

Letter from the Director

May 5, 2018

Dear DUSS Families and Friends,

The Duke University String School is officially 50 years young! During our anniversary year, DUSS students have participated in 4,000 lessons, 200 supplemental group classes for our violin and cello choirs, 200 chamber coachings, 28 theory classes, 3 orchestra concerts, 4 master classes, 3 workshops, and more. I am grateful to our teachers who taught and conducted all of these wonderful rehearsals, classes, and performances; to ensemble and staff assistants for behind-the-scenes work, to parents who coordinated carpool schedules; to Duke administrators for their support.

I also want to thank the generous folks who donated to the Dorothy Kitchen Scholarship fund to help us reach for our goal of raising \$10,000 for families who need financial assistance in order to participate in excellent music education. Between our 50/50 Fundraiser, Faculty Benefit Concert, and individual donations, we have raised half of our goal for a total of \$4,900.

This year held so many wonderful moments, starting with our 50th Anniversary Celebration concerts in November where all of our students performed Dorothy Kitchen's Orange Blossom Special together on stage. Our solo recitals took place in December and March, in which students performed on stage one at a time to show off the fruits of their hard work. One of my favorite moments was during a recent improv workshop with soloist Jennifer Curtis. Several teachers and about 20 students jammed to music created entirely from the students' creativity. Our minds and ears were opened to all the artistic possibilities we have within us.

Next year will bring several exciting opportunities including a new initiative: The DUSS Ciompi Quartet Collaborative. This will be an advanced chamber music program in which the quartet in residence at Duke will team-teach several of

our chamber groups. Also, our students are invited to participate in a special workshop with the *East Carolina University Next Generation Project* presented by DUSS and the *Four Seasons*. Additional improv sessions, a bluegrass workshop, and solo and chamber master classes will fill out the year. It will be an exciting year!

We are sad to say goodbye to 2 wonderful violin teachers: Jasmine Campbell and Andy Bonner. Ms. Campbell will be caring for her newborn twins and two older children. We extend to Ms. Campbell our gratitude for the past year and

best wishes for sleep! Mr. Bonner will be working as a web developer with BLDG-25, a design startup. Mr. Bonner has been a part of DUSS for 30 years! First starting as a student of Mrs. Kitchen in 1988, then joined the faculty in 2003. We will miss them both!

I believe that children from all backgrounds with the desire to play music should have the opportunity to have an excellent music

education. This is why I started the Dorothy Kitchen Scholarship Fund: to formally open our doors to children who might not otherwise be able to participate. Please consider donating to this fund so we can give more families this opportunity! Consider writing a check or donating online to the DUSS Dorothy Kitchen Scholarship Fund for \$5, \$50, or \$500 and help us reach our goal of \$10,000 for next year's students. *Every* tax-deductible dollar counts towards a lesson or an ensemble fee and can make a huge difference in a child's life: <http://stringschool.duke.edu/support>. Sincerely,

Erica A. Shirts

Erica Shirts
 Director, Duke University String School



FIDDLING AROUND!

Joshua Forbes, who plays viola with ISO, has been accepted into the music program of the University of NC School of the Arts as a 11th grader. We are very excited and thankful for the opportunity DUSS provides.



Caroline Branam, a senior at Orange High School, will be attending NC State in their Scholars Program. She will be studying Marine Sciences with a minor in Music and will audition for the orchestra. Caroline has been playing in her father's rock band, The Maxwell 90, recently. They play mostly 80's rock, like REM, The Police, Foo Fighters, etc. and sometimes she composes her own parts. They will be playing at the Durham Moog Fest May 17-20th.

Elena Schulmeister-Antona has been accepted to UNC School of the Arts in Winston Salem. She is looking forward to start her junior year as part of Kevin Lawrence's violin studio in the fall of 2018. She has been a member of DUSS orchestras and groups for over 10 years, starting from Beginner 1, all the way to Youth Symphony.

Tim Rinehart, who plays double bass in YSO and is a sophomore at Chapel Hill High School, is looking forward to travelling to New York City to participate in the 2018 Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC) Essentially Ellington Competition as bassist for the Triangle Youth Jazz Ensemble (TYJE). TYJE is among 15 finalist student big bands selected through a rigorous screening process from among 109 applicant bands from across the country. On May 10, the finalist bands will arrive in NYC to spend three days immersed in workshops, jam sessions, rehearsals and performances at JALC. On May 12, the Competition & Festival will conclude with a concert and awards ceremony featuring the three top-placing bands and the JALC with Wynton Marsalis.

Tim will attend the Eastern Music Festival and the UNC Summer Jazz Camp, as well as compete in several area Rubik's Cube speed competitions this summer.

In February, **Lucas Mock** participated in the NCMEA Eastern Regional Orchestra clinic and concert. Lucas also competed in the NC State Science Olympiad Competition in April, where he received a sixth place medal in Astronomy. He is looking forward to playing in the symphony orchestra in college next year.

Nick Woodrum (8th grade) participated in the Final Round of the Peter Perret Concerto Competition in the Senior Division in Winston-Salem this past December. He also performed in the NC Bach Festival Annual Youth Concert this past February winning one of the Young Artists awards, and subsequently played on the NCBF Young Artist Awards Recipients Concert in Charlotte. Nick auditioned for and was accepted to perform in the ECU Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival's Next Generation initiative in Greensboro in October, and was invited back by special invitation to participate in Durham this March. He performed with small chamber groups at five different assisted living centers and at the Hillsborough Candlelight Tour this year. He will attend the four-week Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival in Stowe, VT for a second summer, and will also attend the DUSS summer camp in August.





Sydney Urmston, Youth Symphony cellist, will attend the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival this summer in Vermont. Sydney will also be attending the UNC School of the Arts School of Music Fall 2018 as a high school sophomore.

Rohan Deshpande, a senior at East Chapel Hill High School, had the honor to represent NC at the Research Science Institute (RSI). RSI is one of the most prestigious and competitive international summer research programs in the US for high school students. Rohan was also recognized as a #RegeneronSTS scholar. The Regeneron Science Talent Search is the nation's most prestigious pre-college science competition. He will also represent NC, for the third time, at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in May.

Nora Foureman will be attending the NC Governor's School this summer for orchestral music. She is also now a member of UNC's Symphony Orchestra.

This spring, **Iris Newlin** (ISO) received the Ailyn Maldonado Scholarship award from the Riverside High School Strings department. She was chosen to use this award to help pay for longer lesson time with DUSS.

James Larkins will be attending UNC Chapel Hill next year for a double major in music composition and chemistry as a Kenan Music Scholar.

Alexander Berghausen, piano, and Enoch Kuan, violin, will have their Senior Recital on Thursday, May 24, at 7:00pm in Nelson Music Room.

Zoe Jones completed her first year of violin this year and also earned her high white belt in Taekwondo. She will be attending YMCA Meadowmont this summer and then spending a month in Costa Rica attending Escuela La Amelia.

Ella Rosselli, Violin Choir II, 4th grade, violin student of Ms. Jasmine Campbell, competed in the Durham Public Schools Science Olympiad and brought home two 1st place medals for her school, Pearsontown Elementary. Her JV teammates brought home the overall 1st place trophy for their school.

Nicole Dunkak will be attending the NYU Summer Strings Program for Viola.

Ganeesh Varadarajan, a first violin in YS, a sophomore at Raleigh Charter High School and student of Shelley Livingston, has been selected to attend the NC Governor's School this summer for the music program. He also received second place in the American Protégé – International music talent competition and played at the winners recital at Carnegie Hall this April.

Albert Huang participated in the 19th Annual String Competition by the Music Academy of NC and won second place in the Grade 4 and Under group.

Marieli Martinez plans to attend music camps with KidZNotes and at Duke this summer.

Lauren Burris, violin in CSO and DSA Chamber Orchestra, received Honorable Mention at Federation. This summer she will be working as a summer camp counselor at SAS.

Amy Westerhoff, YS percussionist, will be attending Duke Kunshan University in China next year, where she plans on majoring in biology. She plans on joining the UNC Symphony Orchestra and The Marching Tar Heels.

Sharayu Gugnani received the Green Hope High School Outstanding Freshman award. She will attend Kinhaven music camp in Vermont this summer.



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
Jacob Anspach	Will attend UNC Chapel Hill to study Peace, War and Defense
Alexander Berghausen	Will attend Washington University
Caroline Branan	Will attend NC State to study Marine Sciences, minor in Music
Euna Cho	Will attend Duke to study Neuroscience and Global Health
Cailin Clarke	Will attend Appalachian State University to study Music Education
Rohan Deshpande	Will attend Stanford University
Shelby Elder	Will attend Harvard College to study Chemical/Physical Biology and Math
Shruthi Gopalan	Will attend UNC Chapel Hill University
James Larkins	Will attend UNC Chapel Hill to study Music Composition and Chemistry
Lucas Mock	Will attend Emory University
Aum Senthatti	Will attend the Stern School of Business at NYU to study Finance
Amy Westerhoff	Will attend Duke Kunshan University in China
Nathan Xiao	Will attend NC State University

How long have they been with DUSS?

7 years; Rohan Deshpande, Nathan Xiao
6 years; Jacob Anspach, Cailin Clarke, Lucas Mock
5 years; Alexander Berghausen, Shruthi Gopalan
4 years; Caroline Branan
3 years; Euna Cho, Aum Senthatti
2 years; Shelby Elder, James Larkins, Michael Lee, Amy Westerhoff

Duke University String School Summer Camp

For students age 6-18, 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:

- Individual seminar to find your perfect chin rest and shoulder rest set-up
 - Viola for Violinists – viola included for the week
- After Camp Care from 3-5pm is available.

July 30-August 4, 2018

@ ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DURHAM

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

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

Departing Seniors Have A Final Word

Cailin Clark: My favorite composer by far is Bach. I adore baroque music and all of its rules and intensities. However, my favorite piece to perform has been Capriccio Espagnol because of the way it captures Spanish spirit. To any young musician I would advise to enjoy what you do. Practice meticulously and think about what you're doing. Do your best to relate it to the rest of your life, and find something to play that makes you think about its context.

Rohan Deshpande: My favorite composers are Tchaikovsky and Herbie Hancock (Jazz). Playing music has taught me about perseverance and determination -- two extremely important skills that I will need for the future as I continue to reach for my goals.

Jacob Anspach: My favorite piece to play, easily, is the first movement of Kummer's 3 Cello Duets, Op.22. As far as my favorite composer, I'm a big fan of Bernstein. I'd advise young musicians to be ambitious, but not too ambitious too quickly. Get the basics down, learn techniques at a steady pace, and you'll master the instrument quickly enough.

Nathan Xiao: Benjamin Britten's Lachrymae Op.48 is by far my favorite piece to play (and listen to). I value the process of playing and learning music as most important. Like Plato, I too believe that music "is a more potent instrument than any other for education."

Caroline Branan: I value the feeling that comes right after finishing a piece. After all the playing and concentrating, there's a rush of adrenaline and relief, knowing I played the piece to the best of my ability. I've always liked playing contrasting composers, such as Beethoven and Josef Suk, since they brought both soft, sweet parts and loud, staccato parts. Transitioning from one setting to the next is a complicated, yet fun thing to do.

Euna Cho: I have enjoyed hearing the harmony produced by students at DUSS. It was a precious moment in which individual efforts created pleasant euphony. I tell young students that finding your favorite genre will increase your interest in music and consequently become your motivation to improve yourself.

Lucas Mock: I value being able to create emotion through pure music and it provides a unique transcendental quality to music that isn't really found elsewhere in the arts. My favorite composers are Prokofiev, Shostakovich and Copland. I am also a fan of Kabalevsky's 2nd Symphony, Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique, Bernstein's Candide Overture, Marquez's Danzon No. 2, Tchaikovsky's Symphony 6 and several works. My advice to young musicians is don't give up. I almost did.

Aum Senthatti: I value the rewards that both music and playing violin gives you: a way to express your emotions. I would tell young musicians to love the music that they play, every single note. That is the only way to truly bring out the innate beauty of each note and to play the music how it was meant to be played. My favorite pieces are Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings and the Bach Chaconne. I feel that the musical artistry of these two pieces is virtually unparalleled.



INSTRUMENT SALES

Piano Sales: Support Duke String School by buying your next new, used, or digital piano at Ruggero Piano, the Triangle's only authorized Yamaha, Bosendorfer, Schimmel, Estonia, Knabe and Clavinova acoustic and digital piano dealer and North Carolina's most complete piano showroom and service center since 1958. Offering an educational approach to piano selection and service.

Present this program or mention the Duke String School to receive preferred pricing and offers. A portion of each sale will be donated to the Duke String School to help under-resourced students participate in orchestra and chamber music ensembles. Offer valid through June 30, 2018.

Call [919-839-2040](tel:919-839-2040) or email ruggeropianoservice@gmail.com to set up an appointment. Ruggero Piano is located at 4720-120 Hargrove Road, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27616 and open Monday-Saturday 9:30AM-5:30PM.

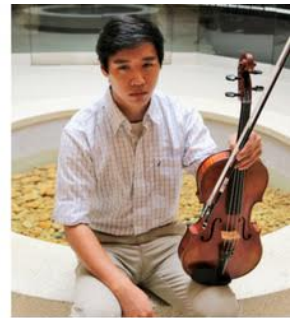
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Viola for Sale: Beautiful 16" Roman Teller viola in great condition with wonderful sound. \$5200.

Email david@walder.org for more information and photos. Listen to video at www.studiosozo.com/viola and call David at 303-579-7750.

For Sale: 1/4 and 1/8 size violins, \$225 each for full outfit

We purchased these violins (1/4 and 1/8 size) from the late Scott Jackson, a well-known luthier from Gainesville, Florida. Both violins produce remarkably good sound for their size. Each comes with two bows and case, and the current set of Dominant strings. These violins served us very well, and we would like to pass them on to a good home! We're asking \$225 each (or best offer). Contact Katherine Henderson at kkhenderson@gmail.com.



DUSS

SENIORS

