



Opus January 2020

In This Issue

[News at CCM](#)

[Because of You!](#)

[My Summer Experience by Anthony Valeri](#)

[Save the Date: American Roots Benefit](#)

[2019 – 2020 CCM Concert Series](#)

[CCM Faculty January Gigs!](#)

[CCM Dates to Know](#)

News at CCM

CCM Students Perform at The Old Manse



In December CCM trumpet students brought some good old-fashioned cheer to The Old Manse in Concord. And they experienced what it's like to have a music gig in the community—and *at such a historic landmark*. Playing tunes like Jingle Bells, Dreidel, Dreidel, Jolly Old Saint Nicholas, in addition to a few non-holiday favorites, they entertained and delighted the visitors.

The students played for the candlelight Christmas event at The Old Manse as patrons took a special tour of the home that focused on historical happenings around the holidays. It's just another example of CCM students going beyond their private lessons and learning and enjoying making music with their peers.

[Back to top.](#)

Because of You!



This week, our *Singing with Parkinson's* Chorus performed for the Parkinson's Support Group at Newbury Court. Led by our chorus director, Greta Feeney, they showed the support group the voice exercises they do each session to increase their vocal range and sang three songs from their repertoire. Everyone in attendance then joined in for a rendition of *Ob La Di, Ob La Da* by the Beatles.

Because of you, our Singing with Parkinson's chorus members are strengthening their voices and receiving support and encouragement. This is just one of the many programs that you are making possible and connecting people and building positive community ties through music.

Thank you for supporting CCM!

My Summer Experience by Anthony Valeri, Age 12



Anthony performing at the Atlantic Music Festival

I have been playing violin for four years and have been studying with Angel Valchinov at CCM for all of them. I believe that if not for the way he has pushed me to my limit and inspired me, none of what I am about to tell you would have happened.

Last winter, Mr. Valchinov told me that he would be the string director of a prestigious festival for musicians called the Atlantic Music Festival. He encouraged me to submit an audition, so I played my best. My parents were forthright with me, letting me know it was unlikely that I would be accepted into a festival intended for highly skilled, college-aged musicians. They said that the audition process alone was a good learning experience. Then, one great night, my mom came into my room and told me that I had been accepted. I was amazed and excited to begin this incredible chapter in my life.

Soon the day dawned that we were to drive to the festival, which would be held at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. Once we arrived, I was amazed by how beautiful the campus was. We signed in quickly and hurried over to my first lesson. I had thought it would be very formal, and the teacher would be stern and strict; it turned out I was only half right. The lesson was formal but the teacher, Moni Simeonov, was a tall man from Bulgaria with a warm, humorous voice and an air of control. He showed me practice techniques I had never dreamed of and helped me to think of things in a different way. When it was done, my head was full of new ideas and I was eager for more.



After the lesson, my mom and I found my dorm. My mom and siblings would be sleeping in a rented house in town and were expecting me to stay with them, but I expressed my wishes to try to stay at the college like the rest of the festival attendees. I was given a single dorm since I was so much younger than everyone else.

My life at Colby College was different from my normal life in many ways. I had to set an alarm every night and, having hardly ever used a phone before, and I needed to use one every day. Most days I set my alarm for 7 am, rode my bike from my dorm to the dining hall where I ate breakfast, and then attended my first class of the day.

I met many impressive musicians at AMF. I found time between classes to practice on my own and with other musicians. We attended many lectures; one of my favorites was on saving time, led by Mr. Simeonov. There were concerts every night, and I had the honor of performing with amazing musicians. I was really busy most days but between classes, I would say hi to my siblings as they were riding their bikes around campus. I made some awesome friends and would eat lunch and dinner with them at the dining hall. I had to be more self-reliant than I was used to, but I was in my element: surrounded by classical musicians.

The final day was there before I knew it. I played Frisbee with some of the friends I had met, and that night watched the orchestra perform. After the performance, I packed up my stuff and my mom drove me home. My head was filled with inspiration from all that I had learned. That was one of my favorite summers ever and I hope to have many more.

P.S. I only slept in the Airbnb with my mom and siblings one night because I wanted to see it.

Save the Date: American Roots Bene t



CCM American Roots Benefit on Saturday, March 28, 2020, at 6 pm

An evening of exceptional bluegrass, BBQ, bourbon, and a fantastic night to support your community music school and music education in our area.

This year's Benefit will take place at the Scout House in Concord and will feature the band [The Ruta Beggars](#)—a timeless bluegrass band filled with intricate yet smooth vocal harmonies, fiery instrumentals, and plenty of fun.

By attending the CCM American Roots Winter Party, our community members have access to outstanding faculty, music programs for students of all ages, and financial assistance to those that need our help. **You can make a difference, [RSVP today!](#)**

CCM 2019 – 2020 Concert Series



CCM's 2019 -2020 Concert Series—*mark your calendars or better yet, purchase your tickets today!*

The Concord Conservatory of Music's 2019-2020 Concert Series brings world-class performers to our local community. Thank you to our generous donors including Middlesex Savings Bank, Cambridge Savings Bank, Mass Cultural Council, the Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council, and The Dewey Rosenfield Foundation that have helped us bring the Series to our community.

Friday, February 7 at 7:30 pm, [Mile Twelve - Bluegrass](#) (\$25 for adults, free for students 18 and under)

Saturday, February 29 at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm, [Brady Rymer and the Little Band that Could](#) (\$20 for all tickets)

Friday, April 17 at 7:30 pm, [CCM Jazz](#) (\$25 for adults, free for students 18 and under)

CCM Faculty January Gigs!



Receive inspiration from our highly accomplished faculty by attending their local community gigs. Mark your calendar for these January performances:

Susan Gottschalk, violin/viola instructor, member of Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston and performing Sunday, January 12th at 3 pm, Sanders Theatre, Cambridge. [To purchase tickets>>](#)

Nicole Parks, violin/viola instructor, Special Effects – Semiosis Quartet at the Pao Center in Boston, Sunday, January 19th, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm. [For more information>>](#)

Rich Stillman, banjo instructor, with Southern Rail at The Rose Garden Coffeehouse in Mansfield, Saturday, January 25, 8 – 10 pm, [General admission](#) \$16 and 16 and under free with purchase of adult ticket.

CCM January Dates to Know



- January 20th, CCM is closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 7th and 23rd, [Opportunities for CCM students to perform in the community](#), 3:45 -4:45 pm