

upbeat

NOTES FROM THE CONCORD CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

SPRING 2014



Laying the Groundwork for Future Musicians

CCM Faculty member Chaim Burstein is teaching the fundamentals of music to a group of kindergarteners. You are bringing music to more kids in the neighborhood who would not have it otherwise.



Learning about rhythm with fun percussion instruments.

Concord Conservatory's presence in the community is growing. Chaim Burstein has been teaching a new music class at the afterschool program at the Harvey Wheeler Center to kindergarteners from Concord and from Boston through the METCO program. At the beginning of the semester, Chaim's students lacked basic music skills. They could not match pitch while singing a simple song, and they had no sense of rhythm.

Many of them had never had a music class before. Throughout his class, Chaim, or Mr. B. as he is affectionately called by his students, focused on teaching his kids to be tuneful, beautiful, and artful. Chaim is a strong advocate of music for music's sake. When asked why students should study music, Chaim will reference a quote from Samuel Mehr about music as art. (see insert)

On a typical day near the end of the semester, twenty students excitedly walk into the classroom and sit in a circle. Mr. B. plays

a phrase of a melody on his melodica, and the kids sing it back to him on "doo," matching pitch with ease. They also work on rhythm exercises. Chaim speaks a rhythm on "doo day," and the kids repeat it back. They are even able to identify that the rhythm they're speaking comes from the song "Johnny on the Woodpile." Chaim says he has been greatly impressed with his kids' progress. "I was floored when just about all the kids in the class were able to say back a simple rhythmic pattern and then translate that to the page. Some college level music majors struggle with this their first year in school. I've learned that the wonderful thing about kids is that if you don't tell them something is hard, they don't know...In general, when I say 'Do this,' and they try, they almost always succeed."

Chaim's students have made great progress over the course of a semester, but there is still so much they can learn. Many of these students cannot afford music classes but will be able to continue to take classes at CCM with the support of generous donors like you. Chaim has given these students a solid foundation, and you can help their skills grow.

THIS PAST DECEMBER, the Boston Globe interviewed Samuel Mehr, a graduate student at the Harvard School of Education who worked on a study that disproved the "Mozart Effect." Mehr champions the value of music as an art. He states, "We don't teach our children Shakespeare and Dante and Tolstoy because it makes them do better in American history class or at learning the periodic table of the elements. We teach them those great authors because [they] are important. There's really no reason to justify music education on any other basis than its intrinsic merits. We have our Dante, Tolstoy, and Shakespeare, and they are Bach, Duke Ellington, and Benjamin Britten."

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CCM Faculty enjoy the opportunity to visit with parents and friends.

Havana Nights Provides Vital Support and a lot of FUN!



Luke Rainis wowed the crowd – violin on rollerblades, such talent!

The enthusiasm and generosity of attendees is evidence of a community that recognizes the important role of music in strengthening individuals, families, and communities.

CCM community members and friends came together on March 1st at the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, which was transformed into a tropical retreat with Cuban jazz filling the air. You danced, sipped on mojitos, tried your hand at Cuban dominoes, and most importantly, you raised almost \$70,000 for the school, which allows us to continue our commitment to excellent instruction and a strong music community.

With a very unique performance, our violin student Luke Rainis (8), demonstrated that kids can strike a balance in their lives and include both music and sports in their daily activities. The standing ovation from our appreciative guests made Luke feel so special.

During the auction, paddles went up without hesitation to purchase a grand piano for the school. The Yamaha baby grand has a new home in Chieko Loy's studio. Chieko says, "A grand piano has a superior sound and touch. This is key for developing a student's ear training, technique, and musicality. One of my adult students has been commenting on how much he enjoys hearing the beautiful sounds he can produce."

Because of your generous donations, we are able to provide more opportunities for students to study at CCM, as well as increase our students' access to the quality instruments that they deserve for their instruction.

Your contributions go beyond new musical instruments. You have helped increase our capacity and ability to provide great programming. We are excited to announce that Erica Hughes will be joining the CCM staff in May in the new position of Registrar. This will allow our staff to do more focused and thorough work to meet the needs of our ever-growing school.



A Cuban night wouldn't be complete without dominoes.

3-Time Grammy Winner Performs

Kids' Concert Series, providing quality entertainment for young families in our community.



We're all smiles having a Grammy winner perform in Concord!

It was an inspiring afternoon watching 3-time Grammy Award winning artist Tom Chapin and his band perform for young audience members and long-time fans. The Tom Chapin concert represents the first time that the Concord Conservatory was able to bring in a nationally renowned performer, outside of our own faculty, to the community.

"I've seen the Rolling Stones and U2 in concert, and I wasn't nearly as excited as I am to see Tom Chapin!"



Tom Chapin exemplifies excellence in family music. Looking out across the audience while Tom played, you could see lots of bobbing heads and hear people singing along with every song. Kids danced in the aisles and laughed at Tom's clever jokes. There were some longtime fans in the audience who had written their own verse to Chapin's

Family Tree song. Tom performed their verse on stage, and it was really great to see how excited they were to hear that. One adult concert-goer remarked on the way out, "I've seen the Rolling

Stones and U2 in concert, and I wasn't nearly as excited as I am to see Tom Chapin!"

Ticket prices for Tom Chapin were affordable because of your continued support, and the presenting sponsor support of juju Women and Children's clothing store of Concord, and the support of the Cambridge Savings Bank. The concert was a lot of fun, and you can look forward to similar events in the future.

Free Concert Series Receives Rave Reviews

CCM's world-renowned musicians give free concerts, bringing the best to Concord.

It is a privilege for CCM to present our talented faculty in our annual Faculty Concert Series. At Juanito Pascual's Flamenco and classical guitar concert, we had a standing room only crowd! All of our faculty members are also talented performers, but this is a side that doesn't necessarily get demonstrated in lessons. Without fail at every faculty concert, we hear from someone, "Wait, they teach here?!" "Our faculty of musicians and educators is extraordinary," is how I often respond to this question.

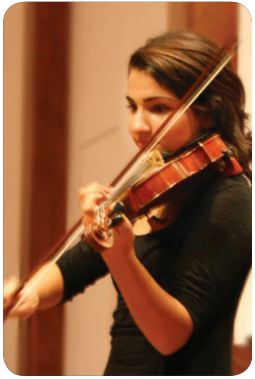
The variety of our faculty concerts is a testament to the breadth of our offerings at the school. We kicked-off this year's concert series with Yelena Beriyeva, a classical concert pianist, giving a solo recital. Then, Juanito Pascual put on a classical and Flamenco guitar concert that was a mix of Juanito's own compositions, and well-known classical and Flamenco compositions. He collaborated with other CCM faculty to provide an evening of complete guitar repertoire immersion. The faculty concert series culminated with a tribute to the National Jazz Appreciation month when our jazz faculty performed standards and their original jazz compositions. Their energy was electric.

"...our faculty of musicians and educators is extraordinary..."

Our faculty perform all over the world, and their performances at CCM inspire their students and community members alike. Free faculty concerts are made possible in part by the leadership sponsorship of Middlesex Savings Bank and with the support of the Concord Cultural Council and supporters like you.

PERFORMANCE, an Integral Part of Music

The hallways at CCM are abuzz. Suzuki students are downstairs with Sarah and Jenna, getting their violins tuned. A voice student is doing one last run-through with the pianist, so she can practice with the microphone. Yelena is upstairs with her piano students, talking through performance pointers and reminding them of how hard they've worked and how ready they are for their recital. Friends, parents and grandparents are filing into the seats in the hall.



Advanced violin student, Nicole Azanian, wows the audience.

Once everyone is settled, Executive Director, Kate Yoder steps up to the front of the room, welcomes the audience, and the recital is underway. Performances flow like clockwork. It is impressive to see how kids calmly get up when it's their turn, introduce themselves, and play their piece. Performing is so familiar to them, it is exciting, not terrifying. When someone makes a mistake, he takes a breath, and finds a way to get back on track and complete the piece. And when a student nails it, you can

see her face light-up with a huge smile. The students learn that the audience is there to support them.

Parents and teachers are brimming with pride, and sometimes nerves, at these events. Yelena Beriyeveva, the piano instructor who was prepping her kids before the recitals, beams afterwards, "I am so proud of my students! They all did so well!"

A mom helping scoop ice cream at a reception this spring remarked, "This is a lot less stressful than the recital. When I'm in there, I forget to breathe!" But when you talk to the performers, it's somewhat of a different story. They are proud of themselves, for sure. But they also have an air of ease, and of confidence. They've had so many opportunities to perform this year, and their teachers have prepared them so well, that getting up on stage is second nature. And that is a great skill they can carry with them for the rest of their lives.

School-wide recitals are a big part of the culture of CCM. We have over twenty-eight recitals a year, representing the diverse ages, instruments and abilities that study here at CCM. When donors support these opportunities, they may not fully understand the many reasons that all-school recitals are so beneficial. Frequent, quality performance opportunities bolster a student's musicianship and reinforce what is learned in the lesson, as well as give the student a network of peers that inspires musical growth (and camaraderie). Performing increases a student's social skills and self-confidence, skills that are not learned playing the piece at home, or in the lesson.

From our more-seasoned students, the performances are breathtaking, literally—their skill and focus and accomplishments speak to excellence of instruction and hours of practice. Younger students get to watch and be inspired by the mastery and polish of older students; older students are reminded by their younger counterparts of where they started and how far they've come.

Music is to be shared. Recitals are a wonderful way for our community to come together and celebrate all the hard work our students have put in during the course of a year. Performance is an integral part of the learning process at CCM. Your support makes this possible, and we are deeply grateful.

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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