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NEWS AT CCM

CCM hosts its first [PERFORMATHON](#) throughout May, where students of all ages come together to share their music virtually. At this time, perhaps more than ever, we are focused on providing platforms and opportunities for our students to inspire hope in our community

with their music, passion, and dedication. You can relax in your home, be entertained and inspired by musicians, and help make music education available to anyone who desires it, no matter their ability to pay.

We invite community members to attend our virtual concerts and give the gift of music by honoring a student performance. You can help us 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.

Support a student today through the 2021 [CCM PERFORMATHON](#).

CCM Welcomes Guitarist Ira Klein to Our Faculty



Welcome, Ira!

[Ira Klein](#) is a guitarist, banjoist, producer, and composer from Jerusalem, Israel.

Ira graduated from the Berklee College of Music, where he immersed himself in American roots music, was a recipient of the Fletcher Bright Endowed Scholarship and the Professional Music Department Achievement Award, and was a guitar accompanist for the vocal and string

departments. [Read more](#)



Celebrating Our Faculty

Whether teaching our students here at CCM or online, our talented teaching artists give our students the best music education. This year, our instructors have provided the much needed sense of connection through music to our students with every lesson.

Despite the challenges they faced for more than a year now, they've kept the music going—*and there's never been a time when we needed music more!*

Our faculty members genuinely make a difference in students' lives with the gift of music—the gift that their students will keep forever.

Are you a CCM friend yet?

Join us on Instagram and Facebook to be the first to learn CCM news and more! See what music videos we like, photos we post, practice tips and articles we suggest, and new music in the music world. Be sure to bookmark the CCM Blog, so you never miss a new post.



CAN MUSIC HELP US LEARN LANGUAGES?

Music has another superpower—the ability to help us learn languages. Musicians learn to hear the differences in pitch and rhythm, which may help hearing intonations in spoken languages. We know that simply singing songs in various languages can also help young students learn a language. Think of the nursery rhyme *Frère Jacques*.

CCM Music and Language Case Study: Yelena Beriyeve

Seeing that CCM piano faculty member and Georgian-born American Yelena Beriyeve speaks, reads, and writes three languages fluently, Georgian, Russian, and English, and comprehends French at a very high level, we wanted to ask her opinion on the subject.

She's passionate about both music and language. The pandemic allowed her to start working on a dream of hers, to learn Armenian because of her ancestry.

For Yelena, learning music started at quite a young age. She started playing the piano at just 3-years of age, and her passion for music flourished quickly. Imagine a 5-year old playing with a major orchestra. Yelena did that and more.

Her career includes playing around the globe—performances in the US and Republic of Georgia, Armenia, Russia, Ukraine, Venezuela, Canada, and Mexico. Her extensive travels must have also piqued her curiosity about learning languages. Yelena says, “I am fascinated with languages as it gives me a chance to get to know a different culture.”

Yelena says, “Learning the piano or any instrument and a second language both require extreme focus and tenacity. I feel that learning any given instrument is, in a way learning a language. I have always thought that being able to play a musical instrument and understanding how to read and write music is, in its own way, being able to communicate in another language.”

Pitch Perfect, does it help you learn languages?

Can you identify a note just by hearing it?

If you can name or sing a given musical note without being given a reference note, then you have Perfect Pitch, also known as Absolute Pitch.

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Music training plays a key role in the development of a foreign language in its grammar, colloquialisms and vocabulary. One recent study found that when children aged nine and under were taught music for just one hour a week, research concluded that they exhibited a higher ability to learn both the grammar and the pronunciation of foreign languages, compared to their classmates who had learned a different extracurricular activity.

- Liisa Henriksson-Macaulay, The Guardian

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Yelena has [Perfect Pitch](#), which may have helped her hear intonations and dialects better. She says, “As a musician I always deal with pitches one way or another. This in itself could be a main trigger in picking up certain intonation subtleties of a given language.”

Yelena also happens to play the violin. She goes on to say, “We constantly deal with music pitches and the fact that we often hear the same pitch in presentations of different instruments broadens our feel for the pitch. A single note G of any given octave may feel completely differently in the presentations of piano, cello, voice, marimba, flute, etc. as each instrument has their own unique sound.”



Learning music though always comes down to practice

Knowing music and playing two instruments may have indeed helped Yelena learn multiple languages. Keep in mind that she may also have the knack to absorb languages. She certainly has the motivation to learn them. However, she explains, “I would say that learning languages has not helped me in learning music and performing; nearly endless hours of practicing at the piano did.”

We'll be on the lookout to see if new research supports the theory that learning music helps us to learn languages. *We'll keep you posted.*

Watch Yelena in action as she performs Toccata by Khachaturian



LIVE PERFORMANCES ON THE CCM STAGE IN WEST CONCORD

It's finally here! Our student musicians and faculty have the opportunity to share their music with you and the community, live and in person.

We're excited to participate in the [West Concord Spring into the Junction Celebration](#) on the "**CCM Stage**" at 101 Commonwealth Avenue on Saturday, May 22, from 11:00 am through 3:00 pm.

CCM is proud to be part of the West Concord Junction Cultural District created by the Massachusetts Cultural Council in January 2016. We are committed to providing music and music education to the West Concord district.

Performances will include CCM's Rock Lab band, More Cowbell, and a band featuring CCM instructor Maxfield Anderson on Mandolin and Ira Klein on guitar.

This is also a terrific opportunity for our students to perform and share their music with the community. Playing for others in a public setting [provides benefits to the musicians](#) as well as the audience.

[Student Sign-Up](#)

Support Music Education