

## OPUS JANUARY, 2016



### CCM News

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### NEWS AT CCM



## **Take a Class with Friends New and Old! Group Classes Just Beginning**

From [Beginner Piano for Adults](#) to a [Ukulele Crash Course](#), from kids [Chorus](#) to [Beginner Vocals](#) for kids, with [World Rhythms and Hand Percussion](#) thrown in for good measure, The Concord Conservatory of Music has a group class to take your skill and interest to the next level.

Our spring semester group classes are just starting up— follow the links to read more about each course. You can sign up online, email, or call (978)-369-0010 for more information.

And naturally, we offer group classes for young kids, middle schoolers, teens, and adults-- check them out!

## **Concert & Lecture Series Number Four**

On Friday, January 29th at 7 p.m., and Sunday, January 31st at 3 p.m., Keith Kirchoff and Ela Brandys present the next session in the Concert & Lecture Series, Symbolism in Music. Using a variety of musical examples, Kirchoff and Brandys will explore some of the most frequently used musical symbols and provide tools for a deeper understanding of classical literature. Friday's Concert & Lecture takes place here at CCM, 1317 Main Street; on Sunday, the event is presented at Newbury Court, 100 Newbury Court. Tickets are \$25 for adults; students under 18 are admitted free. Tickets are available online or at the door.

To read more about the series, or to buy tickets, [please visit here](#).

## **Upcoming Recitals—Mark Your Calendars!**

Our next recitals are Saturday, February 6th, at 1:00, 2:30, and 4:00 pm, and Thursday, February 11th at 7 pm. Speak with your instructor to get signed up!

## **Rock Lab—Call for Musicians**

We still have openings for our Rock Lab project. If you play drums, guitar, bass, keyboard, or saxophone, contact [Mark Ford](#) for more information. The lab does not replace individual instrument instruction; it does teach how to play and improve together as a band.

The lab will be directed by CCM faculty member Chaim Burstein, and we'll match up kids of similar ability and age to form a rock band. The lab sessions will begin shortly; more details can be available [on the website](#).

**WINTER PARTY MARCH 5, 2016: SAVE THE DATE, DONATE AN ITEM**

Ob La De Ob La Da, we go on! Put your dancing shoes on, dress up in your favorite Mod outfit, and get ready to come together—CCM is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a **Beatles** winter party and auction. It will be held once again at **The DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park** in Lincoln, MA. Join your friends for a festive night of cocktails, dinner, dancing, and a great auction. The party is always a lot of fun!

Not only is it a spirited gala, but it's also crucial to CCM--last year we raised \$70,000 for programming and financial assistance and had a blast doing it. Look for your invitation in the mail! Grab your friends and fill a table.

Do you have any items or services you'd like to donate to our silent or live auctions? Please contact [Kate Yoder](#), and thanks!

### BEHIND THE SCENES: "TUNE OF THE WEEK"



### Tuning in to CCM

If you visit our website or Facebook account, you've probably seen our weekly feature we call "Tune of the Week." This is a curated list put together with the help of Chaim Burstein, one of our string faculty members. We had a chance to sit down with Chaim and ask him about his thought processes as he wades through the YouTube stockpile.

**Chaim, what is your goal in “Tune of the Week?”**

I'd say it is twofold. I want to keep it entertaining, for sure—we want people to click on the musical piece and be engaged. It should also be informative: is it showing our community something new or unusual about music and music making? Kate Yoder had also initially asked me to do this so that we could have a schoolwide conversation about the same piece of music each week.

**Can you talk about some of your selections?**

The Louisville Percussion Group playing Led Zeppelin's "[Kashmir](#)" was amazing. It is a group of students ages 7-14 from 46 different schools in the Louisville area. The leader of that group has got to be very talented to get so many kids playing a counterpointed time signature. Another one we used is Bobby McFerrin's [Ted Talk](#) on the Pentatonic Scale. You come away believing in the power of music as a universal language... we also were able to illustrate dynamics and song structure with [Beethoven's 7th Symphony, 2nd Movement](#).

**Is there a takeaway from the “Tune of the Week” program?**

I hope that the Tune of the Week pieces help people become more active listeners. By that I mean taking the time to engage fully with the piece you are listening to, even if it's just for a couple of minutes. Active listening is critical, focused, and engaged. Music is everywhere these days—it's in the car, the grocery store, the elevator. If you want to understand a piece of music, you've got to pay attention to the piece—and usually, listen to it more than once.

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JOACHIM LAURENT**





Joachim Laurent is a 7th grader at the Sanborn School here in Concord. He has been playing piano for seven years, and studies with Chieko Loy. Joachim recently passed the level 6 practical exam for the Royal Conservatory Music Development Program, and he's now preparing for the theory test, which he'll take in May. We had the opportunity to ask Joachim a few questions about piano, CCM, and what he's been up to.

**How long have you been studying with Chieko? How does Chieko help you?**

Except for the one year of group keyboard lessons, I have always studied with Chieko. Chieko helps me to not only learn the notes of the piece, but she also helps me to play with more feeling which makes it sound so much better. She also always provides additional background and context to the piece, which helps in understanding the “feeling” of the piece.

**On average, how much would you say you practice per day, and how many days per week?**

I practice on average one hour a day for six days a week. I usually take Friday off. It varies a bit, though. When I am preparing for a recital or test I tend to practice more, when there is nothing special going on I sometimes practice a little less. When I practice, I like that I'm the one creating the music instead of just listening to it.

**Can you tell us a bit more about what's required for the Royal Conservatory Music**

### **Development Program?**

For this year's level 6 test I needed to play five pieces, memorize several chords and scales, do some sight-reading and rhythm playing. I really like to play the pieces. For the technical requirements, the challenge is that you have to learn many different chords, chord progressions and scales, but the examiner only asks you to play a few. You therefore have to know them all really well. The hardest part for me is sight-reading since you can't really prepare for that. It takes about 15 minutes to take the test, and then you have to wait for about 4 weeks before they send you the results. I like that they provide detailed feedback on what they liked about your playing and where you can improve. Overall, it is a great experience.

### **Do you do any other activities? Any sports or hobbies besides music?**

Other than piano, I enjoy playing tennis and traveling. This summer, my family went to Florence in Italy and I was able to see and hear the first piano ever built. This was pretty exciting.

In my free time I like to play tennis, table tennis, and pool. I also like hiking, biking, and spending time with my friends. Of course, video games are a lot of fun too!

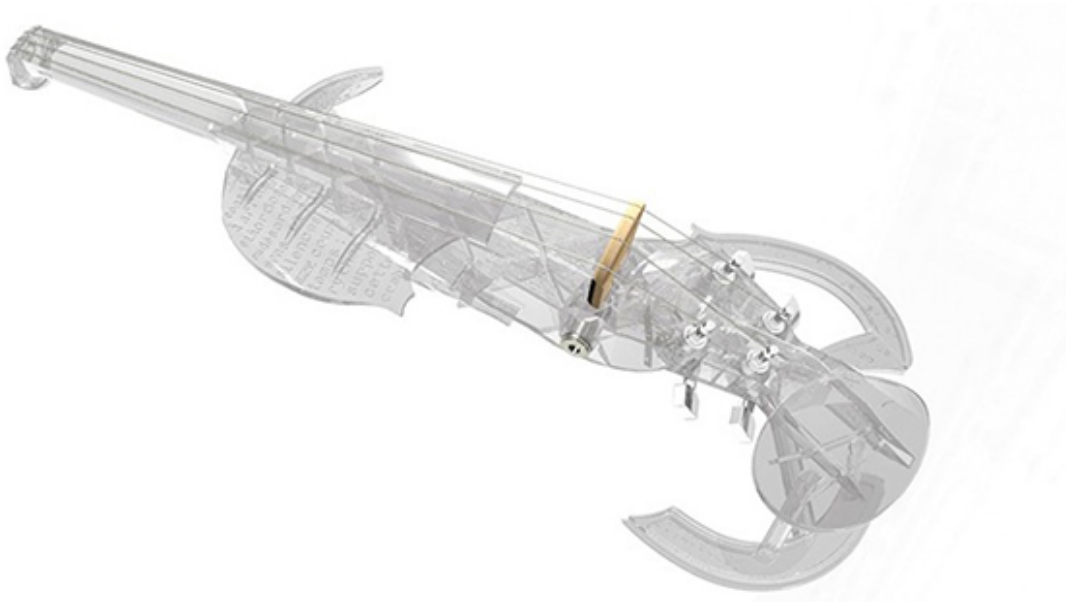
### **What kind of music do you listen to? Any favorites?**

I like many different kinds of music, I don't have a favorite kind yet. I like jazz a lot. But I also like pop and classical music.

### **Do you have any advice for new musicians?**

Learning a new piece is the hardest part and can be very tedious, but listening to the final product makes it all worthwhile.

## **WHY MUSIC MATTERS?**



In August of this year, *Wired* magazine reviewed the [3dvarius](#)—a violin produced by a 3-D printer, based on the famed Stradivarius violins of the late 1600s-early 1700s, not that you are going to immediately notice the similarity. It is a fascinating article, and may well be a harbinger of things to come. First a [Lego harpsichord](#), now this!

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

**NPR's "From the Top"** with Christopher O'Reilly will be taping a show here in Boston at Jordon Hall on Saturday, February 6th, at 7:30 PM. Watch the incredible talent of these young musicians and listen to their stories. It is an excellent family concert not to be missed! To purchase tickets, [click here](#).

**Sarah Whitney**, former Concord resident and highly regarded violinist, performs "Beyond the Notes," an interactive concert, at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 29th, at the Concord Art Association. Sarah will be joined by Laura Metcalf, cello. General Admission tickets are \$25; students \$15.

