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# THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD



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## Who's On the Hill?

*Our Weekly Look at the Young Musicians  
Performing This Summer at Round Top's Festival Hill*

By **JEAN HOWZE**

*The Fayette County Record*

Thomas English, a bassoonist from Indiana, drove from Chicago to Round Top, arriving the day before the first rehearsals. He is studying at Juilliard, completing his master's degree. English has a long list of honors and awards including second prize in the International Double Reed Society's 2013 Young Artist Competition. You may have heard him perform as a soloist on NPR's From the Top.

And how much does a musician at this level practice? "I try to get in three hours a day of independent practice. Then we have 3½ hours of orchestra practice, 1½ hours of sectionals, then depending on how many chamber groups you are in, 1½ to 3 hours every other day for



**Thomas English**

that. Then we have lessons, too," meaning private lessons with the faculty members in residence at Festival Hill. English agreed that being a student at Festival Hill is a full-time job.

After completing his master's degree, English plans to audition for a position in an orchestra, and "being (at Festival Hill) is great preparation for that," he said.