

OPUS MARCH 2017



The Concord Conservatory of Music

www.concordconservatory.org

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News at CCM



On Saturday, March 25th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm, CCM presents [An Old-Time and Americana Fiddling Workshop](#)

Do you have at least a couple of years of experience on the violin, cello, guitar, mandolin, banjo, or double bass, and a willingness to leave the metronome behind for a spell? If so, we invite you to let your hair down and join us on March 25th for an Americana Fiddling Workshop led by the renowned fiddlers Laura Cortese and Valerie Thompson, both from the band Laura Cortese and the Dance Cards.

In this group program, participants will learn traditional fiddle songs by ear, a process that is adjustable based on the player in the room-- and the fun is in the mix of musicians, Cortese says. "I've always enjoyed the fact that this music is something that someone can start playing when they're very young or in retirement or anywhere in between. This music is not about being a virtuosic player, it's about connecting with others and enjoying playing music with them," says Cortese. "You might learn a tune because the melody is beautiful, or you might learn it because you know your friend likes to play that tune, and you want to have a shared repertoire so you can play music together."

For those who have never learned music by ear before, there can be a learning curve, Cortese says. "You'll have to take the time to hear the melody, internalize it, then get your fingers to play that melody. But once you do, it's like those songs you sang as a child that will be with you forever." And this is precisely why this musical tradition holds strong.

CCM's executive director and founder, Kate Yoder, says the Americana Fiddling Workshop will serve as an introduction to the genre at CCM, and more programming will follow in the fall of 2017.

The registration fee is \$40. [Reserve your spot today>>](#)



[Join CCM faculty members Keith Kirchoff and Yelena Beriyeva on March 10th at 7:00 pm as they explore musical storytelling.](#) CCM will delve into extracting musical meaning from humor and tragedy by interpreting classic cartoons, abstract

art, and the earth's beginning. Attendees will hear musical performances by the composers Liszt, Copland, Satie, and Bolcom. See more about storytelling at [Behind the Scenes](#).

Save the date and [purchase your tickets online today>>](#)

Tickets are also available at the door: \$20 for adults, \$5 for students 18 and under.

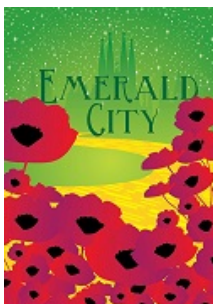
March is "Practice for Ice Cream Month" at CCM!



Imagine rewarding yourself with a bowl of smooth and creamy ice cream smothered in hot fudge, and of course, with a cherry on top! In March, we encourage all students to practice 30 days for ice cream sundaes! Students keep track of their practice days in March by having a parent or teacher initial their [CCM Ice Cream Practice Challenge Calendar](#).

Worth listening to is this great TED-Ed video on practicing: "[How to practice effectively... for just about anything](#)", by Annie Bosler and Don Greene.

The ice cream party, held on April 5th from 6:00 - 7:00 pm at CCM, welcomes all who completed the challenge. RSVP to Sue Seger at sseger@ConcordConservatory.org by Tuesday, April 4th.



The CCM Emerald City lit up the deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum on Saturday night, March 4th!

Despite the extremely cold temperature outside, many CCM supporters came to ease on down our yellow brick road inside. Guests enjoyed our special drink of the evening, the *CCM Ruby Slipper*, as well as taking their best aim at winning fun and amazing auction and raffle items.

Following the lively social cocktail party, our guests were wowed by CCM faculty member Gabriela Martina's rendition of The Wizard of Oz's *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*. The Bayside Band, led by faculty member, Chaim Burstein, treated us to fantastic music and had us dancing into the evening.

We are thankful to all those who made the Emerald City Winter Party a success! A huge heartfelt thank you to our emcee Geoff Edgers and auctioneer Ailie Byers. Our extremely talented and generous volunteer, Maaria Olander made our Emerald City come to life with her beautiful decorations! Thank you to everyone who helped make the night special, including the entire Benefit Committee and our student volunteers, Olivia Boyle and Julian Dai.

We are also extremely grateful to our Winter Party sponsors: [Avison Young, Intelligent Real Estate Solutions](#), the [Cambridge Savings Bank](#) and [Woodman & Eaton, P.C., Counsellors at Law](#). We truly appreciate their support. Funds raised from our Winter Party helps the school enhance and grow programming, enables us to provide financial assistance to those students and families who could not afford lessons otherwise, and expands our reach into the community with music! This year our Winter Party raised \$62,000 to help our community. Thank you again to everyone who made this party a fun-filled and successful event!

[Enjoy checking out our photo gallery!](#)

Upcoming March CCM Musicales

What's a CCM Musicale? They get to connect with other students in their studio and other teachers' studios. First, the students enjoy a 30-minute pizza party followed by a 60-minute master class. It is an excellent way to get to know other CCM students, an extra opportunity to perform in a casual setting and receive valuable feedback from a faculty member and their peers.

Following chatting with peers and devouring pizza, students move into the master class setting where they play a polished piece for a faculty member and their new friends! Musicals are for beginner, intermediate, and advanced musicians.

[If students are interested in participating in a Musicale](#), please contact Margaret Romero, Ensemble & Community Coordinator (mrromero@ConcordConservatory.org) or their instructor.

Upcoming All School Student Recitals-- We look forward to the upcoming student recitals in March. We welcome everyone to enjoy and listen to the music!

Thursday, March 9, 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 11, 1:00, 2:30, & 4:00 pm

Behind the Scenes

Storytelling in Music Making

The Concert & Lecture Series on Narrative

Music and storytelling have gone hand in hand since the earliest days of notes and verse, communicating the full range of humanity from comedy to tragedy, from history to abstraction. On March 10 at 7:00 PM, join CCM's Keith Kirchoff and Yelena Beriyeva for the third in the Concert and Lecture Series, examining storytelling through music.

A common way for a composer to tell a story is through song, of course, with a poem or libretto that puts into words the ideas the composer wishes to express. "But far more often, composers are seeking to use the music itself as the communicative vessel," says Kirchoff. In *Symphonie Fantastique*, for example, Berlioz composed a deeply personal story of a man's passionate obsession with a woman (his own), a story literally translated into music. "He even went so far as to write a play-by-play novella that was handed out to concertgoers the night of the premier," Kirchoff says.

However, storytelling can take a more impressionist approach, evoking a mood or sentiment—love, for example, or anger or anxiety. A collection of pieces by Liszt explores his sense of loss after the death of his friend, Richard Wagner. *Rage Over a Lost Penny* offers "a rare glimpse of Beethoven's sense of humor," Kirchoff says. In *Concord Sonata*, Charles Ives sought to capture the personalities of various luminaries and transcendentalists in Concord's history, while Satie's *Sports et Divertissements* are musical depictions of paintings and poems. Kirchoff and Beriyeva will explore some of these pieces, as well as others by Bolcom.

Faculty Profile - Gabriela Martina



Gabriela Martina grew up in a musical environment in Switzerland, in a family with four children who were always singing in the car, harmonizing to the radio, participating in family yodel performances—the whole nine yards, Swiss-style. But CCM’s new voice teacher and chorus director says she started to see her path more clearly at age 17, when she performed “The Girl From Ipanema” at school: Much to her surprise, standing on that stage “...was when I realized that I had something to say with my voice, that I could have an impact,” she says.

Her journey since that moment has included stints with funk bands, R&B, *a cappella*, classical, electro urban projects—and sometimes all of those done simultaneously. A love of jazz inspired her to study in the United States, beginning in 2008 at Berklee College of Music. For about a year after finishing her studies at Berklee, Martina moved to New York and worked as a waitress at the Blue Note Jazz Club in New York. Between orders, she says she would stand in the darkness of the club, listening to the performers and take in all their depth and diversity. The experience affected her profoundly, and she returned to her own music with a fresh enthusiasm. After that, songs for her 2016 album, *No White Shoes*, “just rolled out of me,” she says.

Martina says she looks forward to working with students at CCM: “They have so much in them that they just have to discover, that they’re not aware of yet.” But with practice, with attention, through the listening and learning that’s exchanged between students and teachers, creating music can open opportunities. Especially in times of turmoil, says Martina, as much a social activist as musician: “Whoever creates music right now, it’s important that we don’t forget the meaning of art: that we can make change happen, and that the impact can be bigger than we think it is.”

Why Music Matters: 5 Ways Music Improves Our Health

Should you allow your children to study while listening to music?

Maybe, it just might help them learn better. Author Jill Suttie explains important ways music improves our health, and how listening to music may be more powerful than medication.

“Neuroscientists have discovered that listening to music heightens positive emotion through the reward centers of our brain, stimulating hits of dopamine that can make us feel good or even elated. Listening to music also lights up other areas of the brain — in fact, almost no brain center is left untouched — suggesting more widespread effects and potential uses for music.”

Ms. Suttie’s article appears on the Greater Good in Action (Science-based Practices for a Meaningful Life) and *The Huffington Post* websites: [To read more >>](#)

Did you know?



Drums are one of the oldest instruments and there are so many different kinds. [Take a glance at the various kinds of drums from different parts of the world.](#)

Upcoming Area Performances

March 31 & April 1, 2017, Thoreau Bicentennial, **The Concord Orchestra**, Performing Arts Center at 51 Walden Street at 8:00 pm. www.concordorchestra.com

Details: Robert Schumann: Manfred Overture, Hoffer: Piano Concerto, Randall Hodgkinson, piano

Sawyer: Civil Disobedience (world premiere), David Gullette, narrator, Liszt: Les Preludes

Saturday, March 25, 2017, Boston at Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory at 8:00 pm,
Foundation for Chinese Performing Arts presents **Four Winds**: with Meng-Chieh Liu
piano, Borromeo String Quartet, and the Forbidden City Chamber Orchestra