

Photo Credit: Stewart Fontaine



Jim & Barbara Calvin, Gracie Mae,
and Brittney Geurink



A NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE NRO AND UNCO

Thanks to a new collaboration with the University of Northern Colorado's School of Music, Brittney Geurink is the National Repertory Orchestra's inaugural intern for their 2020 post-summer season.

"Educational opportunities are integral to both organizations. The music industry changes rapidly, so taking on real-world experiences goes beyond the classroom."

~Brittney Geurink

Table of Contents

A New Partnership **2**

Take A Music Internship **2**

Letter from the CEO **2**

The National Repertory Orchestra as my
Internship Destination **3**

My Host Family **3**

Letter from Barbara Calvin **4**

The NRO Office and Staff **5**

The Future **6**

Additional Information **7**

A New Partnership

The Fall of 2020 marks the beginning of a new partnership with the National Repertory Orchestra (NRO) and the University of Northern Colorado (UNCO). For the month of September, I, Brittney Geurink, B.M. Instrumental Performance at the University of Northern Colorado, am working with the NRO as their first post-summer season intern. The internship focuses primarily on marketing, development, and operations.

The University of Northern Colorado offers a Bachelor's in Music- Business Emphasis degree which allows students to develop skills, concepts, and sensitivity essential to the professional life of a musician, combining entrepreneurship and musicianship. In an interview with Dr. Sarah Off, Assistant Professor of Violin and Music Business at the University of Northern Colorado, she provided insight into what the partnership between the NRO and UNCO meant for their business program.

"Partnering with the NRO is extremely exciting. UNCO and I have a lot of admiration for the NRO because of what they have done, the opportunities that they have given students across the United States and the world. Their artistic presence within the community and their integrity in the music industry is incredible. To have the honor and the pleasure of this partnership is pretty cool."

~ Dr. Sarah Off

Take a Music Internship

As a viola performance major, I never thought an internship would be possible, but since I took music business courses at UNCO, a door opened with the NRO. Dr. Sarah Off mentions that musicians are in a world where their degree paths can define their career. The thought process is necessary for logistics and structure, but it can restrict outcomes. When a music student enters the real music world, it is not defined. Musicians can perform with orchestras, teach, work in administration, fundraise, network, market, and play gigs as that is the nature of the industry. Internships with organizations such as the NRO helps show musicians that a music career requires a diverse set of skills. It provides students a competitive edge and a chance to reach their full potential. Education does its best to simulate real-world experiences, but an internship bridges the gap in a unique, exciting, and very "real" way.



Letter from the CEO

The National Repertory Orchestra (NRO) is thrilled to be partnering with the University of Northern Colorado (UNCO) School of Music in this internship program. At the core of both organizations is education and therefore uniquely situated to deliver quality experiential learning while teaching real-world business practices and values.

While the NRO is known as a summer music festival, it takes a full ten months to plan and prepare for our 2-month festival. Having an intern from UNCO helps support our staff during the busy off-season while giving invaluable education to an UNCO student.

We are fortunate to have Brittney Geurink as our inaugural fellow. Brittney comes with a wealth of experience and has already impressed the entire team. In Brittney, we see the quality of students affiliated with UNCO. We are proud to offer Brittney training in marketing, development and operations. We hope these experiences will help her in future professional endeavors.

While in Breckenridge, Brittney has been staying at the home of Barbara and Jim Calvin. Barbara and Jim are tremendous supporters of the NRO and run our very popular Community Link/Host Family program. Barbara is on the NRO board and is also an UNCO alumna. This connection to Breckenridge and the volunteers of the NRO furthers Brittney's education by giving her a 360-degree view of our organization.

~ Dave DePeters

"...offering this to students that are not just in music business is a huge opportunity because it is not just about connecting folks to [build their] network[s]. It is a mutual beneficial exchange."

~ Dr. Sarah Off

The National Repertory Orchestra as my Internship Destination

For over ten years, the National Repertory Orchestra has been an inspiration to me. Annually, during the summer months, my family and I visit Breckenridge. During our stay, we attend concerts and listen to the orchestra from afar at the River Walk Center. I have been in the audience chair, in the audition hot seat, and now this internship opportunity creates a full circle.



The NRO collaborated with me to ensure that my internship experience is diverse and educational. Projects have been assigned to me that fit into my background and expertise, while also offering a chance to learn about other administrative and operational roles.



My Host Family

I am so grateful that Barbara, Jim, and Gracie Mae Calvin opened their home to me for my internship with the NRO during the month of September. Barbara is a member of the NRO Board of Trustees and leads the Community Link Program (Host Family Program). This program offers NRO students in the summer a chance to get out into the Rocky Mountain air or have a scrumptious homemade meal with their host family.



"I love getting to know the musicians...know where they are on their personal journey, and if I can be of service or help." ~ Barbara Calvin

Letter from Barbara Calvin,
NRO Board of Trustees,
UNCO Alumna

Bringing the National Repertory Orchestra (NRO) and the University of Northern Colorado (UNCO) together in collaboration for a fall internship program is important to me personally because a scholarship from UNCO made it possible for me to start my higher education. Now that school has a program (Music Business) that dove-tails very well with the "off-season" of the NRO so a student from UNCO can gain invaluable experience working behind the scenes with a large, seasonal orchestra. It's about coming full circle and helping an educational facility that helped me. This internship aligns with NRO's mission of educating the next generation of musicians, and the student gains experience. It's a win-win situation!

~ Barbara Calvin



The journey of creating the NRO and UNCO partnership has been years in the making. After several meetings with the School of Music, last year Åsa Armstrong took the reins to coordinate with both organizations to ensure the internship would finally take flight.

THE NRO OFFICE & STAFF

Photo Credit: Jenny Cvek



The NRO Office Experience

The staff of the NRO are the most welcoming and understanding individuals I have the pleasure of working alongside. If I have a question, they embrace me as if I am staff and as if I could be here for more than a month. Åsa Armstrong, NRO Director of Development, as my supervisor, is always open to what types of projects and experiences that I would like to be a part of, while also giving me tasks that are a challenge.

The layout of this internship from the start has always been grounded in the best interest for the incoming intern. As Dr. Sarah Off states,

"...when I first spoke to Åsa and the whole NRO team about the internship, it was a very understood idea that it could be a unique and personal program for each student and still give a well-rounded set of experiences to each student to hone their skill sets."

The NRO Post-Summer Season

As an audience member and audition applicant, I have always wondered what the office looked like post-season. It is easy, as an individual who is not involved in the organization beyond the summertime, to think the NRO is dormant during the fall. It is fascinating to observe the office as the previous season comes to an end in order to embark onto a new one. I am grateful to witness the fall projects and work alongside the staff. It is inspiring to see a well put together organization in a mountain town. The NRO adds to the community and culture.

NRO Staff

Dave DePeters, CEO

Åsa Armstrong, Director of Development

Carrie Benefiel, Director of Marketing

Debbie Higgs, Director of Finance



THE FUTURE

Dr. Sarah Off and I hope to see the partnership between the NRO and UNCO grow. As the NRO's first post-summer intern, I look forward to seeing this partnership carry on after my time. I hope I can pass on the dream to keep building upon the new partnership and internship experience with the NRO, bringing in interns from all different music degree paths.



I will be graduating in December 2020. Since I am planning to go to a graduate school starting in the Fall of 2021, I look forward to applying the experiences and skills that I will develop during my time with the National Repertory Orchestra to establish a successful career. Receiving a real-world experience in music administration will enrich my future goals to create a diverse career in music as an educator and performer.

To read more about the National Repertory Orchestra, visit

<https://www.nromusic.org/about/>

To read more about the University of Northern Colorado, visit

<https://arts.unco.edu/music/>

To read more about Dr. Sarah Off, visit her website at

<https://www.sarahoffmusic.com/bio>



Brittney Nicole Geurink enjoys private teaching and playing chamber, orchestral, and baroque repertoire. Her performance experience includes the Hoffmeister Viola Concerto in D Major with the Montecito International Music Festival Orchestra and appearances on Telemundo in a collaboration between Andres Lopera and Accattivante String Quartet. In past summers, she has performed solo and chamber music at Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

Ms. Geurink has a teaching background in viola, cello, and violin. From 2015 to 2017, she was the viola mentor for the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestra's Sinfonia and the Broomfield Youth Orchestra program. For two years she served as a private teacher at the Intermezzo Academy of Music.

Ms. Geurink is the Associate Principal Violist of the University of Northern Colorado Symphony Orchestra and a violist with the University of Northern Colorado Early Music Ensemble. Geurink is currently completing her Bachelor of Music degree and recipient of the Henry T. and Blanche L. Ginsburg Music Scholarship.