

In 2016, our School of Music authorized the purchase of Renaissance wind instruments for the Collegium Musicum. I applied for an EMA College-Level Ensemble Development Grant to bring Robert Wiemken to Tech for a week of workshops, classes, lessons, and coachings. I was delighted and honored to receive this grant in 2016.

It took about a year to get all the instruments budgeted for us by the School of Music to be built for us and shipped. The workshop with Bob Wiemken took place on between September 11-14, 2017. Bob went directly from the airplane to the School of Music, where we started out with an evening meet-and-greet session with all interested parties. At that point, the students got to try the instruments for the first time, and we all learned quickly why it's called a LOUD BAND. Enthusiasm was very high!

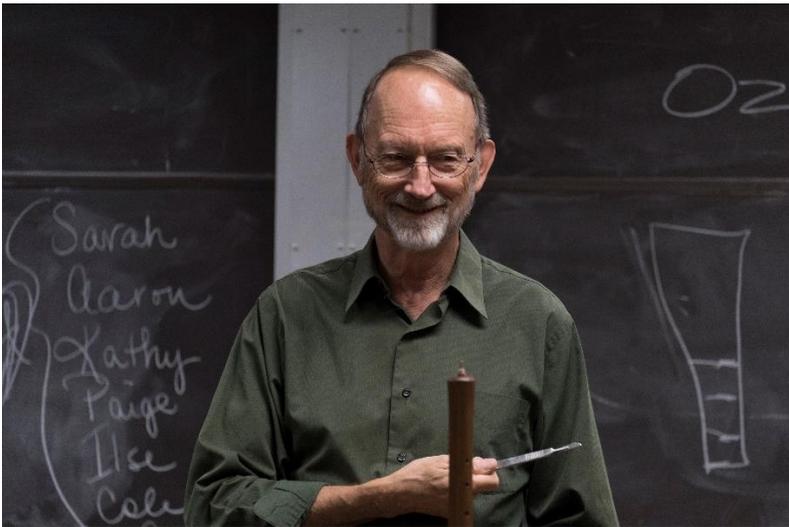


Photo credit: Tif Holmes

I cannot say enough positive things about Bob Wiemken. Not only is he a fantastic player, as everyone knows, but he is also a superb teacher, and incredibly generous with his time and energy. Over the next three days he offered instruction for the new shawm & sackbut players, coachings for the recorder consort, presentations to music history classes, a reed-making workshop for the oboe and bassoon students, plus two

introductory "first lesson" master classes (one for the combined oboe-bassoon-saxophone studios and one for the trumpets, who had requested an introduction to the cornetto). He also made himself available for private lessons, and last but hardly least, provided "what do I do now?" instructions for Collegium Director Yours Truly, for whom Renaissance wind techniques are *terra incognita*.



Bob Wiemken, “First Lesson” master class for oboe, bassoon, and sax students  
Photo Credit: Roger Landes

The result: this year, in addition to the usual group of singers and string & keyboard players, our Collegium now has an expanded recorder consort and a 6-person Loud Band: 2 grad students and 4 undergrads, three of whom are freshmen! (We are still mulling over possible names for these groups—any suggestions?) It was such a success, and raised such a high and lasting level of enthusiasm for all concerned, that the School of Music has arranged to have Bob return in January 2018, and we hope to establish an ongoing series of workshops and videoconference coachings out here on the High Plains of West Texas. We are eternally grateful to EMA for granting us the start-up funds to make possible this wonderful expansion in forces for our Texas Tech Collegium Musicum!