

**From:** Duke University String School Katharine.whitmore@duke.edu  
**Subject:** The 2022 DUSS Spring Newsletter is here  
**Date:** May 6, 2022 at 3:16 PM  
**To:** erica.shirts@duke.edu

---



## Letter from the Director

I think we all deserve a big pat on the back for making it through another challenging year as educators, parents, students, and community members. This has been a bit of an odd, hybrid year as we have navigated the new landscape of living with Covid-19 while maximizing growth and minimizing health risks. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we have also had to deal with the implementation of structural changes and policy requirements mid-year set by Duke and the Duke University Protections Office.

While difficult in some ways, it has been so wonderful to have ensembles face-to-face, and to be able to shift lessons back in-person. Our ensembles are sounding great, our teachers are amazing, and our students continue to progress on their instruments. The future of music in the Triangle is bright.

On a personal note, we welcomed a new addition to our family: baby Rhea Adele Shirts Frost, born on January 30, 2022. While I have not been teaching this semester, Rhea has kept me company day and night while I have continued to manage the ins and outs of DUSS. We are very grateful to have her join her brother Jesse (age 4.5) in our family, and look forward to both of them joining DUSS ensembles in the near future.



We have a great group of seniors who are off to accomplish wonderful things. Each senior 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 heading.

We wish you all a wonderful summer full of rejuvenation and renewal!

- Erica Shirts

## Make a Donation

*A \$25, \$50, or \$100 donation to the Dorothy Kitchen Scholarship Fund today helps us continue offer scholarship assistance, which in turn helps us keep our tuition comparatively low while paying our teachers a living wage.*

---

## Important 2022-2023 Dates

8/27 & 8/28 Auditions (Orientation 8/27 @2pm)  
10/22 @ 1pm, Concerto Competition  
11/05 @ 4pm, Violin/Cello Choir Concert  
11/6 @ 6:30 Fall Baldwin Orchestra Concert  
11/29 Solo recitals (dress rehearsals 11/12)  
12/14 @ 7pm Chamber Music Concert  
2/4 @ 4pm Faculty Recital  
2/18 @ 4pm, Violin/Cello Choir Concert  
2/19 @ 6:30pm Spring Baldwin Orchestra, featuring Concerto Competition winners  
3/11 or 3/18 Solo recitals  
4/22 @ 4pm Violin/Cello Choir Concert  
4/26 @ 7pm Chamber Music Concert  
4/30 @ 6:30 Final Baldwin Orchestra Concert

## DUSS Summer Camp

**July 25-30, 2022**

**@ ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DURHAM**

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

After Camp Care from 3-5pm is available.

**APPLY NOW!**



**Congratulations Class of 2022!**

Best wishes to our senior students leaving DUSS for the next stage in their careers!  
hope they will send news of their adventures for future editions of our newsletter!  
Here are their education plans for Fall 2022!



**Senior**

**Charlotte Aspinwall** (violin)

**Sam Bartlett** (violin)

**Abigail Benzinger** (viola)

**Julia Lindsey Boltz** (violin)

**Benjamin Burch** (bass)

**Julien Thomas Cox** (bass)

**Jenny Cui** (violin)

**Gregory DeMarco** (bass)

**Ava Downs** (cello)

**Ben Esther** (bass)

**Fall 2022**

Cornell University

UNC Chapel Hill or Emory University

UNC Chapel Hill – viola performance, pre-veterinary science

UNC Chapel Hill – biology, computer science

UNC Chapel Hill – possible music minor

UNC Chapel Hill

Boston University – chemistry, music performance

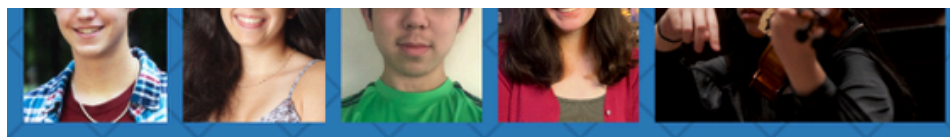
Durham Tech

UNC School of the Arts

Washington University in St. Louis

<b>Raeva Johnson</b> (cello, guitar)	UC Davis – horticulture, music performance
<b>Seungha (Dana) Lee</b> (viola)	UNC Chapel Hill
<b>Jakob Maiwald</b> (cello)	Haverford College – biochemistry
<b>Isaac Mathias</b> (violin)	University of Rochester – possible music minor
<b>AnnaSofia Migaly</b> (violin)	Northwestern University
<b>George Nielsen</b> (cello)	UNC Chapel Hill – double major with music
<b>Katherine Panebianco</b> (clarinet)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology – physics, math
<b>Amelia Posner-Hess</b> (violin)	Eastman School of Music
<b>Kipkorir Alvin Sirma</b> (violin)	Appalachian State University
<b>Katherine Soong</b> (viola)	UNC Chapel Hill
<b>Perry Tseng</b> (violin)	UNC Chapel Hill – biomedical engineering
<b>Grace Waggener</b> (violin)	Texas Baptist College – music performance
<b>Kelly Wang</b> (violin)	Duke University
<b>Gerui Zhang</b> (violin)	U.S. Military Academy at West Point – international affairs
<b>Jeffrey Zhu</b> (violin)	UNC Chapel Hill





## Seniors Reflect on the Value of Playing Music

**Charlotte Aspinwall:** Music has been a way to escape from the stresses of life. No matter what comes on in my life, I have always had the joy of playing in an orchestra and learning a new solo piece to distract myself.

**Sam Bartlett:** The most rewarding part of playing violin is learning the notes to a difficult piece. A lot of practice and learning it well enough to play musically and make it your own.

**Abigail Benzinger:** Making music with my friends gives us a deeper level of connection than we have just by talking, and I think that creating and sharing music together is magical.

**Benjamin Burch:** I value sharing my passion with others when I perform.

**Julien Thomas Cox:** I value the simple experience of hearing a beautiful harmony played by a lot of people all together. There is nothing more gratifying than hearing beautiful sounds made by a group of people.

**Jenny Cui:** I value playing music for the connections I can form with people just by having a common interest.

**Gregory DeMarco:** I value playing with other people who care about music as much as I do and put time and effort into trying to be better in their own work with me as well as make some great music together.

**Ava Downs:** I value the meaningful connections you make with the musicians around you.

**Raeva Johnson:** I value the intensity of playing music and the dedication of the musical community. People are kind, encouraging, and care about their craft.

**Seungha (Dana) Lee:** I love playing with other musicians. It brings me immense joy to make great music with others...because of the connection I feel with the other musicians in our shared passion and love of music.

**Jakob Maiwald:** I enjoy coming together in a group to create music and challenging myself to learn difficult repertoire.

unique repertoire.

**Isaac Mathias:** I love being able to listen to music as I play it, and I often try to interpret what the music means or what its significance was to the composer.

**AnnaSofia Migaly:** The feeling of playing in an orchestra that's completely in sync and in the zone is amazing. I value being a part of something that feels so much bigger than myself.

**George Nielsen:** Music helps me focus on the present moment more than anything else. There are many things that bring your focus to the moment in this way while also adding so much enrichment and beauty.

**Katherine Panebianco:** I love the feeling of being surrounded by sound because it makes me feel like though I'm a part of something important/bigger than just myself.

**Amelia Posner-Hess:** Music helps us to understand the complicated and messy world we live in while also giving us an escape from reality when we need it.

**Grace Waggener:** I value the way music allows us to express the inexpressible. I also love the sense of connection music can create between people and the sense of longing or *sehnsucht* it awakens in moments.

**Kelly Wang:** I enjoy being able to play in large ensembles and the feeling of creating music with people. I've been able to meet many of my friends and have a lot of special memories with them through music.

**Gerui Zhang:** I value having a hobby that can calm you and turn to when you're down to play something beautiful and improve your mindset and attitude.

---

## DUSS Personnel Updates

We are very pleased to announce that **Professor Harry Davidson** will be continuing as the Conductor and now Music Director of the Youth Symphony in Fall 2022. Our flagship orchestra continues to sound wonderful under his baton, and we formally welcome Professor Davidson to the DUSS Team!

**Lisa Mae Lewis** joined the violin and viola faculty this spring, teaching Erica Shuman's studio during her partial maternity leave. She looks forward to welcoming students to her own studio starting in June.

her own studio starting in June.

While it has taken much longer than originally planned to bring [Isoa Chapman](#) to our faculty due to issues beyond our control, we are very hopeful to be able to officially welcome Dr. Chapman on board this summer.

---

---

## News from Current & Alum DUSS Families

**Collin Overby** was accepted into NC Governors School for instrumental music-c this summer.

**Annie Brooks** (Class of 2020) is a winner of the 2022 Concerto Competition at Hillsdale College. She will perform "Harold in Italy" by Berlioz with the Hillsdale College Orchestra on May 6, 2022. Annie is a music major - studying viola, piano, and o and singing in the Chapel Choir.

Seeking opportunities to share their music, the Woods Charter School Chamber Club performed at Chatham Ridge Assisted Living Center in February. The club, founded and led by **Taylor Young**, is currently comprised of two violinists and a pianist and has played works by Dmitri Shostakovich and Ettore Pozzoli. The group plans to play at Galloway Ridge at Fearrington Village soon. Taylor also teaches to two elementary school students after school each week.

**Ella Rosselli**, CSO Violin, 13 will be attending Interlochen this summer for 3 weeks. As an 8th grader at Rogers Herr Middle School, she was accepted into All-County Orchestra (Durham) and will be representing her school as concertmistress during their performance end of April. She will be attending Durham School of the Arts as a freshman, fall of 2022.

**Nanami** has been offered a seat at Weaver Academy High School, a performing visual arts option magnet high school in Guilford County.

**Grace Waggener** wrote this tanka, "As Glaciers Thaw...", inspired by Peter Askin's piece of the same name which the YS performed in February:

Dawn shimmers on ice  
Slowly, marble mountains melt  
As the white sun climbs  
Majestic motion, ice-sheets



Shifting—sunlight sinks, all's still

**Perry Tseng** earned a gold certification at the spring 2022 Carowinds performance competition.

**Susan Tseng** 1st violin in the Eastern Regional Orchestra.

---

## Honoring Sam Hammond

We have missed Mr. Hammond so much this year, and we look forward to honoring Sam during our spring 2023 concert weekend. See this note from his wife, Marie

The Rev. John Hammond, son of Marie and Sam, played a carillon recital at DuSable Chapel at 5:00 pm on Sunday, May 1. John learned at his father's knee and qualified as a carillonneur member of the Guild of Carillonneurs while still a teenager. He studied violin with Dorothy Kitchen and played in DUSO orchestras from age 5 through high school. This performance is one of a series of "J. Samuel Hammond carillon recitals," all of which are free and open to the public.

We will keep you informed of future concerts like these!

## For Sale



---

### 16 inch Viola

By American Maker Robert Clemens

Bearing the maker's original label, "F. Clemens fecit Saint Louis, Anno 2016," this viola is modeled after Da Salò. The top is one piece spruce showing wide grain throughout. The back is one piece slotted maple showing wide, handsome figure throughout.

The viola is in excellent condition and has a fair value of \$19,000 on today's market. Comparable offers will be considered, especially if buyer has another viola to trade as partial trade. The seller is hoping it will be appreciated (and played on a daily basis) by someone pursuing a professional career.

Serious inquiries may contact





GabrielaPotter92@gmail.com to set  
appointment time in Durham

---

**Nice 1/2 size violin with a good case**

Please feel free to have someone look at it and give you feedback  
on what would be a fair price. I live in Old West Durham, near  
Duke.

Call for more information:

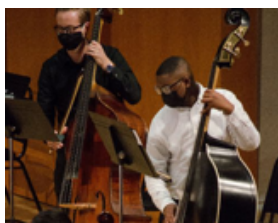
Cathy 919 906-5268

(It is probably best to send a quick text first, so I will know to  
answer your call.)



---

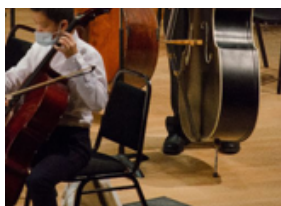
## 2021-2022 Photos



Violin Choir 2 students performing



YS students performing



Dr. Hobin and Kidznotes Pipeline Student Jermiah performing with ISO

Student quartet rehearsing a Quartet written by DUSS Alum, Matthew Erickson



DUSS violinist Olivia performing with the CSO



Copyright © "Duke University String School 2020", All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

