



upbeat

NOTES FROM THE CONCORD CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Donor's Challenge

YOU DID IT!

The Concord Conservatory of Music received a tremendous expression of confidence in our work when one of our families decided to boost the 2012-2013 Annual Appeal with a gift to match all other contributions up to a total of \$25,000. The results reached an astounding \$69,000!

*One year later,
the impact of these funds can be seen all around our school.*



- With your support, CCM is able to stay better connected to our community and our families with a new more robust website. The new website better facilitates communication about our activities and the importance of music education to all those involved with or interested in the school.
- CCM holds a free early-childhood class once a quarter to introduce music to our youngest neighbors and demonstrate the wide variety of instruments one can enjoy.
- We have been able to bring the joys of world-class music performances to our region by providing the free CCM Faculty Concert Series. Our faculty have performed in many prestigious venues around the world from Carnegie Hall in New York to Suntory Hall in Tokyo, but you don't even have to venture out of Concord to enjoy these wonderful performances. This series was made possible in part by lead funding from Newbury Court and the Concord Local Cultural Council.
- CCM is now able to build a financial reserve that provides financial stability to support our significantly expanding programs and infrastructure.

Such generosity allows CCM to make high quality music education accessible to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, and enables us to continue to provide this inclusive, exciting music community in our area.

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The Concord
Conservatory of Music
concordconservatory.org

Learn how to make
the most of practice
sessions inside!

Your Wonderful SUPPORT



At the 2013 CCM Winter Party, the warm, smooth melodies of Stevie Wonder's album, *Songs in the Key of Life*, greeted the Concord Conservatory of Music community as we gathered to enjoy good music, good company, but most of all to raise funds to strengthen our growing school. Party-goers had a fantastic time reminiscing on familiar tunes, enjoying delectable cuisine, and playing musical games, all to support CCM programs, operations, and Financial Assistance Fund.

Items on the silent auction table drew a lot of friendly, competitive bidding, and people generously conspired to complete Wonder's song, *Sir Duke*, by buying one or more musical notes to go on a giant musical staff. The entire proceeds from everyone's participation in these activities raised \$42,800 to create ongoing opportunities for music education and its benefits for our students of all ages, regardless of their ability to pay.

Our evening's performer line-up included CCM faculty members Brian Friedland, who arranged all the music for the event, Melissa Kassel, Chaim Burstein, Ehud Ettun, Juanito Pascual, and Jorge Perez-Albela. CCM student Natalie O'Leary wowed the audience with her violin solo, accompanied by faculty member Rasa Vitkauskaitė. Additional brass was brought in to create our own version of a complete Stevie Wonder band.

The party was held on Saturday, January 26th at the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln. The 2014 Winter Party Committee is already busily at work, so mark your calendar for Saturday, March 1st and celebrate Havana Nights!



*CCM students fill in the notes generously purchased by party-goers to finish the song *Sir Duke* and boost the Financial Assistance Fund.*

Letter from the Director



Music is a great unifier. When it is accessible to all, music brings together people of all backgrounds in a welcoming, non-competitive environment.

I am proud that The Concord Conservatory of Music has

established itself as the premier venue for music education and free, high-quality concerts in the Metrowest area.

Now that CCM has its roots firmly grounded in the Concord community, we will be working to extend our branches to reach even more music appreciators. Our classes at the Concord Council on Aging (COA) are flourishing. In fact, they are our most well-attended classes, and we have added a new class at the Lincoln COA. We are extremely grateful to the Foundation for MetroWest for their grant that has helped us fund these classes. In the works and to look forward to is a lecture series for

adults called *Music &...*, it will feature talks on *Music & Medicine*, *Music & Education*, there are endless possibilities.

We are also enriching and expanding the programs we already offer at the school. We have added a flute instructor to our faculty, and we have new faculty in saxophone, cello, and piano. Piano and violin instructors' schedules are all at or near capacity, and other disciplines are steadily growing. We have added new group classes in Percussion and Early Childhood. Our sections of *Meet the Instrument* have been particularly popular! And as always, we are able to offer lessons and classes to students regardless of need, in part thanks to a grant from the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest Field of Interest Fund.

I am excited for the year ahead, as it already is shaping up to be a year of growth and diversification!

Kate Yoder, Executive Director and Founder



CCM's Own Utility Player

Bassist Ehud Ettun instills his students with a deep understanding of how music works.

Whether it is called double bass, string bass, upright bass, bass violin or bass fiddle, CCM faculty member Ehud Ettun is passionate about the bass, and his enthusiasm is infectious.

"I knew when I hired Ehud, I was hiring a very vibrant, and dedicated instructor," commented Kate Yoder, CCM Executive Director. "Everyone that meets Ehud wants to take lessons from him and learn from him. He is developing a very passionate following in his class for seniors in Lincoln. They appreciate his knowledge and ability to teach a rather difficult subject." Ettun is starting his third year at CCM where he teaches private lessons, middle school string ensembles, and a course called Appreciate Music with Ear-Training for CCM at the Lincoln Council on Aging.

"The way that Ehud presents the material is very creative, he has taken a difficult topic and made it easier to understand. He makes it fun to learn, and you can tell he loves what he does."

– Suzanne Lueng, Lincoln COA student.

A native of Jerusalem, Israel, Ettun started taking piano at age five, but when he picked up a guitar at age ten, that is when music really captured him. He began writing songs and dreaming of becoming a songwriter.

When he enrolled in high school at the Israeli Arts & Sciences Academy, Ettun soon learned if he wanted to get serious about music, he had to learn a classical instrument. By this time, he had discovered jazz and thought to himself, "I'll let them think I'm playing classical, but really, it will be jazz."

He needn't have worried, because he soon fell in love with classical music. He went on to complete an undergraduate degree in classical bass at the Jerusalem Academy of Music &

Dance, and a master's degree at New England Conservatory of Music in jazz bass.

Today, Ettun performs internationally and has played with numerous jazz legends including Fred Hersch and George Garzone. He also has a busy teaching schedule, which he loves. "We need music in our lives. When I work with a student, I am helping them get music into their life," he said. "Performing is gratifying in a lot of ways, but I don't really see an outcome. When I teach a student something and then hear them play it, it feels great because we know it is work we did together."

To become a musician, Ettun believes there are three things it is essential to understand. First, one must know that whatever seems impossible to do now "...will become possible. You have to believe that to be motivated."

Second, know that it will take time. "You have to spend lots of time working on things, and sometimes you need time just to think about it."

Third, "You have to understand that failure is a crucial part of the learning process; the more you fail, the better you get. Not only does failure need to happen, the sooner it happens, the better."

"It's my job to make my students think, to figure things out for themselves. By asking, 'Did it sound good? 'Why?' or, 'Why not?' I get them to focus on the bigger picture. Music is more than just playing the right notes."

Ettun remarked, "Music is like a language, and to enter into it is incredible. We learn to talk before we really understand much about language. With music, first we learn to play or sing, but to really understand music—to know what you are hearing—takes ear training and more. Once you understand it, you want to write to express yourself because then, you have much more to say."

Positive Practice

No matter what your age, it's likely that there are activities higher on your list of "to-do's" than practicing. But at CCM, we want practice to be positive and goal-directed, so this past year we set out to give our students and parents ways to structure more successful, satisfying practice sessions.

Deliberate, goal-oriented practicing not only helps students improve but also notice their improvements. And when you can see how you're improving, it motivates you to practice more! Practice becomes rewarding instead of a chore. We strive to facilitate this mindset at CCM.

HERE'S HOW:

We kicked things off with "Practice for Ice Cream" month, when students could earn a seat at an ice cream party by practicing—a little or a lot—for thirty days last October. To our great pleasure, whispered remarks overheard at the party included, "This wasn't that hard to do!"

Next, we turned our attention to CCM parents, and held a "Successful Practice Seminar" for parents to help them understand and encourage good practice habits. (Hint: Bribes are allowed!) Faculty member, Colleen McGary-Smith and CCM Executive Director, Kate Yoder presented on successful practice strategies and tips, and facilitated a supportive discussion.

Then, CCM staff wrote the "Top 10 Practice Tips" to create rewarding practice and confident musicians. These were printed on ten separate posters which were hung in prominent locations throughout our school, and on a "Scavenger Hunt for Practice Tips," young students raced around the building to fill in the



CCM violin instructor Raluca Dumitrache helps her student develop practice strategies.

blanks on questions like, "Once you have perfected _____ and _____, it is ok to increase the tempo of your piece."

The 2014 academic year is now underway, and the benefits of positive practice are still being emphasized at CCM. We hope that at the end of the day, the week, the semester, and the year, you feel the rewards.

If you are looking for more ways to get the most out of practice sessions for you or your child, visit our Practice Resource Corner. We have packets of tips for parents with beginning students, an article of the month, and much more.



Practicing every day for a month brings sweet and tasty rewards!

The Value & Beauty of Music



Raymond Miller and his wife, Margot

Raymond and Margot Miller's six children and fifteen grandchildren possess a variety of musical talents, and Ray was always content to be their admiring audience until, one day, a grandson quizzically asked, "Grandpa, why don't you play?" Ray replied, "Well, maybe I ought to learn."

Soon after, Ray discovered Concord Conservatory of Music where he is now a second year piano student under the tutelage of Chieko Loy. "It's important to retire to something," Miller stated, "and I've retired 'to' many things."

Miller retired "from" a distinguished career in banking, most notably 25 years with State Street Bank (now, State Street Corporation). CCM is pleased to announce that among Ray's "many things" is being our newest board of directors member; his expertise in finance and management, as well as his interest in CCM's long-term success, have already begun to make an impact.

When asked what motivated him to get more involved, Miller's remarks were heart-felt:

"CCM offers an excellent opportunity for this community to have something special for everyone, young and old - to explore the value and beauty of music. Clearly, there is a demand for its product because it's thriving."

"I believe the board is a resource for the organization's leadership. Kate is a first-class executive. I'm here to examine and discuss alternatives as a part of her advisory team."

Welcome, Ray, and please extend our gratitude to your grandson! We're so glad his question encouraged you to "play."

We Invited You to PLAY DAY!

You've probably noticed that, every semester, excitement builds to a palpable level as CCM students prepare for their recitals and other performances, and last spring was expanded with a new, generous twist.

In May, all of you—family, friends and neighbors—were invited to participate in Play Day, a student performance extravaganza! And, not only did you come for the fun, many of you pledged to sponsor students' recitals to turn this day of celebration into a fundraiser for the CCM Financial Assistance Fund.

It was especially thrilling that even our relatives and friends in distant locations could be a part of the occasion—we held our very first recitals with live-streaming technology! Loved-ones as far away as Hawaii were able to enjoy the recitals on-stage, in real time.

CCM opened its doors to our area community for an entire afternoon of musical family fun. People came to enjoy drum circles, an instrument "petting zoo", demonstrations, face painting, and refreshments. We absolutely love Play Days!



The performances you sponsored on Play Day help to ensure that more kids will experience the joy of making music.

MUSICALE *(noun)*

A usually private social gathering to hear music; a social entertainment with music as the leading feature

The enrichment of learning music can go far beyond personal achievement and fulfillment. Music begs to be shared with others, and when it is, there are infinite blends of instrumentation, personalities and perspectives to be enjoyed by the musicians and audiences alike.

MUSICALE is one of newest ways that CCM continues to create a positive learning environment that is also social. We are, after all, a community school of music! Grouped by experience-levels, beginner and intermediate CCM students studying all instruments were invited to experience their own musicales!

Kids enjoyed food and beverages while giggling as director, Kate Yoder taught dinner-party etiquette by asking them to introduce themselves and tell about where they go to school. Students then performed personal musical selections on their various instruments for one another.



Playing with and for peers is both motivating and fun!

The love of teaching CCM faculty possess was evident at these gatherings. They introduced bits of music theory into the fun and guided students on ways to discuss their peers' performances. CCM piano student Abigail Jonczyk told her mother on the way home, "I liked the comments and the pieces they all played. The pieces sounded really nice. I also liked the part where we ate pizza, and I liked getting together with the other kids."

CCM faculty member, Keith Kirchoff stated, "Musicales are great opportunities for students to get positive feedback from both their peers and other instructors. Students were asked to identify something they liked about each others' performances, which requires that they are active, as opposed to passive, listeners."

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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 Classes, Adult Offerings, Jazz Combos, Ensembles and Private Lessons in piano, strings, jazz, percussion, voice and woodwinds.

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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