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“East Meets West”: Symphony Television Production

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“East Meets West”: Symphony Television Production

A Capstone Experience/Thesis Project

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for

the Degree Bachelor of Arts with

Honors College Graduate Distinction at Western Kentucky University

By

Nathanael Hovee

*****

Western Kentucky University
2012

CE/T Committee: Approved by

David Brinkley, Advisor

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School of Journalism and Broadcasting
“East Meets West”: Symphony Television Production is a multi-camera broadcasting project covering WKU Symphony’s live performance titled “East Meets West” in Van Meter Hall on March 16, 2012. The project involved recording the WKU Symphony’s ninety-minute live performance using seven professional high-definition cameras throughout the auditorium and directing camera operators from the television control booth. The footage from each camera was synced in post-production and edited down for regional broadcast and distribution. The final video includes a majority of the pieces presented during the performance on March 16, as well as brief informative interviews with members of the WKU Symphony. This ambitious television production required strategic and extensive planning, producing, directing, editing, crew management, budgeting, and collaboration among all individuals involved in the broadcasting project and symphony performance.

Keywords: East Meets West, Western Kentucky University, School of Journalism and Broadcasting, Undergraduate Capstone, WKU Symphony, Director, Television Production
Dedicated to my loving friends and family
VITA

July 10, 1989.......................................................Born – Portland, Oregon

2004-2008.....................................................June Buchanan School ,
                                                Pippa Passes, Kentucky

2006............................................................Hugh O’ Brain Youth
                                                Leadership Seminar State Rep.

2007............................................................KY Governor’s Scholars
                                                Program: Centre College

2008-2012.....................................................Western Kentucky University,
                                                Bowling Green, Kentucky

2008-2012.....................................................WKU Regents Scholar &
                                                KY Sam Walton Scholar

2010............................................................Gilman Scholarship Recipient

STUDY ABROAD

2010............................................................Harlaxton College
                                                Grantham, England

2011............................................................Victoria University
                                                Wellington, New Zealand

FIELDS OF STUDY

Major Field: Broadcast Communications
Concentration: Television and Film Production

Major Field: Theatre
Concentration: Acting (BA)
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Appendix A: Blue-Ray
From the beginning of the semester, I was interested in covering one of The Symphony’s performances for my capstone in the WKU School of Journalism & Broadcasting. I had always been interested in classical orchestra concerts, and I thought it would be interesting to cover a live staged event. Fortunately, doing this would save me the hassle of coordinating everything on the “talent” end of the production (writing a script, casting a production, scheduling shoot dates, etc.), since the show would go on with or without my capstone project. However, the fact of recording a concert live on location also served as one of my biggest challenges. With any performance I chose, I would only have one chance to make it work. For a two-hour window, I would need everything in place, including enough crew members, working equipment, information on all the pieces, and plenty of back-up plans should something not go according to plan. When I chose the “East Meets West” Symphony concert in early February, I knew the live television production of The Symphony’s performance in Van Meter Auditorium would require a significant amount of equipment and funding, as well as extensive planning, producing, directing, editing, and careful time management; nonetheless, I decided to hit the ground running and ambitiously pursue my most challenging broadcasting project yet.
CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Every year, The Symphony at Western Kentucky University, which includes a majority of undergraduate students within the WKU Department of Music, performs five formal concerts in Van Meter Auditorium and three chamber music concerts in various venues. The Symphony functions as a professional orchestra ensemble with a strong focus on sharing high-quality performances on WKU’s campus and advancing music literacy through educational programs within the community (part of The Symphony’s published “Mission Statement”). On March 16, 2012, Director and Baker Professor of Music Dr. Bill Scott and The Symphony presented “East Meets West” in Van Meter Auditorium. The ninety-minute performance included pieces from the Romantic Period in Eastern Europe (19th century) and diverse movements from 20th century Southeast Asia.

As noted in the concert program, The Symphony performed European and Asian pieces with various tonalities, rhythms, tempos, moods, backgrounds, and stories. The concert began with Antonin Dvorak’s “Slavonic Dance No. 8” (Czechoslovakia), which is a lively, fast-paced Bohemian dance written in ¾ time and modeled after Johannes Brahms’ Hungarian Dances. The Symphony then performed the Three Dances from Bedrich Smetana’s 19th-century comic opera The Bartered Bride. The Bohemian dance forms presented as a part of the Czech operatic genre include “Polka”, “Furiant”, and
“Dance of the Comedians”. The third piece in the performance was Giuseppe Verdi’s Overture to *Nabucco*, an Italian opera based on Biblical accounts of the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar and his conflict with the Jews. Following a fifteen-minute intermission, The Symphony moved to the “Eastern” parts of its title and presented a short Chinese folk song titled “The Happy Yi People” arranged by Paul Scott (Dr. William Scott’s brother). The longest piece of the performance (twenty-seven minutes) was another Chinese piece titled “The Butterfly Lovers.” This Violin Concerto, inspired by the Chinese equivalent of Romeo and Juliet, was composed in three months by Chen Gang and He Zhanhao at Shanghi University in 1959. “The Butterfly Lovers” includes both Chinese operatic melodies and Western classical orchestration, and it musically weaves the story of two lovers kept apart by outside forces. The final piece presented as part of the “East Meets West” performance was *Zigeunerweisen*, op. 20, or “Gypsy Airs.” This 19th-century piece written by Spanish composer Pablo de Sarasate is a composition for solo violin and orchestra, and it uses Hungarian gypsy music, Roma folk tunes, and rhythms of the csárdás.

The “East Meets West” performance on March 16 included ninety-four members of The Symphony at WKU, as well as twenty “Side-by-Side” members of the Warren County and Bowling Green High School Orchestra Program for the “Slavonic Dance No. 8,” Three Dances from *The Bartered Bride*, and Overture to *Nabucco*. In addition, twenty-six Pre-College Strings Students performed in “The Happy Yi People.” The guest soloist for the second half of the performance was International Violin Virtuoso Yuuki Wong. Mr. Wong performed in both “The Butterfly Lovers” Concerto and *Zigeunerweisen*. 

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The television production of “East Meets West” involved an extensive pre-production phase from early February to mid-March. During this period, I primarily worked on acquiring equipment for the day of the production, hiring crew members, requesting grant funding from the Honors College and WKU School of Journalism & Broadcasting, discussing logistics and production plans with Dr. William Scott (Symphony Conductor) and Jeff Smith (Van Meter Technical Director), reviewing music and scores, mapping out potential camera angles in the auditorium, and creating a production booklet for the Honors College and broadcasting faculty.

Once all of the preparations had been made over the course of one-month, the set-up phase began. On March 13, camera equipment, tripods, cables, monitors, battery packs, and headsets were brought into Van Meter Hall. Four professional high definition cameras were placed on tripods in the balcony, and one was placed on the upstage-left wing of the stage to get a shot of the conductor from the symphony’s point-of-view. Two technical rehearsals were carried out with my television production crew and The Symphony on the nights of March 13th and 15th. During the performance on March 16, I had each camera iso-record (record footage separately) without stopping and start at the same time for syncing purposes in post-production. I viewed what each camera was recording on LCD monitors and instructed my camera operators through a looped intercom system where to shoot and when to move. For the entire performance, I directed the show from the third-floor control booth with the assistance of a professional score-reader at my side. Two cameras were added to the production, including a GoPro and Canon T3i, for additional creative shots.
Following the production, the editing process began. In order to create a cohesive, finely-polished, broadcast-worthy video, I needed to take all the footage from each camera and place them on a synched timeline in Adobe Premiere Pro CS5, a non-linear editing system. Once all of my video sources were placed at a common starting point in the editing system, I was able to go through each piece of the “East Meets West” performance, deciding which shots to use at any given moment along the way. Interviews were conducted with several members of The Symphony two weeks after the performance, and short clips from the interviews were placed in-between movements to give the viewing audience information on specific pieces, composers, and performers. Additionally, the professional mixed audio track (provided by Jeff Smith) from thirteen professional on-stage microphones was placed in the editing system as the main audio source for the video.

If the video gets final station approval, the condensed, fine-tuned production of the “East Meets West” Symphony performance will be broadcast on WKYU-PBS. Currently, the audience reach of the Bowling Green-based non-commercial PBS station is estimated at more than 250,000 people in eleven counties. The video will also be distributed on Blu-Ray and DVD, and short videos of various compositions will be compressed and distributed on the web for promotional and informational purposes.
CHAPTER 2

METHODOLOGY

In order to produce a professional, broadcast-worthy video of the WKU Symphony’s “East Meets West” performance, I decided to use five stationary high-definition (1080p resolution) video cameras throughout the auditorium. Two additional cameras, the GoPro and the Canon T3i, were added on the night of the performance for creative shots on and off the stage. I determined that it would be beneficial to view the video feeds from my four stationary cameras in the balcony. I also decided to set up a looped intercom system so that I could communicate with my camera operators in the balcony and coordinate shots live for each of the musical compositions.

After discussing various options for my project with David Brinkley, my capstone instructor and advisor, I chose to separately record the performance on each camera rather than “switch” (make cuts to the video as it is taking place) the production live in Van Meter Auditorium. This allowed me to direct camera movements from the control booth more freely and focus primarily on the overall aesthetic look of each camera angle. In order to sync all of my footage together in post-production, I instructed my camera operators to focus on the stage and record a visual and audio cue at the beginning of the performance (a clap). This gave me an exact starting point across all of my cameras. Each camera then recorded nonstop until the end of the final piece two hours later. Taking this approach meant that I would be able to take the footage from each camera and edit the
shots together in a non-linear editing system. This post-production process allowed me to select and fine-tune cuts between all seven cameras at any given moment throughout the performance.

As for the audio component of the production, I used a direct feed from the Van Meter audio board as a reference during editing. The studio-quality recording of the performance, which utilized thirteen professional microphones on and above the stage, was mixed by Jeff Smith (Van Meter Technical Director). As outlined in my production meeting, the video and audio sources all recorded the entire performance nonstop (from the point of the clap onstage to the end of the final piece), which allowed me to sync the professional mixed recording with the original audio source in post-production.
CHAPTER 3

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Throughout the course of the “East Meets West” Symphony Television Production, I faced a number of challenges, some of which were quite difficult to overcome. I knew from the very beginning that this ambitious project would demand a great deal of my time, effort, creativity, technical abilities, broadcasting knowledge, leadership, and problem-solving skills. The challenges that I predicted when I originally chose this project made the capstone appealing to me because I knew I would gain terrific “real-world” experience, and finding solutions to many of the problems along the way would make the end result worth the tremendous challenge.

My first challenge involved coordinating my production plans with The Symphony early on in the pre-production process. Obviously, setting up seven high-definition cameras throughout Van Meter Auditorium would require permission from a number of individuals in the Department of Music, and significant changes would have to be made to accommodate a professional television production along with the live concert (reserved seats for crew, lighting alterations, space to run cable, etc.). I primarily worked with Dr. William Scott, the WKU Baker Professor of Music and Symphony conductor, and discussed the plans for the production through a series of one-on-one meetings from early February to mid-March. In these meetings, I informed Dr. Scott about my camera placements, control booth operations, and desired lighting changes onstage for a
professional broadcast-quality appearance. I also discussed the program for “East Meets West,” including the running times for each piece, placement of instruments, and the individuals that would be performing onstage. In late February, Dr. Scott provided the entire “East Meets West” musical score and individual audio files so that I could familiarize myself with the various movements well in advance of the March 16 performance.

Fortunately, acquiring the rights to the “East Meets West” performance was not a significant challenge because, by contract, Dr. Scott already retained the right to give broadcasting privileges for a single performance during The Symphony’s 2011-2012 season. However, since elementary, middle school, and high school students were scheduled to perform with The Symphony, I had to give Dr. Scott talent release forms from the School of Journalism & Broadcasting. These forms were distributed among the minors who would be onstage the night of the “East Meets West” performance.

As mentioned earlier, lighting for the television production in Van Meter Auditorium was a massive challenge because the lights in the venue normally serve the purpose of making everything onstage visible and aesthetically attractive for only the audience and performers, not high-definition video cameras. Without making changes for a television production, the lights in Van Meter Auditorium would wash out everyone onstage in stark, overbearing bright light. Most of the light would come directly from the beams directly above the stage; on camera, this would give very little dimension, depth, and visible “warmth” (rich color and contrast levels) to the performers and the instruments. Though it would appear normal to the audience in Van Meter, it would seem
quite abnormal, abrasive, distracting, and simply unprofessional to my viewing audience due to the brightness and contrast limitations of my cameras.

To change the lighting set-up for my television production, I had to make a number of compromises between what I needed, what The Symphony required in order to see their music and the conductor, and what the audience would be pleased with during the performance. Determined to get the best possible lighting configuration for my cameras, I hired Jonathan Strouse, a Bowling Green lighting designer, to come in and make adjustments to the lights around the auditorium several days before the performance. I carefully outlined what I needed and the compromises we would have to make with the orchestra during rehearsals. Prior to the start of technical rehearsals, Jonathan hung additional front lights and backlights for many of the performers to add depth, dimension, and appropriate brightness and contrast levels for the high-definition cameras located on the balcony. In order to get a well-lit shot of the conductor from the onstage camera, Jonathan added sidelights and backlights on the back wall of the auditorium. For my wide establishing shots of the audience and auditorium, I asked Jonathan to bring up the houselights for the performance. Additional lights with blue gels were added to give the entire venue an aesthetically pleasing look that would be visible on camera (rather than having an extremely bright stage with a harsh, dark auditorium).

On the night of the performance, the new lighting configuration for my television production worked very well for all of my camera angles. During the first musical composition, several audience members held up their programs to block the light being used for my wide shots. Fortunately, once the lights were dimmed to a lower level in the auditorium, there were no complaints from the performers or audience about the lighting
adjustments. The “Four Seasons” statues on both sides of Van Meter’s orchestra level were lit throughout the “East Meets West” performance, and this gave my shot of the conductor and the wide establishing shots a much more interesting look; the blue tone of the lights on the statues served as an appropriate and aesthetically pleasing counterpart to the warm, rich tones of the instruments, performers, and wood panels onstage.

One major challenge I experienced in post-production was matching the color, brightness, contrast levels, and sharpness of all of my camera angles. Even though the cameras were tested, white-balanced, and adjusted multiple times in the auditorium prior to the performance, there were slight variations in the look of the footage acquired by each camera, especially between the four different models (Sony EX3, JVC 750U, Canon T3i, and the GoPro). As would normally be expected in the broadcasting industry, different models capture color and brightness levels slightly differently. The inconsistency in the look of my shots was also partially due to the variations in lighting, the angles of the lighting instruments, and the angles of my cameras around the auditorium and onstage. To match the appearance of all of my footage in post-production, I used several video effects in Adobe Premiere Pro CS5. With the “Fast Color Corrector” tool, I was able to adjust the color of my shots to make my various angles more consistent (matching skin tones/ appropriate amounts of red, yellow, blue, orange, etc.). To raise or lower the lighting levels, I adjusted the video by using the “Brightness and Contrast” tool, as well as the black and white levels in the “Fast Color Corrector” options. I was able to fix a number of shots that were slightly out of focus (soft and hazy) by using the “Image Sharpening” tool. For the rare moments in the ninety-minute production where I did not have a useable shot from the seven cameras in the auditorium, I replaced parts of my
timeline with a section of the footage from one camera during a similar moment in the performance.

As I expected from the beginning of my project, the challenges for the television production of “East Meets West” were extensive and often quite difficult to solve; however, finding the solutions and required resources to meet these challenges was a terrific learning experience that helped me remain motivated, energetic, and focused on the elements that would make for a successful final product.
CHAPTER 4

STRATEGY

To successfully capture the essence and musical journey of The Symphony’s “East Meets West” performance, I decided to hire a score reader who could interpret the music, understand the beats and tempo of each piece, and help me prepare my shots throughout the performance. As the director and producer of the television production, I had to primarily focus on my cameras to make sure that I was getting the shots I needed; however, in order to know what I needed and when I would have to be ready, I recognized that having a score reader who could provide musical cues by my side in the control room would be most advantageous to what I was trying to achieve with the production.

Finding a score reader was difficult, especially considering that many professors and graduate assistants in the WKU Music Department had to focus on the WKU’s basketball team’s involvement in the NCAA tournament. Fortunately, Jeff Bright, the WKU Band Director, recommended Johnathan Cline, a former WKU student who worked at Warren East High School as the music director. Once Johnathan agreed to work as my score reader, he took my copy of all of the music for the “East Meets West” concert and made notes on what instruments I would have to be ready for, what sections would be playing at any given moment, solo parts, full orchestra parts, alterations in tempo, count-ins for important compositional pieces, and time cues. During the two
technical rehearsals on the Tuesday and Thursday before the performance, I sat in the
control room with Johnathan and used his verbal music cues to prepare my camera
operators for their shots. This helped me make sure that all of my cameras were focused
on the correct sections of the stage from one moment of the concert to the next.

To help my camera operators become well-acquainted with the various
instruments and sections of the orchestra I would be calling out over the intercom system
throughout the performance, I provided the crew with production reference sheets, which
included pictures of instruments and their names, as well as labeled sections of a standard
orchestra onstage. This greatly helped my camera operators quickly and easily find the
specific instruments or general sections of the orchestra that I needed for each piece.

On the night of the performance, my production crew was well prepared; they had
already listened to all of the musical compositions in rehearsals and practiced camera
movements under my direction and Johnathan’s cues. Of course none of my shots were
specifically planned or memorized, but with the verbal cues and suggestions from my
score reader, I was able to inform my camera operators about where they needed to be,
how long they needed to be there, and when they could begin to pan, tilt, or zoom in or
out for large crescendos or diminuencos. Overall, this strategy for the large-scale live
broadcasting project made for a successful television production with a variety of
purposeful, creative, well-planned and carefully-coordinated shots to work with in post-
production.
## EQUIPMENT

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<td>Sony Digital Voice Recorder</td>
<td>Jim Heifner (Broadcasting Student)</td>
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<td>Canon T3i (DSLR)</td>
<td>Nathan Davis (Broadcasting Student)</td>
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<td>Jo-Anne Ryan (Broadcasting Dept.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sony Lavaliere Microphone</td>
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CHAPTER 6

PROPOSAL

The WKU School of Journalism and Broadcasting Capstone, as part of the BCOM 482-500 TV Program Production course, will involve all the various stages (planning/ live production/ editing/ distribution/ etc.) of creating a professional television production of a live symphony performance. Specifically, the project will revolve around the WKU Symphony’s performance titled “East Meets West,” which will be performed in Van Meter Auditorium on the main campus of Western Kentucky University on March 16, 2012, at 8:00pm. The purpose of the project will be to not only create a broadcast-worthy production for the School of Journalism & Broadcasting and WKYU-PBS, but also to gain real-world experience in pitching ideas, producing, planning, directing, editing, networking, and managing various production elements.

Throughout the course of this project, I intend to make all the necessary preparations to create a multi-camera, “live-to-tape” production of WKU Symphony’s “East Meets West” performance. Interviews with select members of the symphony will be conducted several days after the performance; edited portions of the interviews will be included in the taped production of the symphony performance on March 16. On the day of the performance, five high-definition video cameras will be placed throughout Van Meter Auditorium. Each camera will record the performance in its entirety (acquiring
specific shots given by the director), and the separate pieces of footage from the various shot angles will be edited together during the twenty-day post-production process.

In order to carry out this project, Van Meter technical director Jeff Smith and WKU Symphony conductor Dr. Bill Scott will assist in making all the necessary preparations for the production, including acquiring legal rights, altering the lighting of the auditorium for professional broadcast standards, recording audio through multiple inputs on stage, laying down cable, rearranging seats in the auditorium for camera equipment, and accommodating both guests of Van Meter and crew of the production. Broadcasting capstone instructor David Brinkley will serve as the project’s principle advisor and camera assistant on location the day of the shoot. Following the performance, the production will be edited down to approximately thirty minutes for broadcast television. Pending approval from David Brinkley, the edited program (including interviews, graphics, and selections from the WKU Symphony performance) will be aired on WKYU-PBS in April or early May, 2012. From the start of pre-production to the end of post-production, all relative notes, messages, scripts, resources, research, written communication, equipment lists, crew lists, contact lists, schedules, and legal forms will be compiled in a production book, which will eventually be turned in to the School of Journalism & Broadcasting, as well as the Honors College.

The production will involve extensive planning and a carefully-orchestrated approach. Details of the project will be presented to select faculty in the School of Journalism & Broadcasting in mid-February. After the project is officially approved, crew and equipment will be gathered for the production. At the present time, the production calls for five camera operators, one score reader (paid), one audio operator,
one photographer, one audio mixer (Jeff Smith- Technical Director), and 1 camera assistant. The equipment will likely include five Sony EX3 high-definition cameras (or similar models), three high definition monitors, five headsets, one Canon 7D (DSLR) camera, ten 64-gigabyte SDHC cards, video feed cable, and the Adobe Premiere Pro CS5 editing system. Additional materials and crew will likely be needed and added to the production book over the next five weeks. Pending application approval, a working budget for equipment, crew, and basic production needs will be established through the use of grants provided by the School of Journalism & Broadcasting, Potter College of Arts and Letters, WKU Student Government Association, and the Honors College.

A temporary schedule of events and deadlines is provided below:

- Jan.-Early Feb: Development of project concept and pitch to faculty
- February: Preproduction/ Acquisition of equipment
- March 11-15: Production Meetings with Crew/ Rehearsals with Symphony
- March 16: Production of “East Meets West” in Van Meter Auditorium @ 8pm
- March 17 – April 15: Video Editing/ Audio Mixing and Sweetening
- April 15 – May 1: Screening/Distribution/ Air Date

Any changes to the schedule, equipment list, crew list, or other details listed in the proposal will be placed in the production book.

The demographic of the production’s target audience will likely be males and females above the age of forty with an annual household income above $30,000. The key aim of the project is to create a professional recorded television broadcast of a live symphony performance, so as to create an
aesthetically pleasing, educational, cohesive, entertaining musical program for a regional viewing audience. Of course, the personal objective will be to gain significant real-world experience in coordinating, directing, and editing a one-time television production outside of a perfectly controlled, studio setting. Ultimately, the project will combine all my skills and talents acquired within my broadcasting concentration at the WKU School of Journalism & Broadcasting to create a broadcast-worthy product for WKYU-PBS and future employers.
CHAPTER 7

CONCERT PROGRAM

East Meets West* – March 16

Yuuki Wong, Violin Soloist

Dvorak – Slavonic Dance No. 8

Dvorak composed two sets of Slavonic Dances modeled after the Hungarian Dances by Johannes Brahms. No. 8 is the final work in this first set and is written in the style of a furiant, a rapid and fiery Bohemian dance in 3/4 time with frequently shifting accents.

Smetana – Three Dances from The Bartered Bride

The Bartered Bride is a comic opera and is considered to be the first great work in the Czech operatic genre. Smetana’s musical treatment makes considerable use of traditional Bohemian dance forms such as the Polka and Furiant.

Verdi – Overture to Nabucco
Nabucco (short for Nebuchadnezzar) is an opera by Giuseppe Verde based on the Biblical story. It was his third opera and the one which is considered to have permanently established his reputation as a composer. Verdi commented that "this is the opera with which my artistic career really begins. And though I had many difficulties to fight against, it is certain that Nabucco was born under a lucky star."

21 High School String Students from Bowling Green HS, Greenwood HS, and South Warren HS will partner with The Symphony in a side-by-side concert for these first three works. The public school strings program was initiated nine years ago as a cooperative partnership between the Warren County and Bowling Green City Schools and Western Kentucky University. The program started with twenty-one fourth grade students at Natcher Elementary School and now encompasses over 400 students in 17 schools.

"The Happy Yi People" is a Chinese folk song that was arranged by Paul Scott for full orchestra and the WKU Pre-College Strings Program.

Che/He – The Butterfly Lovers Concerto for Violin and Orchestra

The Butterfly Lovers is a Chinese legend of a tragic love story of a pair of lovers and is often regarded as the Chinese equivalent of Romeo and Juliet. This story served as the inspiration for the Butterfly Lovers' Violin Concerto composed by Chen Gang and He Zhanhao in 1958. This work has been the most musically symbolic retelling of the legend and is one of the classics of modern Chinese music.

Sarasate – Zigeunerweisen

Zigeunerweisen (Gypsy Airs), Op. 20, is a musical composition for violin and orchestra written in 1878 by the Spanish composer and violin virtuoso Pablo de Sarasate. It is based on folksongs of the Roma people and specifically incorporates the rhythms of the csárdás, a traditional Hungarian folk song.

*Selected string students from the Warren County and Bowling Green High School Orchestra Program and the WKU Pre-College Strings Program will be featured with The Symphony at the beginning of the concert.
CHAPTER 8

PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Jan.—Early Feb: Development of project concept and pitch to School of Journalism & Broadcasting faculty

February: Preproduction/ Acquisition of equipment/ Meetings with Dr. Scott/ Hire crew

March 13: Equipment Set-Up in Van Meter Auditorium
>9:00am—3:00pm

March 13: Technical Rehearsal with Crew and Symphony in Van Meter Hall
>5:00pm—10:00pm

March 15: Technical Rehearsal with Crew and Symphony in Van Meter Hall
>6:00 pm—10:00pm

March 16: Production of “East Meets West” in Van Meter Auditorium @ 8:00pm
>Crew Call Time: 5:00pm
>Tear-Down: 10:00—11:00pm

March 30: Conduct one-on-one interviews in Van Meter Hall
>Equipment set-up: 7:00—9:00 am
>Interviews: 10:00am—3:30pm

Mid-March—Mid-April: Post-Production: Video editing/ sweetening/ color correction/ audio mixing

April 30: Deadline for Regional Student Emmy Competition

May 2: Capstone Screening in Mass Media Auditorium

May 9: Capstone Deadline

Late-April—Mid-May: Screening/ Distribution/ Air Date
## CHAPTER 9

### BUDGET

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**TOTAL: $1,368**
CHAPTER 10

FACILITIES OVERVIEW

Van Meter Hall

*Western Kentucky University*
1514 College Heights Blvd.
Bowling Green, Kentucky  42101

**BUILT: 1911**
**SEATING CAPACITY: 1,000**
Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:59 AM Hovee, Nathanael, J

To:
Ryan, Jo-Anne [jo-anne.ryan@wku.edu[)

Thank you, and great idea! Water bottles should be fine.

Ryan, Jo-Anne
I'll be there. Thought I might bring water bottles if that is ok to bring in? Jo-Anne Ryan, Assistant Director School of Journalism & Broadcasting WKU Center for 21st Century Media 1906 College Heights Blvd. #11070 Bowling Green, Ky. 42101-1070

3/15/2012

Sent ItemsThursday, March 15, 2012 11:24 AMHovee, Nathanael, J

To:
Anderson, Austin, K ;Epperson, Cameron, J ;jimheifner@bellsouth.net ; regina.durkan@gmail.com ;Kasinger, Jacob, D ;Davis, Nathan, W
Cc:
Ryan, Jo-Anne ;Smith, Jeffrey ;Scott, Bill ;johnathan.cline@warren.kyschools.us

Hello all!

Just as a reminder, the call time for tonight's last technical rehearsal is 6:00pm sharp in Van Meter Auditorium. We'll have a brief meeting, and then we'll get set up in the balcony.

I'll be waiting in the front lobby at 6pm, so just knock if the door is locked. Thanks, and I'll see you this evening!

-Nate

PS: Just in case you didn't catch it before, my cell phone number is 310-259-3584. Call if you need anything.
Good Luck!
JB

On 3/12/12 3:28 PM, "Hovee, Nathanael, J" <nathanael.hovee114@topper.wku.edu> wrote:

Thanks, Dr. Bright. If you can, just shoot me John's cell phone number so I can discuss with him what I will need for the production. Again, I appreciate your help and support with my capstone project! Best of luck at the tournament.

-Nate H.

From: Bright, Jeff [jeff.bright@wku.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:13 AM
To: Hovee, Nathanael, J
Subject: Re: Score Reader for TV Production

Hey Nate,

We won and are going to the NCAA tournament so the folks I had lined up to do your score reading will not be able to. I have located a director in town – John Cline – who would be able to work with you. Unfortunately, he has a concert with his own band on Tuesday night but he could make the Thursday rehearsal and Friday concert. I have been trying to locate someone for you since last Thursday and right now this is the best I have been able to do. If this won’t work let me know and I will keep trying. I have to leave town at 5:00 pm this evening so the sooner we can make connection the better. Call me on my cell (270) 303-0294.

Jeff Bright

On 3/5/12 9:05 AM, "Hovee, Nathanael, J" <nathanael.hovee114@topper.wku.edu> wrote:

Hello Dr. Bright,

I just wanted to check on the status of getting a score reader for my TV production capstone on March 16 in Van Meter Auditorium (WKU Symphony's performance of "East Meets West").

Here is the production schedule for the score reader position:

March 13: Crew Meeting/ Technical rehearsal in Van Meter Auditorium

>5:30pm--9:30pm
March 15: Technical rehearsal in Van Meter Auditorium
>6:30pm--9:45pm

March 16: Production of "East Meets West" in Van Meter Auditorium
>6:30pm--9:45pm

***STRIKE EQUIPMENT AFTER SHOW***

Thanks again for your assistance! Should you need to contact me regarding questions or concerns, feel free to email or call. My cell number is 310-259-3584 (no texting). Have a great week!

All the best,
Nate Hovee

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Hey Nate,
Good to hear from you. I was thinking about the production when the shell was last up in Van Meter, last week. It would be nice to meet prior to Tuesday, unfortunately I work Monday at 1 PM till late that night. I am off this week except for Thursday or Friday (TBD) and this Sunday. I am available all day Tuesday. Let's talk soon. I am off today and tomorrow. We could talk when you schedule allows and hopefully met in the venue. My cell is 615.974.3963. Have a good day.

Regards,
Jonathan

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Sent Items
Monday, March 05, 2012 8:58 AM
Hovee, Nathanael, J
To:jraynathan@hotmail.com

Hello Jonathan,

I'm wondering if I can meet with you on Monday, March 12, to go over lighting in Van Meter Auditorium for the television production of the WKU Symphony's "East Meets West" performance on March 16. Technical rehearsals will be March 13 and 15 from 6:30 to 9:30pm. The performance will be March 16 at 8pm.
Are you available Monday afternoon after 1:35pm? Feel free to reach me by email or phone (310-259-3584). I do not have texting, but call anytime should you need to reach me. Have a great week, and I'll be in touch.

All the best,
Nate Hovee
-WKU School of Journalism and Broadcasting

Hey Nate,
I couldn't reserve the 7D, so I'll have to use my camera. The end result will be the same, the footage from the 550d is the same as the 7D. The 7D is held for Film students, I'm not sure if this is a new thing or not?

From: Hovee, Nathanael, J [nathanael.hovee114@topper.wku.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 2:36 PM
To: Davis, Nathan
Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: TV Production Project

If you can reserve it, I would greatly appreciate it. I'll be setting up everything in Van Meter starting at 8am tomorrow. Feel free to come help out if you're available. Thanks again!

-Nate

From: Davis, Nathan [Nathan.Davis@wku.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Hovee, Nathanael, J
Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: TV Production Project

I own a 550D but not a 7D. You can reserve it or I can go down tomorrow and reserve it for Friday, plus the shoulder mount and sandbag.

"Hovee, Nathanael, J" <nathanael.hovee114@topper.wku.edu> wrote:

That's great! Thanks again for helping out. By the way, do you have a 7D you can use for the production, or do I need to borrow one from the department?

-Nate

From: Davis, Nathan [Nathan.Davis@wku.edu]
Hey Nate,
Everything looks good on the schedule, I won't be able to make it to the Tuesday session but the following dates will be fine. If you need anything please let me know.

-Nate Davis
March 15: Technical rehearsal in Van Meter Auditorium

>5:30pm--10:00pm [Call time for all camera operators: 5:30pm]

March 16: Production of "East Meets West' in Van Meter Auditorium

>5:30pm--10:45pm [call time for all camera operators: 5:30pm]

***STRIKE EQUIPMENT AFTER SHOW***

Please email me back confirming that you received this information and are still willing to participate.

I will be sending the Symphony Program your way in another email. Please look over the music that will be performed. I will try to send links to audio files ASAP. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me by email or phone. My number is 310-259-3584 (NO TEXTING). Thanks again, and have a great week.

All the best,

    Nate Hovee

Hey Nate,
I couldn't reserve the 7D, so I'll have to use my camera. The end result will be the same, the footage from the 550d is the same as the 7D. The 7D is held for Film students, I'm not sure if this is a new thing or not?

From: Hovee, Nathanael, J [nathanael.hovee114@topper.wku.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 2:36 PM
To: Davis, Nathan
Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: TV Production Project

If you can reserve it, I would greatly appreciate it. I'll be setting up everything in Van Meter starting at 8am tomorrow. Feel free to come help out if you're available. Thanks again!

-Nate

From: Davis, Nathan [Nathan.Davis@wku.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Hovee, Nathanael, J
Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: TV Production Project

I own a 550D but not a 7D. You can reserve it or I can go down tomorrow and reserve it for Friday, plus the shoulder mount and sandbag.

"Hovee, Nathanael, J" <nathanael.hovee114@topper.wku.edu> wrote:

That's great! Thanks again for helping out. By the way, do you have a 7D you can use for the production, or do I need to borrow one from the department?

-Nate

From: Davis, Nathan [Nathan.Davis@wku.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 4:33 PM
To: Hovee, Nathanael, J
Subject: RE: IMPORTANT: TV Production Project

Hey Nate,
Everything looks good on the schedule, I won't be able to make it to the Tuesday session but the following dates will be fine. If you need anything please let me know.

-Nate Davis

From: Hovee, Nathanael, J [nathanael.hovee114@topper.wku.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 8:52 AM
To: Anderson, Austin, K; Epperson, Cameron, J; jimheifner@bellsouth.net; regina.durkan@gmail.com; Kasinger, Jacob, D; Davis, Nathan, W
Cc: Brinkley, David; Ryan, Jo-Anne; Smith, Jeffrey
Subject: IMPORTANT: TV Production Project

Hello,

I hope you are all having a great break. if you're on break, of course. I am in the process of organizing everything for next week's television production in Van Meter Auditorium. I have already talked with most of you about my broadcasting capstone project, but for those of you who do not know, I am doing a multi-camera to multi-VTR production of the WKU Symphony's performance of "East Meets West" on Friday, March 16.
You are receiving this email because you will be working as a camera operator for this production. Most of you volunteered in person or via email. Austin and Cameron, from what I've been told, David Brinkley plans to pay you to work on this project. Either way, thank you all very much for your time and willingness to help with the production.

Now, here's some very important information. You will be expected to attend the two technical rehearsals on March 13 and 15. Here is the production schedule for that week:

March 13: Setup equipment in Van Meter Auditorium (voluntary... help is appreciated!)
>9:00am--3:00pm

March 13: Crew Meeting/ Technical rehearsal in Van Meter Auditorium
>5:30pm--10:00pm  [Call time for all camera operators: 5:00pm]

March 15: Technical rehearsal in Van Meter Auditorium
>5:30pm--10:00pm [Call time for all camera operators: 5:30pm]

March 16: Production of "East Meets West" in Van Meter Auditorium
>5:30pm--10:45pm [call time for all camera operators: 5:30pm]

***STRIKE EQUIPMENT AFTER SHOW***

Please email me back confirming that you received this information and are still willing to participate.

I will be sending the Symphony Program your way in another email. Please look over the music that will be performed. I will try to send links to audio files ASAP. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me by email or phone. My number is 310-259-3584 (NO TEXTING). Thanks again, and have a great week.
All the best,
Nate Hovee

Sunday, March 11, 2012 11:40 PM
FROM: Brinkley, David [david.brinkley@wku.edu]
Nate,
Here is an update on the equipment:
All cameras are here in BG. The newest ones have no cases and have not been run through their set-ups yet.
I will get them through the set-up.

I have memory cards for all cameras.
There are headsets and cables. There are monitors and long BNC cables. You should have enough. But, you may not.
Now-- this is important.
I am paying our students for Friday only. If they help you other days, it's on their own. I think they will help.
Also, you will keep this gear safe and NOT damage any of it. Three of these cameras are brand new.
Now--the main issue for you...
I am being sent to Dayton tomorrow afternoon. You need to call me in the morning. Do not call me tonight. I am taking one of the new cameras. It will return on Wednesday.
That's life. WKU is playing in Dayton in the NCAA tourney.
I will be available by cell all night Monday, all morning Tuesday, and all day Wednesday. If WKU loses, I'll be available Thursday morning to look at everything. If they win, I won't. Regardless, I will now be out on Friday. I have to be in Frankfort.
Everything should be fine. I will have all available gear located in the studio. Austin can let you in to get it. There are no protective cases for these cameras yet. Do NOT damage them or leave them in an unlocked room--for any length of time.

Thanks,
David

On Mar 11, 2012, at 11:18 PM, "Hovee, Nathanael, J" <nathanael.hovee114@topper.wku.edu> wrote:

Hello All!

As a reminder, here is the schedule for this week's television production of WKU Symphony's "East Meets West" Performance:

March 13: Setup equipment in Van Meter Auditorium (voluntary... help is appreciated!)
>9:00am--3:00pm

March 13: Crew Meeting/ Technical rehearsal in Van Meter Auditorium
>5:30pm--10:00pm [Call time for all camera operators: 5:00pm]

March 15: Technical rehearsal in Van Meter Auditorium
March 16: Production of "East Meets West" in Van Meter Auditorium
>5:30pm--10:45pm [call time for all camera operators: 5:30pm]
***STRIKE EQUIPMENT AFTER SHOW***

--- Notice: Please be at Van Meter Auditorium by 5:00pm on Tuesday, March 13, for our crew meeting. I will be covering many important details of the production!

Also, attached is the WKU Symphony program for the performance on March 16. Please print out the program and bring it to the meeting on Tuesday. Again, if you can help with setup from 9am to 3pm on Tuesday, I would greatly appreciate it.

If you need to reach me at anytime, please email or call. My cell phone number is 310-259-3584. I DO NOT HAVE TEXTING, so please do not text me.
At your earliest convenience, can each of you send me your cell phone numbers? Thank you.
See you all on Tuesday!

-Nate

<Concert_Program.doc>
Hello Jonathan,

I'm wondering if I can meet with you on Monday, March 12, to go over lighting in Van Meter Auditorium for the television production of the WKU Symphony's "East Meets West" performance on March 16. Technical rehearsals will be March 13 and 15 from 6:30 to 9:30pm. The performance will be March 16 at 8pm.

Are you available Monday afternoon after 1:35pm? Feel free to reach me by email or phone (310-259-3584). I do not have texting, but call anytime should you need to reach me. Have a great week, and I'll be in touch.

All the best,
Nate Hovee
-WKU School of Journalism and Broadcasting

Sounds great. Thanks!

From: Brinkley, David [david.brinkley@wku.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 12:43 PM
To: Hovee, Nathanael, J
Subject: RE: Capstone Project

Nate,
I am awaiting the arrival of cameras. Crew is fine. Other equipment is fine. Relax, now we wait.
db

From: Hovee, Nathanael, J [mailto:nathanael.hovee114@topper.wku.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 9:10 AM
To: Brinkley, David
Subject: Capstone Project

Hey David,

I just wanted to drop a line to check on the status of everything (equipment, camera operators from the station, etc.) for my capstone project. As I mentioned earlier, I plan to set up all equipment in Van Meter on Tuesday, March 13, from 9am to 3pm. Thanks again for your support with this project! Have a great week.

All the best,
Nate H.

From: Scott, Bill [bill.scott@wku.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 8:36 AM
To: Hovee, Nathanael, J
Subject: program
Nate,

As we are rehearsing the musical, it will be a while before we have a full rehearsal.

Thanks,
Dr. Scott

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<td>FRI</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
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From: Hovee, Nathanael, J [mailto:nathanael.hovee114@topper.wku.edu]
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2012 9:35 PM
To: Scott, Bill
Subject: Quick Request...

Thanks again for sending the program and audio file my way. When you get a chance, could you send the rehearsal schedule for "East Meets West" (in Recital Hall and Van Meter) with dates and times? Thanks very much! Have a great weekend.

-Nate Hovee
--WKU School of Journalism and Broadcasting

From: Scott, Bill [bill.scott@wku.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 8:36 AM
To: Hovee, Nathanael, J
Subject: program

Nate,

Give me a call.
Thanks,
Dr. Scott
745-6521 or 864-706-7392

From: Hovee, Nathanael, J [mailto:nathanael.hovee114@topper.wku.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 9:36 PM
To: Scott, Bill
Subject: RE: Request for Music

Hello Dr. Scott,
I'm sorry to hear you are not feeling well. If you have free time tomorrow after 1:30pm, could we meet then. If not, I'm free for most of Thursday before 2:20pm. Let me know what works. Thank you!

-Nate H.

From: Scott, Bill [bill.scott@wku.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 1:31 PM
To: Hovee, Nathanael, J
Subject: RE: Request for Music

Nate,
I am sick today - can we reschedule?
Thanks,

Dr. Scott

From: Hovee, Nathanael, J [nathanael.hovee114@topper.wku.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 3:52 PM
To: Scott, Bill
Subject: RE: Request for Music

Great. Thank you very much!

All the best,
-Nate H.

From: Scott, Bill [bill.scott@wku.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Hovee, Nathanael, J
Subject: Re: Request for Music

Hi Nate I am in Louisville for the week. I will get these copied to you on Sunday

Dr. Scott

On Feb 8, 2012, at 9:09 AM, "Hovee, Nathanael, J" <nathanael.hovee114@topper.wku.edu> wrote:
Hello Dr. Scott,

In preparation for the WKU Symphony production, I would like to get the music that will be presented during the performance on March 16 so that I may become familiar with all the pieces. If you do not have MP3s available, could you send me a list of every piece in the order of when it will be played? Thank you very much!

-Nate Hove
--WKU School of Journalism and Broadcasting
CHAPTER 12

REFLECTION

Over the past four years at Western Kentucky University, I have gained a number of skills and techniques within the School of Journalism & Broadcasting that have made me not only a better student in my field, but also a more prepared, knowledgeable, and self-motivated individual. I have gone through many challenges and experiences, but I would have to say that the most challenging and rewarding project as a WKU student was my broadcasting capstone, “East Meets West”: Symphony Television Production. With this one project (combined with my Honors College CE/T), I had to combine everything I had learned in the School of Journalism & Broadcasting, as well as my leadership and problem-solving skills attained as a WKU Honors student. I had very high expectations for myself going into the production, and I believe those strict goals helped me remain focused, determined, positive, and patient through many of the difficult challenges I encountered along the way.

Looking back at what I could have done differently over the course of my three-month project, I believe I would have had an easier planning process if I had hired my crew earlier in the semester. Though I found my camera operators, lighting designer, score reader, and production assistants before the two technical rehearsals in mid-March, I know I would have been more secure and comfortable in the pre-production process with a set crew list in hand several weeks before the performance. If two or more of my
crew members had decided to drop out of the production at the last minute, I did not have guaranteed replacements. With any live production event, it is extremely important to have back-up plans for everything. Though I did have a back-up plan for equipment malfunctions, I did not have standby camera operators or a score reader who could quickly replace Johnathan Cline.

Another area for improvement would be the checking of video footage prior to the night of the performance in Van Meter Auditorium. Although I had several brand new cameras from WKYU-PBS with reliable 32-gigabyte SDHC cards, I did not go through test footage on the cards from each camera after technical rehearsals to make sure that they were recording color, brightness and contrast levels, and audio correctly. Fortunately, the cameras and SDHC cards worked correctly during the production, and I was able to transfer all of the footage to Adobe Premiere Pro CS5 in post-production. Making a point to test all of the equipment for a production multiple times is something I intend to consistently improve upon in future productions to ensure minimal-to-no technical flaws, glitches, or breakdowns.

One mistake that could have easily been avoided was waiting until the day of the performance to report issues and problems with equipment to David Brinkley, Executive Producer at WKYU-PBS, who graciously provided a majority of the equipment for my production. During technical rehearsals, my camera operators mentioned that there were issues with two of the tripods and the cameras’ color balancing (white-balancing) presets. Making last minute calls to Mr. Brinkley regarding these issues was inconsiderate and unprofessional, and I was rightfully reminded that I was not fully carrying out my preparations and responsibilities as the project’s director and producer. Though these
problems were taken care of (thanks to the generosity and patience of Mr. Brinkley and WKYU-PBS) within a matter of hours before the performance, these quick changes and risks of using faulty equipment could have been avoided altogether had I discussed my production issues with my crew and Mr. Brinkley earlier in the week.

One other issue that came up during technical rehearsals was the absence of two of my scheduled camera operators. For the Thursday run-through, two members of my crew informed me by email that they would not be able to make the rehearsal due to a social event in the evening, but they did plan to look over the music and be ready for the performance the following day. This was an unexpected inconvenience for me, and it was difficult preparing my various shots in the rehearsal with only three camera operators. In addition, the WKU men’s basketball team was scheduled to play in the NCAA basketball tournament on Tuesday and Thursday nights; thus, I had several distracted camera operators who were constantly checking their phones and laptops for updates on the game. This was not a massive concern or issue, but it was another inconvenience that slightly disrupted what I wanted to accomplish in the technical rehearsals. As an aspiring television and film director, I know this is not unusual, and it is my sole responsibility to be prepared for any inconvenience or issue that could negatively impact my production; I learned it is ultimately on my shoulders to make sure that all of my crew are prepared and physically (and mentally) present for the production.

Looking back at the entire process of making this production a reality, I am extremely grateful for the significant amount of support, encouragement, constructive feedback, and assistance I received from my instructors and advisors in both the School of Journalism & Broadcasting and the Honors College. Firstly, my capstone instructor
David Brinkley made this production possible by providing high-definition cameras, tripods, monitors, cables, headsets, and SDHC cards from WKYU-PBS. Mr. Brinkley also hired two camera operators from WKYU-PBS for my production. I have gained terrific real-world experience by working with Mr. Brinkley in his directing and capstone courses, and I am extremely thankful for his constant support with my endeavors in broadcasting and film production.

Additionally, I am extremely grateful for the support and production assistance from my broadcasting department advisor, Jo-Anne Ryan. Mrs. Ryan served as a production assistant and runner for all of my technical rehearsals, and her presence and interest in my production made my entire project run quite smoothly. Mrs. Ryan also met with me numerous times to discuss various aspects of the technical side to the production and suggested changes to certain areas that would need further consideration. In post-production, she provided constructive feedback on my edits, shot compositions, and color correction alterations. Additionally, Mrs. Ryan helped secure funding from the School of Journalism & Broadcasting for my capstone budget.

In the Honors College, Dr. Leslie Baylis served as my primary CE/T advisor. Dr. Baylis was extremely supportive of incorporating my capstone with the Honors CE/T. In mid-February, I traveled to the Kentucky Honors Roundtable at the University of Louisville to present plans for my “East Meets West” Symphony Television Production, and Dr. Baylis served as the coordinator and sponsor for the WKU Honors students attending the event. She made suggestions on how to combine the CE/T and capstone to make it a cohesive project, and she helped secure an Excellence Grant from the Honors College for the production. I am very thankful for Dr. Baylis’ endless support,
encouragement, enthusiasm, creative energy, and investment in the lives of the students she represents.

Overall, I am extremely satisfied with the “East Meets West”: Symphony Television Production, and I am anxious to share the final product via broadcast, Blu-Ray distribution, and online media sites (YouTube, Vimeo, WKU website, etc.). I intend to submit a portion of the edited video into a number of film competitions, including the regional Student Emmy Awards and the WKU Film Festival. No matter what recognition I get for the project, I am very proud of what I have accomplished in both the Honors College and the School of Journalism & Broadcasting. I strongly believe that this enormously challenging and beneficial experience will carry me forward into my future endeavors following graduation from WKU. I anxiously await the more ambitious and adventurous endeavors that will come in the years ahead as a professional filmmaker, director, and independent production coordinator.