

From: Duke University String School katharine.whitmore@duke.edu
Subject: The 2021 DUSS Spring Newsletter is here
Date: May 26, 2021 at 6:45 PM
To: erica.shirts@duke.edu



Letter from the Director

This year has been strange and difficult for all of us. The necessary health precautions to keep the pandemic at bay hampered our ability to use music to connect as a community and to create beauty. Without our regular in-person ensembles, we lost the vital experience of working hard individually while also lifting each other up.

As well, we were not able to adequately grieve the loss of our own Mr. Sam Hammond. Not a day has gone by since his passing that I have not thought of his warm smile, beautiful piano playing, and generous spirit. Know that we will honor Mr. Hammond as soon as we are able to safely have an in-person concert.

Although there is much to mourn after this past year, there is much also to celebrate and look forward to. We have overcome a difficult year, and we continued to play music and progress in every possible way. We have re-evaluated our time and refocused on the things that really matter to each of us. The finish line is in sight, and there will come a time that we look back with amazement at all that we were able to accomplish.

I am most proud of our seniors, each of whom showed strength and resilience. I am grateful for the supportive, positive spirit each senior brought to their instrument and to our musical community in their many years at DUSS. I can't wait to see and hear what they accomplish in the years to come. See below to read their sage advice for the next generation, and to see where they are headed.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy summer, and looking forward to a more normal future,

- Erica Shirts



In memory of J. Samuel Hammond, 1957-2021.

Make a Donation

A \$25, \$50, or \$100 donation to the Dorothy Kitchen Scholarship Fund today helps us continue offering scholarship assistance, which in turn helps us keep our tuition comparatively low while paying our teachers a living wage.

Congratulations Class of 2021!



Benjamin Anspach (viola) will attend Elon University, Teaching Fellows Program, fall 2021. In his own words: I really enjoy the interactions that I have with other musicians. These can be just for fun, or they can be learning experiences, and I value both. Advice: What your teacher assigns you is not the only music that you can play.

Caelyn Bowers (violin) will attend Meredith College, fall 2021. In her own words: I value the opportunities music gave me at DUSS, HPUCO, ERA Orchestra and summer music camps. Advice: Practice! Absorb everything. Practice! Be confident in auditions. Don't forget to practice!



Davis Brown (bass)





Rosemary Buhrman (cello) will attend Duke University, fall 2021. In her own words: I love getting to work with other people to create something beautiful, and I think the nonverbal communication and trust required brings people closer together than a lot of other activities. Advice: Practicing everyday helps a lot more than you think. Every time you practice may not be perfect, but even playing a little helps you get that much better and notice small adjustments you can make that you may not notice if you don't practice a lot and are still focusing on the notes.

Trisha Choudhary (violin) will attend University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, fall 2021, computer science and economics major. In her own words: I value how music has always been something fun to do. It's never a chore, and I look forward to playing my instrument. Advice: Practice everyday, because it might seem like a bother right now, but later you'll realize how important practicing is! (I swear.)



Carson Crowley (cello) will attend NC State University, fall 2021, music performance minor. In his own words: I value the joy playing music brings to others the most. I love seeing that the music that was played made the audience happy no matter what is going on in their lives, and gave them a place to not think about anything else. Advice: Try to avoid bad habits that will hurt your playing in the long run, and play pieces you enjoy and have passion for.

Allison Ebbert (violin) will attend NC State University, fall 2021. In her own words: I value the tranquility of music. I feel like I can truly block out the "noise" in the rest of my life and focus on something special just for myself. I enjoy



focus on something special just for myself. I enjoy the process of making something truly special and trying to create a scene with my playing. Advice: Accept frustration. Playing any instrument, especially a stringed instrument, is probably one of the hardest things you will ever learn to do. It is okay to be frustrated and feel defeated. Mastering an instrument is a very long process that cannot be cheated. If you are feeling upset, don't keep practicing. Your mood impacts your playing and it is useless to play in a bad state of mind. Just try again the next day, and eventually it will work out.



Matthew Erickson (violin, viola, piano) will attend NC State University, fall 2021. In his own words: I value most connecting with people. Playing solo is a lot of fun, but I find playing with others to be much more exciting. Advice: Always try your best to feel the music rather than just playing it. One thing that helps is associating a passage with a particular emotion, then translating that emotion into physical changes on your instrument. It takes some practice, but it will make your playing much more meaningful and will help you connect with the music and the emotions it wants to portray.

Luca Makarushka-Napp will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute, fall 2021. In his own words: Anyone can appreciate music, no matter their understanding of how it is created.



News from Current & Alum DUSS Families



Marieli Martinez began playing instruments at the age of 3 in Venezuela. When she moved to North Carolina at age 9, she began cello lessons with Kidznotes (El Sistema NC). A year later, she received a scholarship to take extra lessons with DUSS. Last March, she earned 2nd place in the 2021 Baroque Music Competition. She plans to participate in the 2021 Talent Show Competition hosted by the Charleston International Music Competition. She will move to Denver this summer, and plans to join El Sistema Colorado.

Amelia Cho won 1st place at the American Protégé International Concerto Competition 2021 in New York.

<https://americanprotege.com/concertocompetition2021>

Chloe Solum, DUSS ISO, submitted a piece she wrote for the violin to the 2021 NC Parent Teacher Association annual Reflections contest, music composition category. She was awarded 1st in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school district and 2nd in NC.



DUSS students did a great job at the 2021 Spring Charleston International Music Competition:

Téa L. Bowers 2nd prize viola

Medeline and Isabel Johnsen 2nd prize duet

Yeyul Lee 2nd prize violin solo (ages 15-16)

Winnie Park 2nd prize violin solo (ages 9-10)

xinyin znang 3rd prize violin solo (ages 9-10)

Congratulations!

Alexandra Love, 2020 DUSS alumna, played viola for the youth symphony. This semester, she was honored to be the principal violist for the UNC String Ensemble at UNC Chapel Hill. Her ensemble has worked on pieces including Hindemith, Bartok, and Stamitz.

FOR SALE



1/2 size Grottano Violin

Made in Romania. Includes 2 bows. Has been played consistently for the last 2 years and stays in tune very well. \$375. Contact: Michelle Ebbs

[336-693-0540](tel:336-693-0540) (call or text)

1/8, 1/2, and 3/4 sized violins with cases

All bought from High Strung Violins.

We also have a **piano pedal extender footstool** for sale.

Contact: Susan Thananopavarn

Susan_Bramley@yahoo.com or text 919-259-1061.





Outstanding 3/4 Violin and Bow pair

Violin - A. Stradivari copy in very good condition from Scott Cao Violins made by Yan Chee, 2005: clear, firm and warm tone up and down all strings, balanced and resonant in between, easy to play and tune, with gold-plated steel E, perfect heights to fingerboard and bridge, comfortable chin rest, reliable pegs and fine tuners. If professional orchestras used 3/4 string instruments, this one would certainly qualify.

Bow - A. Carvalho, Brazil: very straight, high-quality pernambuco stick, well haired, with nickle mounts and mother of pearl plate and eye, thoroughly reliable and pliant for all strokes and stops, perfectly matched to the violin.

Price: \$1500 for violin and bow, plus extra bow and case; replace value about \$1700.

Contact: David at dul@duke.edu.





1/4 size Eastman 200 violin for sale

\$400

Bought brand new from Triangle Strings for \$799. Comes with case and now.

This is the highest Eastman 1/4 size model violin.

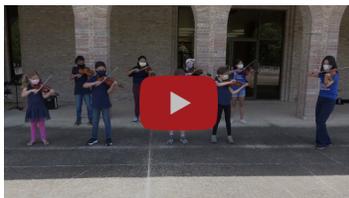
Contact: Viktorija at 984-209-8010



2021 Spring Ensemble photos



2021 Spring Concert Videos



Large Ensemble
Concert Video:
Violin Choirs, Cello
Choirs & Orchestras



DUSS-Ciampi
Quartet
Collaborative
Concert Video



DUSS Chamber
Group
Concert Video



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