

# upbeat

FALL 2011

NOTES FROM THE CONCORD CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

## Summer Workshops *ROCKED!*

YOU MIGHT THINK music theory sounds like a remedy for insomnia, but this summer at CCM 5 – 10 year-olds discovered that it rocks! In our pilot season—with instruments of their choice—students tackled the otherwise weighty subject of theory in an experiential course we call the Musicians' Toolbox. Rhythm, melody, harmony, and more came alive for these young students through our methods that integrate mind, body—and FUN!

Highlights of this two-week morning series were beginner and intermediate instrument instruction, group singing, drumming, faculty performances, and the grand finale was a Kids Concert showcasing a surprising set of newly-acquired music skills. Other memorable moments included the kids and faculty coming to school dressed as their favorite artists, making drums, and listening to the Tune of the Day. After the concert, parents, faculty, staff, and kids gave the Summer Workshop rave reviews and plans are under-way for the next one in 2012. Stay tuned!



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The Concord  
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# Profile of a CCM Family: The Lindseys

WHEN LEANN AND JUSTIN LINDSEY of Harvard, MA, started a family, LeAnn set out to learn all she could about brain development so they would be well-prepared to enrich their children's lives. What she found confirmed what Lindsey had long believed: music education enhances development in many ways, including abilities to focus, and excel in mathematics and abstract reasoning.

## The Lindsey Children

(from left to right standing)  
Rebekah, Emma, Taylor, Rachel,  
(sitting) Lauren, Talmage



Because LeAnn was born to a family of musicians who often performed together, it was natural for her to want the same for her own children—all six of them! "I always do my research," says LeAnn. "If I'm going to invest time and money into something, I believe it's worth getting the best." First, she selected Barbara Paschke for the aspiring Lindsey cellists.

While waiting during "our Paschke lessons," the Lindseys observed other CCM instructors at work, noting their exceptional caliber and level of commitment to students. On one occasion, LeAnn watched through the small window in a studio door as violin instructor, Yumi Okada, taught a technique called vibrato. A violinist herself, LeAnn was so impressed with Okada's skill and rapport with her student, she decided to "go all-in at CCM."

**"CCM attracts the very best teachers, of the sort normally found in metropolitan schools of music."**

That was four years ago, and they've never looked back. "It was the best decision for "all sorts of reasons," LeAnn commented. "CCM attracts the very best of teachers, of the sort normally found in metropolitan schools of music."

Lindsey attributes much of the excellence at the Conservatory to director, Kate Yoder. "Kate does a remarkable job of managing, which ensures that faculty can fully focus on their students. I love that she wants instructors to teach [musicianship] techniques that bring students along, step-by-step, to reach the ability to really play an instrument, rather than simply be one who has had lessons."

She added, parenthetically, "Lots of students who take music lessons don't continue; if you want music to be an integral part of a child's life, you need to provide them with excellent instruction."

Yoder explains her philosophy of music education in terms that elevate the ambitions of instructors, students and parents. "We think about 'growing musicians' and are instilling the language of music. Our instructors are vested in their students and hope they will love the study of music as much as they themselves do."

The Lindseys are delighted to have such superb instruction for all their children—in one location! "We are very lucky to have CCM. Where else could you find violin, viola, piano, cello, percussion and voice, all in the same building? Before CCM, I was driving all over the area for lessons, and of course, recitals were always on different dates for each of our children."

**"We are very lucky to have CCM. Where else could you find violin, viola, piano, cello, percussion and voice, all in the same building?"**

"Our kids love CCM recitals and look forward to them as social occasions too. And, CCM is wonderful for families because there's a community of like-minded friends and parents with shared aspirations. I enjoy talking with other parents about topics such as ways to encourage practicing."

The Lindseys say it is motivating for their children to witness others of all ages taking lessons too. "There's synergy created when all types of lessons occur in the same location. It's about more than exposure to a spectrum of instruments, though that is valuable. For example,

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# Fifth Anniversary At the Winter Party

On a cold January night, ice lanterns glowing in the snow promised a festive evening ahead to revelers arriving at the annual Concord Conservatory of Music Winter Party, and they did not disappoint. Sparkling decorations festooned the Pierce House in the neighboring town of Lincoln and transformed it into a setting fit for this auspicious occasion in honor of the Conservatory's fifth anniversary year.

"Winter Party celebrates your community school of music," said Kate Yoder, director of the Conservatory, "and is an important, annual fundraiser." This year's party raised a total of \$36,500, to enhance music education, facilities, and financial aid. The evening featured a silent auction that included life-like pet portraits, a private home concert, and a family vacation in Switzerland. Bidding was lively, bringing out a bit of friendly competition among party-goers.

But the artistry of the CCM faculty jazz ensemble was the highlight of the night and lent a note of "sophisticated-fun" as glasses filled and conversations rose. Families cheered and snapped photos, and

CCM students beamed as they performed with Boston-based professionals, CCM jazz faculty, Chaim Burstein, guitar; Tal Gamlieli, bass; Brian Friedland, piano; Jorge Perez-Albela, percussion; and, Jonathan Pascual, flamenco guitar. "It's extraordinary for students to have the experience of playing with such profession-

als...our faculty is exceptional," said Yoder. Student performers included the high school ensemble of Gabe Schulman, bass; Colin Nevins, saxophone; Mike Wipper, guitar; and, James Davis, percussion. Middle school performers were Joel Sibley, baritone saxophone; Caroline Harmon, flute; and, Caroline Ferris, alto saxophone.

Yoder commented, "With a talented faculty and committed families, we have a thriving

music community at CCM, and we want it to be an enduring resource for our region. The funds contributed tonight demonstrate the depth of support for music education in our region."



**The 2011  
Winter Party  
raised over  
\$36,000  
for CCM!**

## Letter from the Director



WITH THIS ISSUE OF UPBEAT, you may notice that, instead of the customary June arrival date, you are receiving it after Labor Day. I liked the June publication date; it was a great way to summarize the highlights of the [school] year and thank

each of you: our generous supporters, faculty, parents, friends, and our students. But I thought we could continue to use it for all of that plus as a kick-off for this new academic year.

There are new articles in this issue I hope you will enjoy. We've included a vdv Family Profile featuring the Lindseys whose six children have all been students here. And, for the first time, you can read thoughts on the value of a community school of music education plus the current priorities for CCM from our dedi-

cated Board of Directors.

I am often asked to explain the importance of a community school of music; what is the value-added over, say, private lessons in one's home or offerings from publically funded schools? My reply defies brevity (but I'm working on it). It's all the extras of the experience, like a living, breathing community of like-minded students of all ages, parents and friends. It's reflected in the mix of a superior faculty with expertise on a variety of instruments and musical genres who collaborate to enrich the programs we offer. And, thanks to you, our supporters, CCM can be an inclusive environment; this year we raised over \$16,000 for the Fund for Financial Aid, a remarkable sum for a music school as young as we are. (See what I mean about brevity?)

We have a core conviction at CCM that the study and apprecia-



## Donors At Work and At Play



Thank you for  
**\$16,000**  
raised in  
financial aid!



Your generous  
gifts purchased  
**PIANOS, DRUM SETS,**  
and staged **RECITALS**  
for CCM students.



tion of music does not end when we are out of school. Music is enriching; music is emotive; and, music is so much more when shared with others. We are increasing our adult offerings in many areas, so now, not only are there private instrument and group voice lessons, now grown-ups can try group guitar, music appreciation, a drumming circle, and even basic music theory.

And speaking of music throughout one's life, we had another "first" this past year: a former "Music and Movement for Babies" student advanced into private lessons—our first baby to do so—and we were thrilled. So join in the fun! There's room for everyone.

Kate Yoder, *Director*



## Jazz Combos For All Ages

Playing in an ensemble is one of the best ways to grow as a musician, and the camaraderie from collaboration with other musicians is a rewarding way to celebrate your shared passion—and hone your skills.

This year, the CCM jazz faculty coached five new jazz ensembles with ages ranging from 11 to 86. Known as the "Jazz Cats," CCM jazz ensembles jammed, made friends, and developed a deeper understanding of a creative musical genre.

Such ensemble experience enhances private lessons with opportunities to apply even more technical skills and theory learned privately. "Students may practice alone for hours, but when they play with others, they experience more dimensions of making music," said jazz faculty member, Chaim Burstein.

If you want to learn more about CCM's jazz ensembles, we'd love to hear from you!

one of our children studies three different instruments, and her teachers all know one another; they discuss her progress and ways to help her continue to grow. That is really rare. We also love that CCM recitals are inclusive events with a variety of instruments and students at all levels— it broadens every student's experience."

At home, the Lindsey musicians often play together on holidays. Two of the younger kids formed a piano duet— all on their own—for a recent CCM recital. "It's a great education for the kids to work out a piece together," LeAnn commented.

"CCM is a music school that students and families can place their faith in, even at beginner level, because their instructors have the expertise to instill a solid foundation in music."

**"We also love that CCM recitals are inclusive events with a variety of instruments and students at all levels— it broadens every student's experience."**

## From the Board: Focused On the Future

THE 2010– 2011 ACADEMIC YEAR marked the 5th anniversary of the Concord Conservatory of Music and we celebrated in style.

Now, we are focused on the future, so it is a fitting time to hear the CCM Board of Directors' vision and goals for our regional school of music education. The following is a summary of board members' responses to questions posed via email.

**Q: In your view, what is the value of a community school of music education?**

When a community music school has superior instructors, as we do at Concord Conservatory of Music, it makes a huge difference in every student's experience. Excellent instructors know how to inspire and motivate each individual to achieve greater progress as musicians.

A community music school brings together a wide variety of ages, abilities and musical disciplines, as well as families and patrons who share their love of music. The result is interaction among a more diverse group of students, including the very young and the very old, than in private lessons, or public schools.

And, when a community music school is committed to outreach, as we are at CCM, the benefits multiply: a) needs-based financial aid offers even more deserving students access to premier instructors and, b) everyone can enjoy performance opportunities.

**Q: What are the current priorities for CCM?**

Top priorities are to maintain and nurture our excellent faculty and find a permanent home. As we move ahead, we hope to expand the scope of instrumental lessons and group program opportunities, and increase interest and involvement among the people in our region.

**Q: What impact can a donor have with a gift to CCM?**

A gift to CCM can have a significant impact on our community. CCM is a leanly run organization and relies heavily on gifts to fund financial aid and other unique programs. Our donors help spread the love and benefits of music education.



The Board welcomes new members Béat Lehmann and Ellen Rice!



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The Concord  
Conservatory of Music

[www.concordconservatory.org](http://www.concordconservatory.org)

The Concord Conservatory of Music is a non-profit institution dedicated to providing excellence in music education for students of all ages in the Concord area.

Located in the West Concord Union Church, our offerings include Early Childhood Programs, Group Lessons, Adult Offerings, Jazz Combos, Ensembles and Private Lessons in piano, strings, jazz, percussion, voice and saxophone.

We welcome you to explore our programs online at  
[www.concordconservatory.org](http://www.concordconservatory.org), or give us a call at (978) 369-0010.

