

## Letter from the Director

April 2024

Dear DUSS Families and Friends,

What a wonderful year of music making at DUSS! Our ensembles are delightfully full, and I have felt a rekindled energy emanating from the Biddle Music Building each Saturday this year.

We resumed our pre-Covid level of performances in the community, including with the NC Symphony Ovations series and at the Forest at Duke Retirement Center. The DUSS teachers performed in the faculty recital in February to help raise money for the Dorothy Kitchen Scholarship Fund, and our two Ensemble Socials were a great success. I look forward to more opportunities like these and more social events next year at DUSS.

Special master classes and events from the year included chamber music classes with Notre Dame Professor Patrick Yim and the multi award-winning Balourdet Quartet. We also sponsored an eye-opening Tango Workshop with Fulbright scholar Holly Talton as well as a beautiful performance of pieces by Black composers by the Boston Public Quartet.

I continue to work with local music program directors in the Triangle Community Music Education Consortium. Partners include: Community Music School, Kidznotes, North Carolina Chamber Music Institute, Triangle Youth Music, and Wake Forest Community Youth Orchestra. These organizations collaborated to put on the first Youth Music Day at the beautiful amphitheater at the North Carolina Museum of Art.



*Erica Shirts & Violin Choir 3 performing for Youth Music Day at NCMA*

We are saying good-bye to a great group of high school seniors who are off to accomplish wonderful things. Each individual has brought dedication to their instrument and to our musical community in their many years at DUSS. We are proud of you, seniors! See below to read their insights for the next generation, and to see where they are headed.

Make sure to add our Important Dates to your calendars for 2024/25, and we wish you all a wonderful summer full of rejuvenation and renewal!

Sincerely,



Erica Shirts

# FIDDLING AROUND!

**Adult Beginner Orchestra.** A new semester of my Adult Beginner Orchestra starts May 1st. No instrument? No Experience? No Problem! Learn how to play violin, viola, cello, or bass in fun group classes. Also offered are Intermediate and Advanced ensembles, Folk ensemble, Cello ensemble, and even a Music Theory class. Signup today, instruments go fast! Email: [Matt@IndieStrings.com](mailto:Matt@IndieStrings.com) or call/text **Matt Stutzman** (919) 551-4080 for more details.



This summer **Djina Alicante-Steusse** will be attending the 2024 Sphinx Performance Academy at The Julliard School.

Sphinx Performance Academy (SPA) is a full-scholarship intensive summer chamber music and solo performance

program with a focus on cultural diversity, for string musicians ages 11-17.

Classes run May - Sept

Registration starts in April

violin Viola Bass Cello

**Adult Beginner Orchestra**

Folk Ensemble - Cello Ensemble - Music Theory  
Beginner - Intermediate - Advanced Orchestra

Questions? Email: [matt@IndieStrings.com](mailto:matt@IndieStrings.com)  
Call/Text: (919) 551-4080

NO instrument,  
NO experience,  
NO PROBLEM!

Scan to watch a video!



**Nanami Homma**, pictured last on the right, was selected as the concert master for 2024 Western Region Repertory Orchestra and performed at Appalachian State university on Saturday, February 25th, 2024.



*DCC Quartet performing at Youth Music Day at NC Museum of Art*

**Ella Rosselli** (Durham School of the Arts) will be attending NC Governor's School and New England Conservatory's Summer Institute this summer.



*DCC Performance at the Forest at Duke Retirement Center*

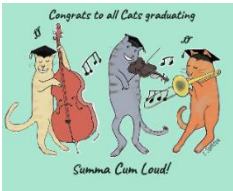
## INSTRUMENT SALES

**Seeking to PURCHASE a pre-owned ½ sized CELLO for a DUSS student.** Please contact Kari Bail, [karimaebail@gmail.com](mailto:karimaebail@gmail.com)

**vc673 Modelo Italiano Cello, ¾ size, for sale.** Includes like-new semi-hard rolling case (no bow). Unusually warm and clear sound. \$3,000. Please contact Caroline Stinson, [carolinestinson@gmail.com](mailto:carolinestinson@gmail.com)



**Dhriti Rao** (CSO-violin) is a 9th grader who has had an incredible first year in high school. She is not only excited about being a leader in CSO but also starting Chamber music. In addition to violin, Dhriti is part of the PCHS cross-country, track and swim teams. She was the varsity swimmer for her high school swim team and awarded the Futures award and Scholar-Athlete award in recognition of earning a GPA in the top 15% of the 23-24 PCHS Swimming and Diving Team. She also started her very first job as a lifeguard We are very proud of Dhriti! **Dhruv Rao** (VC3) had a very successful first season in basketball and participated in the Science Olympiad to represent his school in the Pasta tower challenge. His pasta tower was able to hold >10kg of weight without breaking. Dhruv had the opportunity to participate in the Youth Music Day at the NC Museum of Arts with his peers from VC3. We are very proud of Dhruv!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO DUSS SENIORS!

Best wishes to our senior students leaving DUSS for the next stage in their careers. We hope they will send news of their adventures for future editions of our newsletter. Here are their plans for Fall 2024!

Senior	Fall 2024
<b>Brian Hyunho Ahn</b> (cello)	Northwestern University
<b>Harini Anantharaman</b> (violin)	UNC Chapel Hill – Biochemistry
<b>Aria Vally Carter</b> (violin, viola)	University
<b>Alexine Marie Enad</b> (violin, viola)	NC State
<b>Alexandra Etienne</b> (cello)	UNC Chapel Hill
<b>Abbie Falk</b> (violin)	Unsure
<b>Zoe Falk</b> (violin)	UNC Chapel Hill-Neuroscience with minor in Spanish
<b>Michael T. Fath</b> (violin)	Elon University
<b>James Kaufman</b> (viola)	UNC Chapel Hill
<b>Braird Kunde-Kalmus</b> (cello)	Unsure
<b>Yasmine Kwong</b> (violin)	Duke University
<b>Ye Yul Lee</b> (violin)	Davidson College
<b>Justin Lee</b> (violin)	Rice University-Chemical Engineering
<b>Kaya Li</b> (violin)	UNC Chapel Hill or Duke University
<b>Roberta Michaels</b> (violin)	
<b>Elodie Mitchell</b> (violin)	Emory University-Engineering Sciences
<b>Peyton Palmer</b> (cello)	NC State
<b>Levi Putnam</b> (violin)	Oberlin or Haverford College
<b>Krishna Rajagopal</b> (violin)	Harvard University
<b>Matilda Ramont</b> (viola, cello)	Lawrence University
<b>Jina Song</b> (cello)	UNC Chapel Hill
<b>Hannah Stocker</b> (violin)	College of William & Mary-Chemistry & Music
<b>Anthara Vivek</b> (violin)	NC State-Biomedical Engineering
<b>Taylor Young</b> (violin)	Pomona College in Southern California



# DUSS SENIORS REFLECT ON THE VALUE OF PLAYING MUSIC

**Brian Ahn:** Playing at DUSS introduced me to pieces from various eras of music which helped me appreciate them all, even though I usually listen strictly to romantic music.

**Harini Anantharaman:** I value the freedom that music gives me to express myself and make me feel certain emotions.

**Aria Carter:** I have loved playing chamber music with DUSS. When I join its musical dance, I am inspired to play with more care and feeling. Unlike orchestra, an ocean of harmony, chamber music's few distinct voices coalesce to form a rainbow of music.

**Alexine Enad:** It's amazing to make music with other people and share that joy with others. You create a bond that you don't get anywhere else where you feel like you can understand how the other person is feeling.

**Lexi Etienne:** I love being able to express myself through music.

**Abbie Falk:** Music is a language that everyone speaks. It brings people together of all different backgrounds and experiences. Use it to help you meet people from all walks of life.

**Zoe Falk:** I value the connection that music brings you with the people you are playing with! It helps you experience the emotion of music with others!

**Michael Fath:** I value the feeling of accomplishment and confidence you get when you are able to play and it all comes together.

**James Kaufman:** I love the feeling you get playing in ensembles, and together creating a much greater resonance and variety in the sound. I also enjoy playing on my own as a way to relax and for personal accomplishment.

**Braird Kunde-Kalmus:** When I play, I am simultaneously both artist and canvas. A piece of music can be interpreted independently or in context of performance, and individual performances can be interpreted solely by how the performer expresses themselves. I find being part of that artistic complex fascinating.

**Yasmine Kwong:** Playing music provides opportunities for sharing and receiving musical and non-musical ideas with and from others.

**Justin Lee:** I find music to be very freeing and a great way of self-expression.

**Kaya Li:** I value the peace that music brings me. Whether it's playing in a group or by myself, music has always brought me comfort and relieves me from any of the stresses of life.

**Elodie Mitchell:** Playing my instrument has always been a way to relax my mind and escape from reality for a little bit every day. I also love working with multiple musicians in an orchestra to create beautiful music.

**Levi Putnam:** It has the dichotomy that playing on your own can be deeply calming and allow for an introspectiveness that cannot be found anywhere else, while playing with others can create a strong sense of connection which is similarly unique.

**Krishna Rajagopal:** I value the ability to play with others and understand ideas of harmony in a broader context. It is particularly gratifying to play chamber music and let the music flow with the harmony rather than being bound to a metronome.

**Matilda Ramont:** Music is a comfort. I can release tension and strong emotions by playing around with dynamics and bowings.

**Jina Song:** DUSS has been the best part of my entire cello journey. I will always miss it! Playing an instrument is very fun and special!

**Hannah Stocker:** Music has taught me to love the discipline of beauty. Creating something that is truly beautiful takes a lot of hard work and eventually becomes an extension of your own emotions and experiences. That is where true beauty in my music lies.

**Anthara Vivek:** Music is truly a means of expressing oneself without words, and I value that quite deeply. I love sharing my musical interpretations and experiences with the people around me, coming together as a community to enjoy through the common language of music.

**Taylor Young:** Music is an outlet for me to access and express my emotions and form intimate connections with audiences. My passion for music and violin performance is rooted in this emotional connection with listeners.



*Youth Symphony Rehearsal with Professor Davidson*

# DUSS Seniors 2024

