



upbeat

Notes from the Concord Conservatory of Music

FALL 2018

Playing with Heart:

CCM STUDENTS PERFORM IN NEW COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

It's Tuesday afternoon in late Spring, and CCM violin students parade from room to room in the Rivercrest Rehab and Nursing wing of the Newbury Court retirement community, visiting residents and filling the quiet halls with music. A young musician, nervous but none-the-less eager to perform, takes a seat at the piano in the Rivercrest common room before an audience of elderly residents.

This is a typical scene from CCM's newest community outreach program to the Rivercrest Nursing Home in Concord. The program was developed in the early spring to bring music to those who cannot venture out into the community. The program's design takes CCM students with recital ready pieces to Rivercrest to perform for the elderly on a biweekly basis. Despite only having existed for a few months, members of both the Rivercrest and CCM communities feel the real impact the Rivercrest outreach program has had.

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www.ConcordConservatory.org

CCM Green:

A NEW LOGO, AND NEW LOOK TO REPRESENT WHO WE ARE TODAY

Before CCM was all that we know it as now—friends, family, and peers bringing together a passion for learning and music—it was an idea. It had no building, no faculty, and no students. Hours of planning and working later, it all started to take shape, but CCM was still not quite real. A country with no flag.

Then I was presented with the logo concept for the soon-to-be school, and I suddenly had that “aha!” moment. I knew that this was it. Each color, font, and shape had a purpose—designer Harry Bartlett carefully explained how each aspect fit together. All of a sudden, the school I was working so hard to build and launch finally had an identity. The Concord Conservatory of Music was indeed born.

The logo was like a good homey recipe. Simple but vibrant, with a hint of tradition. That recipe was perfect for us when we were a fledgling community music school back in 2005, offering private lessons in classical music and an early childhood program. We called our color “CCM green” and wore it with pride.

It’s been more than ten years since we adopted the CCM Green, and we’re not the same fledgling school we were at the start. We don’t follow the same recipe. Over the years we’ve experimented and expanded. Our offerings have grown to include scores of new instruments and far more expansive programming, including the study of jazz and American Roots. We’ve become a more complex flavor. Our old logo didn’t seem to represent who we as a community have become. No longer are our rooms occupied only by kids in private lessons. On any given day there will be an adult learning guitar in one room, a kid rehearsing on the trumpet in the next, while downstairs a bluegrass jam buzzes with energy. We’re all the vibrancy of before, but we’re also so much more.

We’re continually evolving to meet the needs of our community, and we want to be able to celebrate all the fresh energy that fills our halls. Our new river green-blue represents moving beyond tradition, but not forgetting it. It’s complex and dynamic, just like our current student body. It’s always been a tall order to create a logo that could encompass all that is CCM. There’s simply endless hard work, determination, and passion put in by hundreds of students, families, and faculty every day to make CCM a rich environment where musicians can thrive. Our new logo combines all our present complexity and character into a more true representation of CCM’s current identity.

Together let’s embrace our new logo and everything it means for how far we’ve come since 2005; and let’s also look forward to how far we will go, always adapting and expanding to serve our community the best that we can.



Kate Yoder, CCM Executive Director and Founder

Playing with Heart, continued from first page:

“Music is the language of the heart, and it has the ability to affect people profoundly in many ways. I was still surprised at how our residents and employees were so positively impacted. Between Tony being overcome with emotion with tears running down his face, to Ed’s ear-to-ear smile as he clapped and stomped his foot, it was a special afternoon,” says Newbury Court Volunteer Coordinator, Rita Stanier.

While many are unable to go out to attend concerts in regular venues, the residents at Rivercrest are delighted to have the excitement of musical performance brought right into their homes.

Stanier continued to explain how during one CCM performance at Rivercrest she “remember[ed] looking

“It is a true joy to give our students an opportunity to embrace performance and altruism”

around. First, there were two people, then three, then a door opened and out came one employee, then another. By the time [the] trio of violinists finished, there were seven people in the hallway smiling, clapping, and yes, crying. There were residents, family members, caregivers, and nurses. It was a very profound and bonding experience.”

Rivercrest residents aren’t the only ones feeling the benefits of CCM’s Rivercrest outreach program. The program highlights the

importance of kids getting out into the world and seeing how their hard work and dedication can brighten people’s lives. Parents and students alike appreciate the chance to give back to the community that helps support their musical achievements.

Kate Yoder, CCM’s founder and executive director, says, “It’s important that our students of all ages experience the true effect their music can have out in the community. Their hard work and dedication is evident in their playing, and it is a true joy to give our students an opportunity to embrace performance and altruism.”

At its heart, the joy of music is in the people it impacts, and that impact transcends generational boundaries. The Rivercrest program is just one more

step CCM is taking in its quest to make musical appreciation accessible to all walks of life.

CCM is excited to continue the Rivercrest program this Fall with opportunities for students to visit and perform for the residents every other Tuesday from 5–6:00 pm. For more information and to sign-up visit us online at www.ConcordConservatory.org/CCM_in_the_Community.



From Playlists to Setlist:

MUSIC CREATES CONNECTIONS

Nothing has the power to bring people together quite like music. It's an art form that permeates our day-to-day lives. Everyone has his or her tastes and preferences from Billy Joel to Michael Jackson and beyond, and those preferences can say a lot about a person. Musical taste is a sneak peek into a personality which is why you'll frequently find that those who share your taste in music can be the easiest to get along with. Music is an easy common ground—an instant icebreaker.

A study by Peter Rentfrow and Samuel Gosling at the University of Cambridge found that "individuals consider their preferences for music more revealing of their personalities than their preferences for books, clothing, food, movies, and television shows." That's a remarkable idea that glancing at your favorite Spotify playlist could give a person a glimpse into your character, but what does this mean for those of us who do more than only listen to music? What could this mean for those who learn and play music?



Jam sessions provide a way to bring people together and learn music in a manner they might not have been able to before. A typical jam is led by a dedicated member of the CCM faculty and welcomes both CCM students and members of the local community. There are three jams currently hosted at CCM: the Bluegrass Jam, the Ukulele Jam, and the Old-time Jam. Each genre has its own charm, but the overwhelming common ground between each session is an air of lightheartedness and fun.

Students from across the school get to play together when they visit the Rivercrest community.

In short, it means opportunity. Taking lessons, participating in jam sessions, and attending concerts; at CCM, these are all ways to not only enjoy music but to enjoy the company of like-minded individuals. If music is the greatest way to communicate your personality, isn't it also the greatest way to meet and understand other people?

Over the past several years CCM has taken huge strides in becoming a place to not only learn about music but also to meet and make connections with other people. CCM boasts an exciting range of classes and events that highlight the joy of working in a group. Opportunities such as the Lifelong Learning Program and Musical Appreciation classes are easy ways to dive into a musical community rich with enthusiasm, beautiful music, and intelligent discussion.

In recent years, jam sessions have become an especially well-loved part of CCM's community.

From Playlists to Setlist, continued from previous page:



Music provides opportunities to learn together at any level.

Cathy and Tim Collins are two CCM students who've fostered their love for music in the CCM community.

Cathy and Tim had limited musical experience before their two daughters left for college. Both of their children were raised playing instruments, but aside from the occasional guitar accompaniment or recorder duet, Cathy and Tim didn't play much. Just a few years ago, they had a rather sudden debut into the world of music.

"It was unplanned," explains Tim, "I was a longtime fan of David Grisman and Jerry Garcia and Nickel Creek, and Cathy introduced me to the Bluegrass music channel on cable. I had always loved the sound of the mandolin. One day I was at the Minor Chord buying my daughter guitar strings. I saw this nice Kentucky mandolin hanging on the wall and thought, 'I could just buy that and take it home.'" Without further ado, the Collinses were immersed in music.

Cathy was quick to pull her old nylon string guitar out of the attic and follow along at Tim's mandolin lessons. When she heard about CCM's new American Roots program, they both readily signed up for Tony Watt's bluegrass jamming classes. Then when Cathy started taking vocal harmony classes, Tim went along too.

"It was fantastic having a practice partner at home! Tony [Watt] truly understood how a novice might feel about singing alone in front of others or improvising a solo. We had a lot of fun both in and out of class," says Cathy. Their instruments became a part of their lives; the Collinses brought them on vacation, put together their own bluegrass jams, and even inspired Cathy's brother to take up the fiddle. "Hanging out with other like-minded people was great—we hope we can play with them again," remarked Tim about their bluegrass jams.

The Collinses both agree that "playing together is fun. It charges our batteries. We laugh a lot, work out our solos together, and come up with new songs for each other". The Collinses learned just how much joining the musical community can give you, and all it took was a love for music and walking into a music store.

"Jam sessions have become an especially well-loved part of CCM's community"

So, when you're considering signing up for lessons or attending a concert or jam, remember that you'll gain even more than musical knowledge (though that's great too), —connections and passion that could last a lifetime. "The Roots tradition really lends itself to an inviting community of people. Beginners and intermediates can play with more advanced players—on a whole range of string instruments—and connect across generations in a way that's really fun and unlike other genres," says Kate Yoder, executive director and founder of CCM.

New to the Board

RICK CLEARY



Rick has been a longtime resident of Concord with his wife, Alicia, and their two daughters. Rick explains, “I was introduced to CCM by my daughters, who started their training here in the early days. Our house was constantly filled with their music. Joining the CCM board is a bit like coming home. Spoken language is one way to communicate, but music transcends words’ limitations. I’ve had a ‘crush’ on the piano for a long time. I’ve finally mustered the courage to take my crush to the next proverbial level...”

Rick Cleary earned his BA from Trinity College in Hartford and his MBA from the Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell. He is a trustee of the University of Virginia School of Architecture, and a member of the Board of Fellows at Trinity College. He most recently was the chief operating officer of CYS Investments.

LAURENCE CONSTABLE



Growing up in Maryland, Laurence was the only one of four brothers who was not required to learn an instrument. “I started playing guitar at age 11 with the goal of becoming either the next Jimmy Page or Jimi Hendrix. Being able to make my own decisions about pursuing music helped me keep at it early on. I truly believe that exposure to music is one of the greatest gifts people can receive.” On taking guitar lessons and joining the board, Laurence sees a long and great future for CCM. “It’s exactly the sort of organization that can and should be a cornerstone for arts education in Concord and the surrounding area. Creative arts and arts education are thriving. With strong community support, thoughtful planning, and effective leadership, CCM is primed to play an important role in growing music education and to become a pillar for musical arts and appreciation in Concord and beyond.”

Laurence Constable graduated with a BA from the University of Vermont, an MFA from Emerson College, and a JD from Suffolk University Law School. He is the cofounder and manager of Kiplin Capital, LLC, a venture capital and private equity firm. A Concord resident, Laurence is married to Molly Constable and has two children.

AMANDA HICKMAN



Amanda lives in Carlisle with her husband, Walter, and their two sons. Says Amanda, “I was raised by a church soloist and elementary school music teacher, so music was part of my life from an early age. I sang in school choirs and ensembles, play piano, and love performance of all genres. Music provides the backdrop for our lives in so many ways—and making music is an extraordinary way to build community. I’m thrilled to be part of CCM because of its role in students’ lives, but also because of its contribution to the spirit and community of Concord, Carlisle and beyond.”

Amanda Young Hickman graduated with a BA from Princeton University and an MBA from Harvard Business School. She is a founding partner of Insight Experience, a strategic consulting firm specializing in business process improvement and the development of leadership to execute the strategy.

EVAN RICKER



Evan was born and raised here in Concord. He again calls the town home with his wife Mara Bonde, a professional opera singer, and their twin daughters.

Says Evan, “I am surrounded by music in my home and I’m in awe of people who were able to start learning when they were young, so it is second nature and they don’t know a time when they didn’t play music. That is how it should be for everyone and to have a resource like the Concord Conservatory of Music right here in our town is invaluable.”

Evan Ricker earned his BA from Skidmore College and his MBA from the F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business at Babson College. He is a director at the investment banking firm Shields & Company. Not new to community involvement, Evan also serves on the Town of Concord White Pond Advisory Committee and on the boards of the Learning Center for the Deaf in Framingham, as treasurer, and the Commonwealth Ballet Company.



Save the date

CCM AMERICAN ROOTS WINTER PARTY

Saturday, March 30, 2019

6:00pm

51 Walden, Concord, MA

FEATURING THE BAND TWISTED PINE

Concert Series

**FRIDAY
OCT 19
7:30PM**

CCM JAZZ-STANDARDS OUR WAY

Join the Concord Conservatory of Music Jazz Faculty as they perform their take on jazz standards. Tsuyoshi Honjo on saxophone, Justin Meyer on bass, Brian Friedland on piano, Phil Sargent on guitar, Gabriela Martina on vocals, with Jorge Perez-Albele on percussion.

**FRIDAY
NOV 9
7:30PM**

MOZART AND THE MASTERS OF THE BAROQUE

An exciting evening of Mozart, Myslivecek, Vivaldi, Porpora and more! Dazzling and virtuosic baroque music, including opera arias written for the 18th-century superstar male castrato soprano Farinelli, featuring members of the outstanding faculty of the Concord Conservatory of Music, in ensemble with soprano Greta Feeney.

**FRIDAY
FEB 8
7:30PM**

MILE 12-BLUEGRASS

Mile Twelve is a fresh, hard-driving young band beautifully walking the line between original and traditional bluegrass. Fast gaining recognition for their outstanding performances in bluegrass and folk circles, Evan Murphy, Bronwyn Keith-Hynes, Nate Sabat, BB Bowness and David Benedict write captivating songs and daring instrumental pieces from diverse influences.

**SATURDAY
MAR 9
2:00PM**

THE OKEE DOKEE BROTHERS FAMILY CONCERT

The GRAMMY Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers perform and record family music in the American Roots tradition with the goal to inspire children and their parents to get outside and get creative. The four-time Parents' Choice Award winners have garnered praise from the likes of NPR's All Things Considered and USA Today, and have been called "two of family music's best songwriters."

**FRIDAY
APR 5
7:30PM**

CCM JAZZ-ORIGINALS

We bring the CCM Jazz faculty to kick off National Jazz Appreciation Month. Tsuyoshi Honjo on saxophone, Justin Meyer on bass, Brian Friedland on piano, Phil Sargent on guitar, Gabriela Martina on vocals, and Mike Connors on percussion will perform their original compositions.

2018 – Making a Difference

The Concord Conservatory of Music is much more than a school of the arts — it is a community center that inspires people to explore and build their own creative lives through music. In keeping with our short history, as a spirited organization, CCM continues to evolve, with a goal of expanding our inclusive music community that was formed around its core offerings, high-quality education and performance opportunities.

This year, the school welcomed a new community into our doors with the addition of the American Roots program and our partnership with the Boston Bluegrass Union. Our private students participated in our pilot Music Achievement Program

which enriched their music education by providing them more opportunities to play and learn in a group setting, and an understanding that embracing music theory really isn't all that bad. CCM continued in its tradition of making music accessible by granting over \$18,000 in financial assistance. Most importantly, we made music.

None of this would be a reality without the generous support of our donors, the dedication of our exceptional faculty and administrative staff, an enthusiastic board of directors, and a community of learners and music enthusiasts who are the heart of all that we can accomplish. Your support is, as always, deeply appreciated.

Devotee Circle

\$10,000 – \$19,999

Richard and Susan Walters
Douglas and Katherine Yoder

Virtuoso Circle

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Kenneth and Lynda Anderson
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Peter and Sarah Blum
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S. Dewey and Anne Keesler

Concert Master's Circle

\$2,500 – \$4,999

Bill and Susanna Barton
Todd Brady and Andrea Darling
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Joseph and Suzanne Jachinowski
Tom Kaegi and Kathy Corkins
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Maestro Circle

\$1,000 – \$2,499

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\$125 – \$249

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THANK YOU

Thank you to the generous individuals, companies, and foundations whose financial donations to our Annual Fund, Winter Party, and Financial Assistance Fund play a crucial role in allowing CCM to serve our community.

Gifts received September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018



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The mission of the Concord Conservatory of Music is to foster a sense of community through music by providing accessible, high-quality music education and performance opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels.

Located in the West Concord Union Church, our offerings include group classes, workshops, private lessons, and jam sessions for children and adults, from beginners to advanced. We also host a Faculty Concert Series.

We welcome you to explore our programs online at www.ConcordConservatory.org, or give us a call at (978) 369-0010

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www.ConcordConservatory.org

