



upbeat

Notes from the Concord Conservatory of Music

FALL 2017

Banding Together: FAMILIES THAT PLAY TOGETHER, STAY TOGETHER

Back in the 1990s, when Suzanne and Joe Jachinowski were living in San Francisco, long before they had children, they would get together with friends in their garage to jam: Suzanne on vocals, Joe on guitar, Suzanne’s brother Jay on piano, and others on drums, bass, and rhythm and lead guitar. The Zen Lunatics, as they called themselves, played an odd lot of covers (Fleetwood Mac, Tom Petty, and Joan Osborne tunes, for example), wrote some original songs, and played a few gigs over the years. The band still gets together these days—often on the East Coast now, since the Jachinowskis moved to Concord in 2010—and they have a couple of new band members, namely Suzanne and Joe’s children, JJ and Ben. The band still plays all the old covers, but the younger generation has introduced some fresh beats to the set list, with songs by Arctic Monkeys and The Revivalists, for example.

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The Concord
Conservatory of Music

www.concordconservatory.org

A letter from our Director



Kate Yoder, CCM Executive Director
and Founder

One of the stories we are most delighted to share with the CCM community is the news that, in the most recent fiscal year, we were able to grant more than \$20,000 in financial assistance to the families of our musicians. That represents an increase of \$4,000 over the previous year, a significant milestone that has us singing the praises of our generous supporters.

At CCM, we believe that everyone should have the opportunity to explore music, whatever their family's financial constraints or those of the public school systems, where there is ever tightening of the budgets. Evidence suggests that children who have studied music tend to have a more extensive vocabulary and better reading ability than those who go without musical training. Moreover, music introduces benefits for children with learning disabilities and children from lower-income families, helping them bridge some of the factors that work against them academically.

Every year, we award about 40 scholarships, covering both private lessons and group classes, such as the chorus, which can provide an individual with the all-important experience of playing or performing within a group setting. The goal for this program is to provide quality music education to all of our students, regardless of their family's income, a goal that goes hand-in-hand with community education. Thank you to all of you for your continued support of this critical program.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Yoder".

Upcoming Events

CCM Annual Winter Party –
American Roots (not just) BBQ,
Bluegrass, and Bourbon

Saturday, March 3rd at 6:00pm
The Scout House

FACULTY CONCERT
Chamber Music

Friday, November 17th at 7:00pm
The piano trio features CCM faculty members, violinist Angel Valchinov, and Hyunji Kwon on the cello, with Keun Young Sun on piano. The concert will feature works by the composers Brahms, Mozart and more.

FACULTY CONCERT
Jazz by CCM

Friday, April 6th at 7:00pm
To kick off National Jazz Appreciation month, join the talented Concord Conservatory of Music Jazz Faculty, Tsuyoshi Honjo, on saxophone, Justin Meyers on bass, Brian Friedland on piano, Mike Connors on percussion, and Gabriela Martina, vocals will perform classic jazz compositions standards and originals.



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Suzanne's mother was a music teacher, so music has long been in the family's DNA. The Jachinowski children started playing early: JJ on piano initially, Ben on drums. "Among the many reasons moving to Concord turned out so beautifully was finding CCM," Suzanne says. There the boys have been able to explore a variety of music, from piano and drums to composition and alto sax, for example. And now that the boys are 17 and 15 years old, music is something the family can enjoy together.

"You never know what the magic thing—that the whole family is going to enjoy doing together—is going to be," Suzanne says. Joe loves to fish, for example. Suzanne is a reader. The boys love fantasy football. "We all have different tastes," she says. "As the children grow up, they're each going to become their own people, with their own interests, which is great. But I feel blessed that music is something cross-generational that we can all do together."

Playing with the band has afforded the children other lessons, too. "Just as it's great for kids to learn how to interact with the coaches and teachers in their lives, here they're learning how to talk with people from another generation. It helps the kids learn how to hang as grownups, how to be a part of a more mature, wider group," Suzanne says.

"I feel blessed that music is something cross-generational that we can all do together"

The family's Concord basement is outfitted with all the mics and speakers from the old California garage band days, so the band has a place to practice and make the occasional recording. Playing with the Zen Lunatics gives the children a chance to challenge

themselves in all the ways attendant with ensemble playing: learning patience, knowing your part, letting others shine, and figuring out where you can add something of value, for example. "It's been fun for me to see them grow as musicians," Suzanne says. "And there's a great deal of satisfaction when you all get through a song and you think, 'That sounded pretty good!'"



Taking Root:

AMERICAN ROOTS PROGRAM OFFERS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

What is “American Roots” music, exactly? Ask three people and you may get three different answers, but a good working definition, says ethnomusicologist and CCM faculty member Ian Goldstein, is that American Roots encompasses a collection of musical forms that have coalesced on American soil. “It’s definitely not solely synonymous with bluegrass. It’s far broader in its reach: It’s also blues and jazz, country blues, folk revival, Cajun, zydeco—a whole host of musical forms are a part of this American fabric,” he says.

CCM’s new course offerings in American Roots music are diving deep into the genre. Goldstein teaches mandolin; he is one of four faculty members who have signed on to lead this new program. He is joined by fiddle player Bobby Britt, Tony Watt teaching bluegrass, and Rich Stillman on banjo, all accomplished players and teachers in their own right. Throughout the year, CCM will also offer monthly drop-in jam sessions and workshops to complement the program, focusing on related skills like improvisation, for example.

Part of what makes the program so fun—beyond the fact that it’s a rare offering in the Boston area—is that roots “isn’t music that one often plays in isolation,” Goldstein says. The structure of CCM’s offerings reflects that: Instrument-specific courses (for mandolin, but also banjo, fiddle, and bluegrass) will feed into opportunities for “social music-making,” as Goldstein says.

Stillman, who teaches banjo, says this music is “very conversational, very social by nature” and ensemble music by definition. “So much of the style is about how the voices fit together,” he says, something that players can experiment with as they go. “It’s very improvisational. You’re rarely playing something note for note. Instead you’re learning techniques and applying them to chord structures and melodies to make an arrangement on the fly.”

In keeping with tradition, students will learn tunes by ear, a process that can open up a whole new world of musical possibilities for new and experienced players alike, says

Bobby Britt. “Song-based and aural learning works a whole different part of the brain than reading music off the page,” he says.

Tony Watt is an award-winning flatpicking guitarist who is teaching the bluegrass courses. “Ultimately, it is one of the most jam-centric styles of music, and that means it has one of the strongest and most-welcoming communities you can find,” he says. “Jams have a very low bar of experience needed to join but allow for musical growth, as far as you are willing to push yourself.”

Having never played together before, Fiddling instructor, Bobby Britt, shows a student attending the American Roots Open House how easy it is to learn a tune by ear.





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Indeed, much of the charm of this music is the social aspect: “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.

Adding a new genre of study at the school; the launch of the Roots program at CCM, has brought the talented instructors, Ian Goldstein and Tony Watt, to lead group classes, jams, and private lessons.

CCM Orchestrates Music From Movies

Composers create excitement, suspense and magical moments with their music. CCM students learned firsthand last spring about how film scores come alive—and the preparation it takes to perform these works of art. After practicing diligently throughout the year, CCM students shared the stage with their peers at the May All School Concert. Students performed in ensembles large and small and entertained everyone with timeless and classic music from memorable movies.

Imagine a string ensemble about 30 CCM students strong, with every string instrument from bass to violin, playing Hedwig’s Theme, which everyone knows because it’s in every Harry Potter film score. Energy and smiles filled the room. Our CCM students also played music from some all-time favorite films including “My Favorite Things,” from the *Sound of Music* by a jazz group; “Rock Around the Clock” by a Rock Lab ensemble, and everyone enjoyed the ukulele



Rock Lab students epitomize what learning and playing music together is all about at CCM as they performed at the All School Concert.

group’s rendition of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow and What a Wonderful World.”

“One of the beautiful things about learning to play an instrument is getting to play along in a group,” says Kate Yoder, CCM executive director and founder. Performing with an ensemble can be entirely different—and frankly a lot of fun—but students in private instruction often don’t get that opportunity.

The annual CCM All School Concert provides students with a memorable group performance opportunity. The transformative skills and knowledge learned from playing in an orchestra or ensemble is plentiful. Working as a team, armed with knowledge from their lessons, and dealing admirably with performance stress, CCM students performed beautifully. The concert was magical, entertaining, and invigorating—all at the same time.

2017 Impact Report

Walk the halls of CCM any day, and you will see and hear the joy of a quality music education. CCM plays an important role in the lives of over 400 students whose ages span over 85 years.

More and more adults in our community are experiencing the powerful benefits of music education here at CCM. In our collaboration with the Lincoln Council on Aging, we offered a new hand-drumming class for their community. This year also brought the addition of adult string and jazz ensembles and our first Adult student recital and social.

CCM continues its mission to provide access to high-quality music education, awarding \$20,800 in tuition assistance to our students in FY 2017. This is a \$4,000 increase over last year and the highest amount during any fiscal year to date. The result of operations is a loss of \$13,818. We are committed to adding new programming to serve more of the needs of the community through partnerships and working within our facility. To view a copy of the annual audited financial report, please go to concordconservatory.org.

Devotee Circle

\$10,000 – \$19,999

Frances Friedman
Douglas and Katherine Yoder

Virtuoso Circle

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Peter and Sarah Blum
Phillip and Elizabeth Gross
Michael Mach
Richard and Susan Walters
Cedar Tree Foundation

Concert Master's Circle

\$2,500 – \$4,999

Kenneth and Lynda Anderson
Tom Brady and Andrea Darling
Tom Kaegi and Kathy Corkins
Jeff and Sarah Newton
Alex Sarly
William Scheid and Maureen Mara
Avison Young

Maestro Circle

\$1,000 – \$2,499

Robert and Kate Chartener
Robert C. Cowen
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Terrence Goss
John and Suzanne Hogan
James and Barbara Littlefield
Robert and Lucille McBride
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Scott and Catherine Webster

Benefactor Circle

\$500 – \$999

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Concert Circle

\$250 – \$499

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Sandra Poole and David Meeker
Daniel Riordan
Wade Rubinstein and Jill Block
Chris and Nicole Saia
Russ Wolf and Martha Gilpatrick

Gifts received September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017



(Continued...)

Rehearsal Circle

\$125 – \$249

Anonymous
Henry Bartlett
Forrest and Marcie Berkley
Vanu and Judith Bose
Annie Hamill
Charles Learoyd
Gregory Maguire and Andy Newman
Matthew and Sandra Meyerson
Helen S. Minton
James and Ellen Rice
Ryan and Michelle Shoemaker
Charles Stromeyer
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Eric Ward and Irene Mitsuhashi
David and Liz Wei
United Health Group

Friends Circle

Up to \$124

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Ralph and Jane Anderson
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Daniel and Luanne Cordeau
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Jack's Abby Brewing
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Gregory Maguire
Anthony McKenna Piano Tuning
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Revolution Community Bodywork
West Concord Liquors
Stonegate Gardens
The Collings Foundation
The Discovery Museums
Walden Pet Services
Richard and Susan Walters
Lyon-Vaugh Automotive Group
Kate Yoder

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.



“Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent.”
— VICTOR HUGO

New to the Board



Susanna Barton shares with CCM her keen interest in making music education a regular and accessible part of families lives.

The Concord Conservatory of Music is pleased to announce that Susanna Barton is joining the board of directors this fall. Barton worked for many years in the biotech field, doing bench work in genomics research and working in product development. These days she is deeply engaged in the complexities of raising three children, all of whom attend different Concord schools: Barton and her husband have one child in elementary, one in middle school, and a high schooler at Middlesex. The family tends to be an athletic bunch, but with two of the three children now studying piano at CCM, Barton says music is helping to create a healthy counterbalance in the house. She's seen firsthand the value of practice, and how those lessons can translate to all aspects of a child's life, whether academics or athletics. Barton says she is excited to join CCM in its mission of providing the highest quality music education in a community setting, and she looks forward to getting started.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Susanna Barton
Peter Blum
Andrea Darling
Michael Mach
Ellen Rice
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Karen Kashian, Finance Manager
Emma Huggard, Student Services Manager
Margaret Romero, Community & Ensemble Coordinator
Susan Seger, Marketing & Development Manager
Kate Yoder, Executive Director & Founder

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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