

Letter from the Director

APRIL 28, 2019

Dear DUSS Families and Friends,

After this personally difficult year following my husband's nearly-fatal cardiac arrest, it is especially apparent to me how remarkable the DUSS community is. I am so grateful for the support and love my immediate family has received from so many of you. I have also appreciated the reprieve that working with your children has given me. The act of teaching demands all of one's attention, and during some of my most difficult days, teaching allowed me to forget about some of my worries and just focus on a student and their desire to produce beautiful music. And when I was not able to be here, my wonderful teaching and administrative staff stepped in and kept all the wheels turning without a hitch. A special thanks to them.

Although my experiences this year have reminded me how fragile life can be, they have also helped me to focus my perspective on how I view music, and music education, and have helped provide clarity regarding what I would like to foster at DUSS. Specifically, this includes:

- Music is both a vehicle for progress and learning, and it also has value on its own.
- There are some things that words cannot adequately express, but often music can.
- We expect hard work from our teachers and students, dedication from families, and we also value balance in life.
- When music becomes anxiety-provoking we are missing the point.
- It is important to learn from people of different experiences. Because of this, we embrace students of all backgrounds and we want to promote musical creativity.

Next year, I hope to foster these ideas and to continue working towards a program that provides a supportive environment for each student to reach their own goals of excellence in music. We have several exciting events and opportunities for students to do this including: the return of the East Carolina University Next Generation Project presented by DUSS and the Four Seasons

(October 26/27); a weekend residency with Mimi Zweig, director of the Indiana University String Academy (November 23/24), a master class with the Duke Chinese Ensemble, and many more events in the works.

Additionally, there are other opportunities available for interested students, including our Summer Camp, and the DUSS Ciompi Quartet Collaborative (DCC). It is easy for students to lose motivation during summer months, and Summer Camp is an excellent way for students to keep the momentum going, and to improve significantly in a short period of time. The DCC is an

advanced chamber program, in partnership with the Duke Quartet in Residence: the Ciompi Quartet. In the DCC, students learn how to better develop their own solos, blend sound, and highlight another's part as the dialogue moves throughout an ensemble. Consider auditioning for this unique opportunity!

Many of you know how much our scholarship program means to me and to the recipients who are afforded the opportunity to have an excellent music education at DUSS.

Currently, we are just a couple of thousand dollars short of our goal of \$10,000 each year, so if you are in a position to contribute, please help us continue this funding for students who would not be able to participate otherwise at: <https://stringschool.duke.edu/>

I continue to be grateful for my opportunity to be part of our student's musical progress and to observe their growth, both as individuals and as musicians, during their time here. I will miss our graduating seniors and I look forward to seeing the rest of you in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Erica Shirts
Director, Duke University String School



FIDDLING AROUND!

Ms. **Nonoko Okada**'s young students are performing at BLOOM FEST in Downtown Chapel Hill on Sunday, May 19th. The performance will be sometime between 2 and 2:45pm. There will be music, art and lots of activities on beautiful Sunday in May! For information about the Bloom Fest: www.chbloom.org



Photo by Linnan Tang

Sarah Smith, CSO first violin and vocal soprano at Cedar Ridge High School, will be attending NC Governor's School East at Meredith College for Choral Music. Sarah will also be interning as an assistant with the NC Summer Opera as they rehearse and perform Mozart's Don Giovanni (which will be directed by **Shelley Livingston**).

Karthik Annadurai got selected for 2019 Junior Eastern Regional Orchestra and was placed in first violin 4th chair. He also got selected for 2019 Honors Junior Orchestra run by Honors Performance Series. He will be performing at Carnegie Hall, NY in June 2019.

Leena Hocutt is currently a 9th grader at Apex HS, recently relocated to Cary, NC from Chesapeake Virginia where she was part of BYOV Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia - Symphony orchestra, for 7 years. Leena was also a member of the HRCF Hampton Roads Chamber Music for 5 years. Leena started her music career when she joined the Suzuki school at age 4. She was part of Suzuki for 6 years and traveled abroad to Peru in 2014 with them. This year Leena has been selected to attend The Sphinx performance academy at the Cleveland Institute of Music in Ohio during the summer.

Dhriti Rao, Violin Choir III, Represented her school (Horton's Creek Elementary) in First in Fitness inter-school competition and completed the 1 mile race in 6 min 46 secs, taking the second place. She is part of the Elite Group at the TAC Titans Swim Team. This summer she will be part of a violin performance at the Chapel Hill Bloom Fest. With this semester, Dhriti has completed her second year at DUSS.

Dhruv Rao, Following his sister's footsteps, Dhruv has completed his first year at DUSS and is also part of the TAC Titans Swim Team. He will be participating in the Chapel Hill Bloom Fest.

Iris Newlin has been busy performing in the pit orchestra at Riverside High School and this summer she will be the fiddler in the YPPC's musical production of "Fiddler on the Roof." She has performed chamber music for St. Luke's Episcopal Church services and recorded old time fiddle tunes with her parents for an upcoming CD, recorded by **Matt Stutzman**.

Tim Rinehart, (section co-leader, double bass, YSO) and junior at Chapel Hill High School, has been accepted into the National Youth Orchestra for the summer of 2019. The tour kicks off with concerts at Tanglewood and Carnegie Hall, followed by performances in Berlin, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Germany under the baton of conductor Sir Antonio Pappano, performing works by Strauss, Prokofiev, and Berlioz.

Next Sunday, May 5, Tim will perform the Koussevitzky Bass Concerto with the Chapel Hill Philharmonia as co-winner of their 2019 student concerto competition. He has also advanced to the semi-finals of the International Society of Bassists (ISB) 15-18 Division Competition where he will perform and compete at Indiana University in June at the 2019 ISB convention.

Equally adept at jazz, Tim is a member of Raleigh's Triangle Youth Jazz Ensemble (TYJE) which will compete for the fourth time on May 10th at the 2019 Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition in New York City. TYJE is one of 15 high school bands from around the country to be selected from a competitive pool of 112 bands after submitting recordings of three tunes performed from the Essentially Ellington Library.



Photo by Linnan Tang

Pranav Krishna Kumar, member of Youth Symphony, a sophomore at Panther Creek High School and student of Ms. Margaret Partridge, has been selected to attend the NC Governor's School this summer to participate in the instrumental music program. He was part of the school Brain Game team that won the championship.

This summer, **Nora Foureman** will once again serve as camp counselor at DUSS. This fall, she will attend UNC-Charlotte where she will double major in History and Music. She has additionally received scholarship funding from both the orchestral and jazz music departments of UNCC.

Peter Sumner, cello YSO, has been named the male DPS Scholar Athlete (Cross Country/Baseball) for Durham School of the Arts.

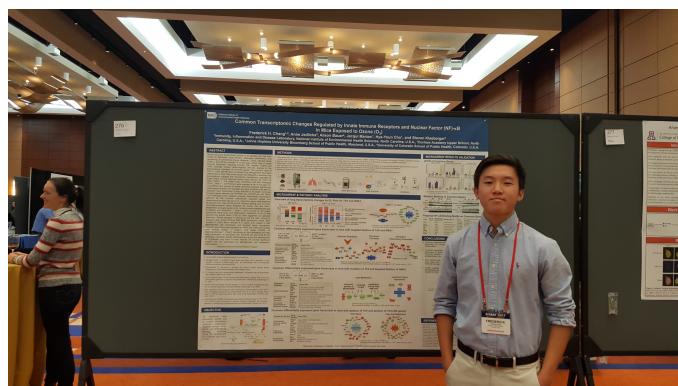
Justin Taylor will be attending UNC School of the Arts for his Senior year of high school this fall. His family would like to thank his private lesson teacher, Carlos Bardales for helping Justin get ready for the audition.

Marieli Martinez, Cello Choir II, started studying music at age 3 in University of Carabobo in Venezuela with music teacher Gildred Medina. She learned how to play the flute and the xylophone as well as choir singing. At age 6 she started in El Sistema in Valencia, Venezuela where she continued learning the flute and singing in a choir. In 2017 (when she was 9) she moved to North Carolina where she enrolled in El Sistema here in North Carolina (Kidznotes) and started private cello lessons with Mrs. Erica Leavell. This was her first opportunity to learn the instrument she always wanted to play, all the hard work in Kidznotes lead to a scholarship to take cello lessons at Duke University Strings School where she continues working hard to become a good cellist.

Ella Rosselli, Violin Choir III, 5th grade, violin student of Ms. Leah Peroutka, competed in the DPS Science Olympiad for the 2nd year in a row and brought home three 1st place medals for Pearsontown Elementary. The Varsity team brought home the overall 1st place, and JV brought home 2nd place. She will be attending Lamar Stringfield Music Camp, Duke TIP, and Triangle Rock Climbing Camp this summer.

Matthew Delaney will be attending the ECU Summer Chamber Music Institute this June.

Frederick Chang, a senior at Durham Academy Upper School, will attend the University of Pennsylvania and study in the field of biology and pre-medical track. Fred has been busy as the *Editor-in-Chief* of the school newspaper and a midfielder of the school varsity soccer team. He also performed his third Carnegie Hall recital as the winner of the American Protégé International Competition of Romantic Music. Working as a year-round volunteer and a summer intern in biomedical labs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Fred presented research posters in a scientific conference and at the NIH and published his research paper.



Dafne Delgado (cello, YSO) will be attending Governor's School for Instrumental Music for the 2019 session for 5 weeks this summer.

Zoe R. Jones will be travelling with her family to see where her ancestors came from in Ghana, Africa and then on to Paris for a long awaited picnic by the Eiffel tower. She will be practicing to audition for violin 1 choir and getting ready to start 4th grade at Pearsontown Elem.

Amanda Harrell, violist in Youth Symphony at DUSS, and a sophomore at Riverside High School, Durham, NC, was accepted into **The Governor's School of NC** for the 2019 summer program. In addition, she was accepted into **University of NC School of the Arts (UNCSA)** to begin her junior year of high school in the Fall 2019. The Governor's School of NC is a summer residential program for intellectually gifted high school students, integrating academic disciplines, the arts, and unique courses. The program is open to rising seniors only, with exceptions made for rising juniors in selected performing/visual arts areas. There were only 34 students accepted from Durham Public Schools this year, and Amanda was one of them. **UNCSA** has both residential high school and college programs in Winston-Salem, and combines top-tier academics with immersive conservatory training in the arts. Very few students are accepted each year in the program, and must excel at academics, audition, and complete an extensive application process to be considered and accepted. Amanda has been a part of the DUSS family since she was 6 years old, from Beginner I all the way to Youth Symphony!



For Latino and Afro-American students, check out <http://www.sphinxmusic.org/> It's much more than a summer camp, it's a whole music life support and mentorship group. Three national organizations – The Sphinx Organization, New World Symphony, and the League of American Orchestras – have partnered to create the National Alliance for Audition Support (NAAS), a field-wide initiative with the long-term goal of increasing diversity in American orchestras.

Alexander McDowell composed a cadenza in collaboration with one of his teachers, Jennifer Curtis, for the first movement of Mozart's Violin **Concerto** No.3 in **G major**, K.216.

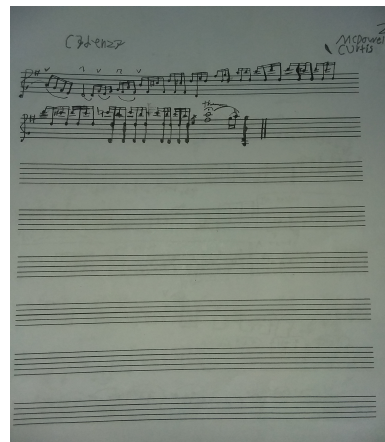
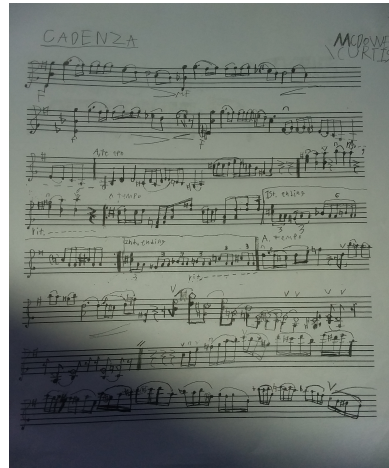


Photo by Linnan Tang

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
Spencer Adler	Will attend Yale University to study Music and Chemistry
Fred Chang	Will attend the University of Pennsylvania to study Biology
Lucy Ciccone	Will attend NC State University to study Conservation Biology and minor in Music
Karan Driehuys	Will take a gap year to prepare for admission to the US Merchant Marine Academy
Nicole Dunkak	Will attend UNC Chapel Hill to study Math with a minor in Music
Nora Foureman	Will attend UNC Charlotte to double major in History and Music
Matthew Gillespie	Will attend UNC Chapel Hill
Aubrey Hampton	Will attend Utah State University to study pre Health
Matthew Henderson	Will take a gap year and plans to major in Music the following year at either App State, UNC Chapel Hill, or UNC Greensboro
Alexander Kuropas	Will attend either Appalachian State University or University of Alabama
Gabe Mixon	Will take a gap year to work and travel
Jack Moffet	Will attend the University of Arizona to study Astronautical Aerospace Engineering
Iris Newlin	Will attend Guilford College to study Creative Writing or History with a minor in Music
Ameer Qaqish	Will attend UNC Chapel Hill
Surabi Ramamurthy	Will attend University of Maryland College Park to study Computer Science specializing in Cybersecurity
Aiden Rooney	Will attend Eckerd College to study Marine Science and viola
Ashwin Sridhar	Will attend California Institute of the Arts
Caitlin Su	Will attend Duke University
Peter Sumner	Will attend Berklee College of Music to study Cello performance and Professional Music
Alex Tayyeb	Will attend NC State University to study Engineering
Neha Vangipurapu	Will attend either Johns Hopkins/Peabody Conservatory or Northwestern to study Violin performance and Political Science

How long have they been with DUSS?

13 years; Matthew Henderson
8 years; Aiden Rooney
6 years; Spencer Adler, Nicole Dunkak,
5 years; Iris Newlin, Peter Sumner
4 years; Nora Foureman, Ashwin Sridhar
3 years; Neha Vangipurapu
2 years; Fred Chang

Departing Seniors Have A Final Word

Fred Chang: This is my second year at DUSS, and I think that the hardest part about learning the violin is being patient throughout the entire process. I'd encourage younger students to participate in as many violin or orchestra-related competitions/events as they can because they were important in my development as a violinist.

Lucie Ciccone: I am going to attend North Carolina State University, and I intend to study conservation biology and minor in music. My favorite composers are Bela Bartok, Erik Satie, Dvorak, and Debussy.

Nicole Dunkak: I have been at DUSS since the beginning of 7th grade, and have participated on three different instruments! The hardest part about learning my instrument was not mixing up different clefs, as well as fixing technique mistakes that I've had since I started playing and weren't corrected fast enough. If this is what you love, then keep at it and take every opportunity you can get! Learn to play in all different settings, and be friends with other orchestra kids, it'll make rehearsals even more fun.

Matthew Henderson: I've been part of DUSS for thirteen years. My favorite piece is Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto #2 and I also like Ravel. What was most difficult for the piano, especially after switching from eleven years of violin, was the need to gain much more limb independence. In my experience, there's not a quick and easy way to get used to doing two separate things at once with your hands. It's just something you have to hammer out through repetitive practice. My advice for younger students is to figure out what you want to do with your instrument, (is it a hobby, is it something you want to make a career out of, etc.), set appropriate goals that will help you reach that level, and most importantly, stick to those goals.

Jack Moffet: My favorite piece would probably be the Mendelssohn Reformation—finally have the bass section has something to do! The hardest part about learning bass (for me) was learning to care about technique. I learned bass to play jazz, so I quickly threw away much of my care for finger position, and just wanted to have fun. When I joined DUSS I started to play more stimulating and challenging music. I found my lack of sturdy technique was a problem, and I had to teach myself to lose my bad habits. Practice your part!!! Nothing will impress your director more than acing the only cool fast part the bass section gets all year.

Iris Newlin: My favorite composer is J. S. Bach. The hardest part about learning the violin was relaxing. My advice to upcoming people: at the concerts remember you've come here to play music! Everyone else has come to play music too! So don't get annoyed that you have to watch two other performances you aren't in. Relax and enjoy the amazing music we get to play for each other.

Catherine Aiden Rooney: Tonight is the last DUSS concert for YSO violist, Catherine Aiden Rooney. Aiden began studying violin with Karen Moorman and Jennifer Taylor and started playing with DUSS in 2011, in what was then the Intermediate I Orchestra. In 2015, she began learning viola under Joey O'Donnell and now plays viola and violin under the direction of Rob Rempher. For 3 of the past 4 summers, she volunteered for Kidznotes Summer Camp; and, over the last year, she has been selected for and participated in NC Governor's School and the NC Regional and State Orchestras (for viola). Aiden is graduating from Durham School of the Arts this June and plans to attend Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, where she will study Marine Science and continue playing viola on scholarship. DUSS has been one of the most important influences in Aiden's youth. THANK YOU!!!

Ashwin Sridhar: The hardest part about learning the violin was learning vibrato, that's the one concept that took me the longest (2 years). Keep practicing and use your music ability in areas other than the violin too, it pays off a lot.

Peter Sumner: I've been at DUSS for 5 years, and in YS for 4 years. The hardest part about learning the cello for me has been changing how my body feels around the instrument to try to make playing as relaxed and comfortable as possible. My advice to younger students: play the music that inspires you. If you love pop, play pop. If you love jazz, play jazz. Classical chops are super important, but also branch out and see what other possibilities there are on your instrument.

Neha Vangipurapu: I'll be at either Johns Hopkins and Peabody Conservatory next year or Northwestern University—either way pursuing a dual degree in violin performance and political science. I've been at DUSS for 3 years now. My favorite composer is either Shostakovich or Tchaikovsky.



Photo by Linnan Tang

INSTRUMENT SALES

Violin for sale: $\frac{3}{4}$ violin, E. R. Pfretzschner, 1971, West Germany, \$200; with bow \$250, excellent condition, contact Sheila Patek snp2@duke.edu

Viola for Sale: Beautiful 16" Roman Teller viola (Model MA/IA 1977) in great condition with wonderful sound. \$3900. Pictures and recording at bit.ly/violart Contact David: david@walder.org; 303-579-7750.

Two violins and a cello for sale:

Great condition 1/2 Eastman violin with case and bow (circa 2000). \$325 OBO.

Vintage Juzek with case and bow. Needs some work and e-string. Will come with case and bow. \$200 OBO.

1969 (Scherl & Roth) 1/4 cello. Will come with case and bow. Good condition. \$300 OBO.

Interested buyers may contact Wanda Crowder via email: teamcrowder@centurylink.net

Duke University String School Summer Camp

For students age 7-18, our camp offers 6 days of:
large ensembles, chamber music groups, music theory, outdoor activities, and a final concert.

Violin and Cello Choirs: for students Suzuki Book 1 – 3 level

Summer Chamber Orchestra: for intermediate to advanced students

9 am – 3 pm, \$435 Early Bird Rate

Special Classes:

- Viola for Violinists – viola included for the week
After Camp Care from 3-5pm is available.

July 22-27, 2019

@ ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DURHAM

<http://stringschool.duke.edu/summer-camp>

Questions? Please contact DUSS Staff Assistant Katharine Whitmore: katharine.whitmore@duke.edu



DUSS CLASS OF 2019

