

Duke University String School

Celebrating 49 Years!

April 30, 2016

Letter from the Director

Dear DUSS Families and Friends,

It is hard to believe that this is our final concert of the 2015/2016 season. Each ensemble concert, chamber concert, solo recital, master class, private lesson, and theory class is the result of so many hours of dedication. From student practice, to parent carpooling, to teacher scheduling, to parent volunteer activity, to university schedule coordinating and beyond, it takes a village to run a string school! A big *THANK YOU* to everyone who has helped make this program possible.

Transitions are difficult for any organization, and especially one that has such an incredible history in the community as DUSS. I think I can speak for all of us by saying that we are indebted to Mrs. Kitchen for her service and her tenacity in building this program from the ground up starting in 1967. Next year will mark 50 years since the founding of this string school, and I am excited for the possibilities that the future brings. I am honored to be a part of the program and very grateful for the legacy that makes it possible for us all to be here today.

My personal highlights from this year include hosting the inspiring Rebecca Henry and her Peabody Pre-Conservatory Violin Program in April, listening to the progress of each ensemble, listening to many inspiring master classes with our very own DUSS teachers as well as area musicians from the North Carolina Symphony and UNCG, and hearing individual students' hard work and progress in our first ever DUSS joint studio solo recitals. I have especially enjoyed getting to know parents and students over the course of the year. Music education is about beauty, hard work, and community, and I think we have accomplished all of those things.

This past week we had the pleasure of collaborating with Kidznotes for our last chamber music and Violin/Cello Choir concerts of the year. I am pleased to announce that, thanks to the help of Dr. Phail Wynn, Duke Vice President of the Office of Durham and Regional Affairs, we will be

expanding our scholarship program to provide the opportunity for Kidznotes students to join our program. I am proud of this effort and very excited for this partnership.

We have included the important dates for next year's season in the program. Please stick this on your fridge or put these dates into your calendars for future reference. You will see that we will have only three ensemble concert weekends next year. We made this decision in order to give ensembles more time to rehearse more challenging pieces while allowing us to fit in sectionals within normal rehearsal time, as well as to provide educational opportunities like workshops and sight-reading days. To celebrate the holidays, we are working on having an open holiday play-in for families to attend at the end of the fall semester with a festive rehearsal day in December.

I look forward to the future as we work to build a premiere string school in the Triangle with deep community roots. I hope to see many of you around the Biddle Building for summer lessons and at Summer Camp (early registration ends on May 2nd!). Big congratulations to our seniors, and best wishes to them in life's next adventure.

Finally, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Dorothy Kitchen Scholarship Fund via check mailed to the address below or online at <http://stringschool.duke.edu/support>.

Have a safe summer, and see you in the fall!

Sincerely,



Erica Shirts
Director, Duke University String School

FIDDLING AROUND!

Julia Gao, a junior at North Carolina School of Science and Math, won the second place for Alexander and Buono International String Competition, held every three years. She has also been selected via audition to the internationally renowned Tanglewood Institute's Young Artists Orchestra for their 50th anniversary.

Andrew (Drew) Mincey, a French horn player, auditioned and won first chair for horn in both the NC All-District and NC All-State Honors Bands. Also, he will be attending Canon Music Camp at Appalachian State University this summer for a three-week intensive program.

Maya Liu finished Suzuki book 4 as an 8 year old. She attended master class with Mr. Rempher through the DUSS as well as with Dr. Timothy Durban during the Suzuki workshop in Chapel Hill. She also played in a master class for Jennifer Curtis. Maya will be attending the University of Louisville Suzuki String Institute this summer.



Fabian Lopez coaches Joshua Facello in a Masterclass

Tim Rinehart, Principal Bass YSO, and his rock band Some Antics, will perform at the Local 506 in Chapel Hill for the 3@3 show on May 22. www.facebook.com/someanticsband/

Isabella Santillo auditioned and made the Junior All State Orchestra for cello.

Elena Schulmeister-Antona was chosen to participate in this year's Durham Honors String Festival, and performed with the Middle School Orchestra on March 18, 2016, at Baldwin Auditorium. Elena played cello at that performance.

Elena is also one of only four Durham Middle School Students who have earned spots in the 2016 NC Junior High Eastern Regional All State Orchestra. **Elena Schulmeister-Antona** (violin), **Charlotte Maxwell** (violin), and **Sophia Johnson** (viola) will represent Durham Public Schools at the 2016 JHERO Clinic and Concert at Ligon Middle School in Raleigh on Saturday, May 7, 2016.

Oskar Schulmeister-Antona performed Irish Fiddle tunes on his violin for the school assembly at George Watts Elementary School on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2016.

Nathan Bernacki was the soloist in the premier performance of Boyd E. Gibson's Concerto for Cello and Strings, at the Durham School of the Arts. He also played cello in the NCMEA 2016 Eastern Regional Orchestra, and for the Ovations program with the NC Symphony Orchestra on several occasions, along with other DUSS students. In addition to cello, Nathan has been playing accordion, tapan and gadulka, a traditional Bulgarian stringed instrument, with two local Balkan bands, Svirachi and Rakia. He was a guest player on gadulka with Lyuti Chushki, a Bulgarian Folk Music group from Washington, D.C., during a recent visit to the Triangle area.

In February **Bennett Congdon** participated in the NCMEA Eastern Regional Symphony Orchestra, and he's honored to be chosen to attend the 2016 Governor's School of North Carolina in June.

Nicole Dunkak, a freshman violinist in the Chamber Orchestra at Durham School of the Arts, was accepted into the East Regional Orchestra which performed at the North Carolina School of Science and Math in February. She was chosen to participate in the Durham County Honors String Festival in March. She received a scholarship from Durham School of the Arts to attend the UNC Summer Music Camp in Greensboro this summer.

Danielle Cuntapay will be volunteering this summer with the DUSS summer program and going to Appalachian State University on scholarship in the fall to pursue a career in Music Education.

Matthew Erickson, a seventh grade student at Lucas Middle School, has been selected for the 2016 Middle School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall. Participation in this Honors Ensemble is limited to the highest rated middle school performers from across North America and select schools internationally. He will join other performers from 45 states and Canada for five days in New York City and have the opportunity to learn from master conductor Kirt Mosier. The final performance will be Saturday, June 25, at 8pm at Carnegie Hall.

Charlotte Maxwell was concertmaster for the Durham Public Schools Honors Strings Concert in Baldwin on March 18, 2016, and she looks forward to playing in the violin section for the upcoming NCMEA Junior Eastern Regional Orchestra concert on May 7.



CONGRATULATIONS TO DUSS SENIORS!

Best wishes to our senior students now leaving DUSS for the next stage in their careers. We wish them well and hope they will send news of their adventures for future editions of our newsletter. If we have inadvertently left someone off the list, please let us know and we will publish corrections in our next edition.

Senior	Future plans
Nathan Bernacki	Will attend UCLA for Ethnomusicology
Danielle Cuntapay	Will attend Appalachian State for Music Education
Anastasia Freedman	Will attend UNC-Chapel Hill
Clara Kempter	Will attend Bard College
Su Song Kim	Will attend Penn State University
Nathaniel Lai	Will attend UNC-Chapel Hill
Sean Li	Will attend NC State University
Mara Lowry	Will attend NC State University for Architecture
Ethan Mock	Will attend Emory University for History
Nancy Munquia	Will attend UNC-Chapel Hill
Samantha Rahn	Will attend Indiana University or NYU
Jennifer Sessions	Will attend UNC-Greensboro for Music
Connor Stewart	Will attend UNC-Chapel Hill or NC State University
Peter Streilein	Will attend UNC-Chapel Hill for Geography

How long have they been with DUSS? A total of almost 85 years!

9 years; Nathaniel Lai
 8 years; Nathan Bernacki, Sean Li, Mara Lowry, Connor Stewart
 7 years; Youngwoo Yu
 6 years; Su Song Kim, Ethan Mock, Samantha Rahn
 5 years; Anastasia Freedman
 3 years; Danielle Cuntapay, Clara Kempter
 2 years; Nancy Munguia, Peter Streilein
 1 year; Jennifer Sessions, Sami Haboon

DUSS Alumni News

Cecelia Tannous-Taylor graduated last year (from DSA) and had a great first year at Oberlin College in Ohio where she hopes to major in neuroscience. She is not majoring in music, but she continues violin lessons and played in the orchestra this semester.

Violet Huang, a former violist of the Youth Symphony Orchestra and student of Ms. Swisher, enjoys her first year as a residential 10th grade high school student at UNC School of the Arts (UNCSA) in Winston-Salem, NC. Violet has managed to take two AP math classes this year and minor in piano on top of being a viola major. Violet is recently accepted by the online program of NC School of Math and Science (NCSSM). Beginning next school year, Violet will take online courses from NCSSM while continuing to study music at UNCSA.

Grace Kirkpatrick is singing in four Vassar College choirs this year, along with a having a twice a week gig with a local Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie. Over spring break, she went a tour of Cuba, singing with the combined Vassar College Choirs. This summer she will be attending a choral conducting workshop at Westminster Choir College in Princeton NJ.

Ben Maxwell is finishing his junior year at UNC School of the Arts in Winston Salem. He recently won first place in the 2016 Music Academy of North Carolina Violin and Cello Competition and looks forward to attending the Meadowmount School of Music this summer.



Rob Rempher conducts the Intermediate String Orchestra

INSTRUMENT SALES

Piano Sales: Support Duke String School by buying your next piano or keyboard at Ruggero Piano. Special Pricing will be in effect through May 31, 2016. A portion of each sale will be donated to the Duke String School to help students participate in orchestra and chamber music ensembles. Call/text Bill Rinehart for an appointment at 617-935-3282 or billrinehart@me.com. www.ruggeropiano.com. Bring this program into the store for \$250 off any new or used acoustic piano.

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Piano for sale: Kawai upright piano, Mahogany \$2800; Model 506N, bought new in 2006. This piano has been tuned regularly, has a lovely tone and very good action. It is in great condition. We love this piano and are selling because moving abroad. Buyer will be responsible for moving the piano. Contact: Catherine at fowle042@gmail.com.

Violin for sale: Strobel Model no. ML80, size 4/4, includes hard case and bow, very good condition, \$350. Please contact April Cooper (aacooper16@gmail.com or 919-819-1021) for more information.