Morris, and several of the other students were very encouraging and told me that I had played really well. This was one of the main events that made me feel welcomed and got me excited to become a Logger and a part of the School of Music.

Favorite place on campus: My favorite place on campus is on a picnic blanket on the lawn when it's a warm and sunny day.

Favorite classes: My favorite classes that I have taken since arriving at Puget Sound have been my freshman year seminar classes Why Beethoven? and George Gershwin. These classes are a little off the beaten path: they are not required to receive a Bachelors degree in music of any kind, but they are an incredibly rewarding and insightful look into the lives of prominent composers. This allows me to have a more well-rounded approach to my view of music history.

Looking forward to: Performing Mozart's Bassoon Concerto, the piece that I have been working on for over a year, with the UPS Symphony Orchestra later this spring. I am very grateful to be one of the winners of the 2017 Concerto/Aria Competition therefore have the opportunity to perform it with this high level group.

