

Longy STUDENT PROFILE

School of Music

ASHLEY HALL

ARTIST DIPLOMA CANDIDATE

Ashley Hall is one of two students at Longy who is receiving an Artist Diploma degree. Chosen for their exceptional gifts in performance, these musicians are generally preparing for professional solo or orchestral careers. In Ashley's case, however, she needs no preparation; she already has a career as a trumpeter in the Dayton Philharmonic.

Ashley began playing trumpet in the fifth grade, when her mother, a French horn player who taught music in an elementary school, showed her the basics. Very shortly after she began playing, her mother realized that Ashley's talent was unusual, and found the best teacher available for her locally. As a seventh-grader, she entered – and won – the National Trumpet Competition's junior high division. Ashley said that she "loved the stage" and enjoyed the whole experience so much that she decided at that point to become a musician. She continued to compete and do well in national competitions throughout high school.

Ashley received her undergraduate degree from the Conservatory at the University of Cincinnati. While there, she quite often played at the Cincinnati Symphony. For her, this was wonderful, because, she said, "I was being paid to do what I love." She also worked from time to time as a substitute trumpeter at the Dayton Philharmonic.

After graduation, Ashley won the position of third trumpeter with the Dayton Philharmonic full-time – a triumph for a new graduate. However, as she began to do more solo work in the concerto repertoire, she experienced occasional problems with her embouchure, which affected her ability to play in certain registers. Ashley decided to come to Boston to consult with Steve Emery. After several lessons with Steve, Ashley decided she was going to devote all of her time to resolving the technical issues she had uncovered. The Dayton Philharmonic gave her a leave of absence to study at Longy, and she put in a difficult but rewarding year learning new techniques. Ashley was then invited to spend more time here in order to receive an Artist Diploma, and she accepted. The Dayton Philharmonic has agreed to hold her position there until she graduates.

After graduation, Ashley would like to return to the Dayton Philharmonic, with trips to unusual venues to play, here and abroad, "wherever they will have me." After all, she says, "life has to be so much more than being on a stage." Ashley adds that Longy is the "exact right fit" for her, with its supportive atmosphere and its emphasis on moving off of the concert stage to the real world. "It's what I'm all about," she says.



Ashley was one of the featured performers at the Longy School of Music Gala in June 2000.

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