

Duke University String School

Celebrating 48 Years

October 11, 2014

Interim Director's Letter

Dear Students, Parents, Teachers, Friends,

As DUSS Interim Director, I am excited to begin this new year at DUSS continuing the wonderful legacy of our Founder, Dorothy Kitchen. We are now completing assignment of students to our three orchestras and their leadership positions in preparation for another great year of music. I appreciate everyone's participation in this new process, as well as feedback on how it could be improved. As always, we have a great group of students, from beginners to the most accomplished. The DUSS faculty, conductors, and I are committed to serving them and equipping them with the tools, skills, and motivation to achieve their individual musical goals.

I am pleased to have the strong support of the Duke Music Department and the DUSS faculty. At the same time, I appreciate and count on the support of our devoted students and their families, who also do so much to make DUSS a success. As we start this year, including implementing some changes, I welcome your suggestions as to how our program can be improved in the future.

After being Mrs. Kitchen's Assistant Director for nearly 18 years, I am honored to have the opportunity to uphold her vision and mission as the Interim Director of the Duke University String School. It has been a joy to be part of DUSS' tremendous growth during my time here. There are so many connections made through our music and for me, it started in high school with Mrs. Kitchen: first, as her violin student and later as one of her DUSS teachers and conductors, and then Assistant Director. What Dorothy has given to me, and to so many others, is something I cannot put into words. She has been a great source of support, strength and wisdom. It is her lifelong work of instilling the love of music in all ages and levels that I strive to continue during this year of transition.

Ms. Swisher

BRIGHTLEAF CAROLING

Our date for Brightleaf Caroling is Saturday, December 13, at 10:30 am. We will meet inside by the Rodeo Restaurant. Wear red and green, bring your own stand and your "Fun with Christmas" book by Avsharian. If you want to play a holiday solo, talk with your teacher who will e-mail Mrs. Kitchen. Both very young and young in spirit older players are welcome to enjoy starting the Holiday with music. If you have special seasonal music for another Holiday at this time, let Mrs. Kitchen and your teacher know! See you there!

CONCERT DATES
2014-2015

DECEMBER 7 (Sunday)
MARCH 8 (Sunday)
APRIL 25

ALL CONCERTS ARE IN BALDWIN
AUDITORIUM

FIDDLING AROUND

Theresa Webber was selected for the Honors Chamber Music program at Lamar Stringfield Music Camp this summer at Meredith College.

Jamie Perkins participated in the week long music oriented summer day camp in Chapel Hill called SCORE, an orchestra and drumming focused camp. It is held in Hill Hall on the UNC campus.

Sanaa Lucas participated in UNC-SA's Chamber Music on the Hill (CMOTH). CMOTH is a 3-week Summer Intensive chamber music workshop held at the UNCSA campus in Winston-Salem. Sanaa was selected to perform a viola solo.

Christine Choi, Intermediate I, attended DUSS Summer Camp. **Alex Blackwell** is a first year student at DUSS. He loved the DUSS summer camp.

Tim Tinehart just joined the Intermediate 1 orchestra where he plays double bass. He attended the UNCG music camp this summer playing clarinet and played in a summer jazz group at the Durham jazz workshop. He is excited to play in DUSS and loves the pieces, especially *Catharsis*.

DUSS cellist **Connor Rogerson**, and violinists **Matt Laird and Moon-su Kim**, have been invited to participate in the 2014 North Carolina Honors Orchestra. Students were chosen from those who participated in the Eastern and Western Regional Orchestras this past spring. The students from across the state who were

selected will travel to Winston-Salem in November for a weekend of rehearsals, workshops and a concert. Congratulations to Connor and Matt on this honor.

Youth Symphony cellist **Julia Illana** spent a month at the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival in Vermont this summer. She played in a quintet and a cello quartet.

Mauri Bardales is attending high school at the UNCSA. In his audition at the beginning of the year, he was the only high school student accepted into the ranks of the first violins of the Symphony. He is also in a String Quartet changing off first and second violin with college students. Bravo, Mauri!

On November 8 **Mrs Kitchen** will serve on a panel to discuss community, medical centers, and the arts being brought together in orchestras. One of her friends, Dr. Lisa Wang, will be the head of the discussion and guest for the conference.

Mrs. Kitchen's recent recital had a performance via computer iChat by **Christopher Kitchen** of the Bach Prelude in E major, on the electric violin. **Yichen and Yikuan Sun, Daniel and Lauren Bae, Sheridan Kum, Ama Boone, Raymond Zhao, Francis Fan, Jusung Kim** were also among the performers.

Aaron Yun was in the Governor's School instrumental summer program for 5 and a half weeks. **Amilia Yun** performed in a piano benefit concert for TABLE! and at the Duke Cancer Center in August.

Jack Moffet of Intermediate II sang at Carnegie Hall in June while touring with the North Carolina Boys Choir. He also attended UNC Greensboro summer music camp.

Elena & Oskar Schulmeister-Antona performed duets at the Durham Farmers Market on Saturday, August 23 & August 30.

TALES OF A TEACHER

From Patrick Desrosier on Facebook: "Dorothy, you are the Art of teaching! I hope to be able to infect some kids, or anyone, in the way you influenced me. Your devotion, commitment, care and toughness were a gift to myself and to my peers in Haiti."

From Mrs Kitchen: Patrick was one of the students I taught during the summer in Haiti beginning when he was 12. He liked to skip lessons to play soccer. One day, I chased him all over the soccer field until he got out his violin and practiced. I told him that he would not be a success unless he worked no matter how big his talent was. I repeated this message all the years I taught him. His statement is the result of my incessant and deliberate demands made on a very gifted boy who wanted to be a violinist. Now he substitutes in the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, the Vienna Philharmonic, plays seasons in the Charleston Symphony and has held a permanent position in Brazil. He travels all over the world making friends and playing his heart out and loving every minute.

PROGRAM NOTES
YOUTH SYMPHONY

An Outdoor Overture by Aaron Copland. Copland is one of the titans of American art music. After experimenting with many different styles, he became best known for his idiomatic treatment of Americana, leaving behind such chestnuts as *The Tender Land* (1954), *Billy The Kid* (1938), and *Appalachian Spring* (1944). This last piece won Copland the Pulitzer Prize in Music in 1945. *An Outdoor Overture* had its genesis as a commission from Alexander Richter, the music director at the High School for Music and Art (now LaGuardia High School) in New York City. Richter was looking for music that would appeal to American youth. Copland responded with a brightly optimistic, wide-open triumph of Americana, in versions for both orchestra and band. It was premiered in December 1938 (ironically, indoors) at the high school.

Adapted from Andy Pease's Wind Bank Blog 9/6/2012

Swan Lake, Suite from the Ballet and Act IV Scene Finale. This very famous music was composed for the ballet by P.I. Tchaikovsky. Though the original composition of *Swan Lake* was initially received negatively, with audiences and critics claiming that the music was too complex to be a ballet piece, currently the work is seen as one of Tchaikovsky's most important. The ballet is based on Russian folk tales focusing on the combined role of Odette/Odile (White Swan/Black Swan) in their competition for the love of Prince Sigfried. Before the story starts, an evil magician Von Rothbart turned Odette into a swan. In the classic story the two lovers die together by drowning in the lake, but there are now versions with happy endings.

Adapted from Wikipedia



MUSIC AND MATH

According to musician-scholars like Eugenia Cheng, a senior lecturer in mathematics and a concert pianist, the history and practice of music would have unfolded much differently without an appreciation of what unites music and math. During the Baroque period, a mathematical breakthrough inspired one of Cheng's favorite composers, Johann Sebastian Bach, to write *The Well-Tempered Clavier* (1722), his book of preludes and fugues in all 24 major and minor keys. Bach was able to write in every key so successfully because mathematicians found better ways to calculate the 12th root of two. This is related to the musical problem of dividing the octave into 12 equal intervals, which involves splitting sound waves into ratios rather than equal lengths. "That's why music before the Baroque time didn't really modulate," Cheng says. "It always stayed in the same key. Because of the way that they tuned keyboards, if they moved a key it would have sounded terrible."

As an educator, Cheng, now at the University of Sheffield, is adept at relating just about anything to mathematics, including food. She developed a series of YouTube lectures on the mathematics of food, covering topics such as "The perfect puff pastry," "The perfect Mobius bagel," and "The perfect way to share a cake." The series evolved into a book, *How to Bake Pi*, which will be published by Profile Books in March 2015. She also has brought mathematics to a wider audience through works such as the mathematics of cream tea, the mathematics of pizza, and mathematics and Lego.

Adapted from University of Chicago August 18, 2014.

NEW CELLO TEACHER

Although Carlos Bardales has just joined the teaching and coaching faculty of the Duke University String School, he is no stranger to any of us. He has been volunteering as a teacher and as a section coach ever since he and his son Mauri (Carlos Mauricio) arrived at Duke. Carlos' original home was Honduras, where he studied cello and participated in the master classes of the great cellist Adolfo Odnoposof. In 1986 he was invited to play and take lessons at the Pablo Casals Festival in Puerto Rico. At one point during his career with the Costa Rican Philharmonic it became necessary for him to travel and work in the United States.

He has been a teacher of Spanish under the auspices of the US government ever since his arrival in California. He has studied at Ambassador University, Wake Forest University

and UNC Elizabeth City State University and has two Master's Degrees. He has taught in California, Texas, Honduras, Costa Rica, and North Carolina. When he arrived here on the US teaching program, he was awaiting his Green Card. When a position opened at DUSS, Stephanie Swisher, DUSS Interim Director, was quick to hire him. He now has many students and coaches several chamber groups. Mauri, a student of Mrs. Kitchen, is now a high school freshman at UNCSCA under the tutelage of Kevin Lawrence, teacher former DUSS students Kevin Murphy, Ian Livingston, and Fredric McIntyre Ayala. When you see Carlos with his friendly smile and his cup of chai or coffee for Mrs. Kitchen, be sure to say hello and welcome him to our family of musicians.

