

Duke University String School

Celebrating 48 Years

December 7, 2014

Interim Director's Letter

Dear Students, Parents, Teachers and Friends,

During this busy holiday season let us all pause to be grateful for our DUSS family, a unique and supportive community of students, parents, teachers and the Duke University Music Department working together to bring the joy of music into so many lives.

Today's concert is an exciting showcase of the stages of our students' progress. The joy and pride reflected in beginners' faces as little fingers play beloved songs of the seasons foreshadow the pride and satisfaction of accomplishment seen in the faces of Youth Symphony members as they conclude this evening's concert with Beethoven's Symphony No. 1.

As always, we will have our annual holiday program on December 13th at Brightleaf Square. We hope you will share in the festivities. All ages and levels celebrate together. For me it is one of the highlights of the year. On December 14th we will hold a concerto competition to select Youth Symphony soloists for our March concert. Our new semester begins on January 10th. In February we will hold a second concerto competition. This time, it will be for both Intermediate 2 and the Youth Symphony members. Those chosen will be soloists for our April concert.

I am truly enjoying serving as Interim Director. and look forward to working with everyone in 2015. Have a peaceful and enjoyable holiday season filled with joy, music and love.

Ms. Swisher



It's open to interpretation, but I think the composer meant for the cowbell to be played **without** the cow!

CONCERT DATES
2014-2015

MARCH 8 (Sunday)
APRIL 25

ALL CONCERTS ARE IN BALDWIN
AUDITORIUM

FIDDLING AROUND

Tecelia Tannous-Taylor and Grace Kirkpatrick (along with 15 other members of the Durham School of the Arts Chamber Ensemble) sang backup vocals for Susan Boyle at her recent DPAC Concert. Grace also participated in the 2014 NC Honors Chorus and will be singing a selection from "Amahl and the Night Visitors" at a fundraiser for the Durham Music Teachers Association in December.

A string quartet of **Federico Morris, Ella Han, Samuel Henderson, and Julia Ilana** played the first movement of the Ravel String Quartet for the NC Symphony Ovations concert on October 25. Federico also played the Adagio from the g minor Solo violin sonata by J. S. Bach and Julia played the Sarabande from the second Bach solo suite for cello.

Enoch Kuan has been accepted into the American High School Honors Orchestra which will play at Carnegie Hall in February, 2015.

Students of Dorothy Kitchen had a recent solo recital with **Bo Chi, Yichen Sun and Yikuan Sun, Joosung Lim, Christopher Kitchen, Edithe Lam, Vivian Zhou, Izabelle Querubin, Isabelle Bachman, Albert Yuan, Neo Zhu, Sean Albertson, and Ellen Yu.**

January 10 a piano quintet composed of **Robert Herhold, Nathan Bernacki, Samuel Henderson, Ella Han, and Violet Huang** will present the Dvorak piano Quintet for the NC Symphony Ovations. Movements 1 and 2 are anticipated.

Jerome Bermudez, Joshua Bermudez, James Duan, Jason Duan, Rebecca Guo, Olivia Henry, Victoria Henry, Zachary McCarthy, Henry McLaughlin, Gabriella Rosselli, Joel Tapper, and Gerui Zhang, students of Ms. Long, gave a wonderful recital in Bone Hall on November 15.

Tim Rinehart (bass, Intermediate I) will perform with the Durham Jazz Workshop Jazz Septet at the Second Annual Chapel Hill Music Teachers Association (CHMTA) Playathon at Southpoint Mall on December 14. Directed by alto saxophonist Taylor Savage, the group played four horn arrangements of tunes by Oliver Nelson, Wayne Shorter and Charlie Parker. Tim's dad, **Bill Rinehart,** helped arrange two of the pieces for the unique instrumentation of the group, alto saxophone, two tenor saxophones and baritone saxophone, plus rhythm section.

Theresa Webber, a student of Shelley Livingston who is not able to be in a Duke String School orchestra this year recently participated in the North Carolina Honors Orchestra festival weekend in Winston-Salem at the UNC School for the Arts.

Aubrey Hampton will be playing her cello along with **Eliza Stewart (violin) and Olivia Morse (violin)** in a quartet that will perform A Messiah Medley at both a private recital and in a church musical presentation. She will also play 2 piano solos at a Christmas piano recital.

Nina Bütthe (violin) played Bach's Menuet in G major (BWV 822) at the talent show of the Triangle Day School in October, accompanied on the cello by her father.

Sarah Smoak performed the Dragonetti Concerto in A Major in October and also participated in the North Carolina Honors Orchestra in Winston-Salem.

Jay Iyer from NCSSM played 1st Violin in the NCMEA Honors Orchestra that was held Nov 7 to 9.

Davi Sapiro-Gheiler won the Raleigh Area Flute Association (RAFA) 2014 Review and Contest (Division 4) and was invited to play at the Flute Fair held November 15, 2015.

Lindsey Stephens who plays violin in the DUSS Youth Symphony recently received 1st place at the NC State Fair for a fiddle tune Millionaire's Hoedown. She also received the Curtis Lee trophy award that's given out each year for an outstanding musical performance at the fair.

In the NCMTA Junior Strings Division two of our Youth Symphony members came out winners: **Spenser Adler,** cellist was winner, and **Sheridan Kum,** violinist (student of Mrs. Kitchen) was named Alternate. This is a state wide level of a national competition.

PROGRAM NOTES

String Quartet in F major, Allegro Moderato, tres doux by Maurice Ravel. Ravel completed his string quartet in 1903 at the age of 28. It was his final submission to the Prix de Rome and the Conservatoire de Paris and was rejected by both institutions. Fortunately for Ravel, a sympathetic public rallied behind his compositions and musical style and his career moved forward.

Intermediate 2 Orchestra

Divertimento is a musical genre, with most of its examples from the 18th century. The mood of the divertimento is most often lighthearted (as a result of being played at social functions) and it is generally composed for a small ensemble. Divertimento is used to describe a wide variety of secular instrumental works for soloist or chamber ensemble. It is a kind of music entertainment although it could also be applied to serious genres. After 1780, the term generally designated works that were informal or light. Tonight's piece is the **Divertimento in D major** K136 by W.A.Mozart.

The Abdelazer Suite is incidental music by Henry Purcell for a revival of *The Moor's Revenge*, a 1676 play by Aphra Behn. The rondeau was used by Benjamin Britten as the theme for his set of variations *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* (1946). It was also used as the theme of the television series *The First Churchills* (1969), as the intro song for Intellivision video game *Thunder Castle* (1986) and may be heard as dancing music at the Netherfield ball in the 2005 production of *Pride and Prejudice*.

Youth Symphony

Symphonic Sketches was composed by George Whitefield Chadwick from about 1895 to 1904. Each of the four movements is inspired by a scene depiction, much like snapshots in an album, drawings, or vignettes. These are specified in the text as follows:

Jubilee

*No cool gray tones for me
Give me the warmest red and green,
A cornet and a tambourine,
To paint my Jubilee!
For when pale flutes and oboes play,
To sadness I become a prey;
Give me the violets and the May,
But no gray skies for me.*

Noel

*Through the soft, calm moonlight comes a sound;
A mother lulls her babe, and all around
The gentle snow lies glistening;
On such a night the Virgin Mother mild
In dreamless slumber wrapped the Holy Child,
While angel-hosts were listening.*

Ludwig van Beethoven's **Symphony No. 1 in C major**, Op. 21, was published in 1801. It is unknown exactly when Beethoven finished writing this work, but sketches of the finale were found from 1795. The symphony is scored for 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets in C, 2 bassoons, 2 horns in C and F, 2 trumpets in C, timpani and strings. The clarinet parts are commonly played on B flat clarinet.

Adapted from Wikipedia

WINTER INSTRUMENT CARE

Cold, dry weather is perfect for polar bears and penguins but fierce for fiddles.

The Winter season can pose some dilemmas for the violin family instruments. The main concerns are extreme cold temperatures and low humidity. Once we start heating our homes and schools the hair on the bow shortens and the softer spruce tops of the instruments will shrink laterally (across the width) at a greater rate than the hard maple back and sides. With a few steps of precaution, many problems can be eliminated entirely, or at least somewhat diminished.

When the humidity drops to the low 30% the instrument tops shrink laterally. The arching height will become lower, bringing the bridge string height nearer to the level of the fingerboard. Some cellos and basses require higher bridges or shims to raise the height if buzzing is a problem. The soundpost will be tighter during winter which will alter the voice. Instruments typically become brighter and edgy with more of a scratchy surface noise with each directional bow change.

As durable as the violin family instruments are, one thing they cannot tolerate is the rapid transition from a frigid mid 30 degree or lower outside temperature to a sudden rush of 68-70 degree heated inside air. Opening the case in this sort of condition can cause a rapid expansion of the top creating length wise cracks before your eyes. Try to arrive at your destination a bit early to let the instrument warm up gradually. Violin sacks, interior case blankets and insulated case covers help maintain the heat in the case as long as possible.

Never place instruments in unheated car trunks.

Adapted from Scott Sleider Fine Violins Inc. and Fiddleheads.ca

CONCERTO COMPETITION

A new foundation named the **Erich-Bergel-Dorothy Kitchen International Violin Competition** is sponsoring a Concerto Competition for 13 to 18 year olds in Heltau, Romania. Mircea Scurtu is the organizer. For more information or to submit a CD to enter, contact Mr. Scurtu at scurtum@gmail.com. Mrs. Kitchen feels very honored at this turn of events.

Dorothy Kitchen needs no introduction. Erich Bergel (1930-1998) was a flutist of the Hermannstädter Philharmoniker age 18. He was appointed principal conductor of the Cluj Philharmonic Orchestra and guest conductor of the Bucharest Philharmonic Orchestra. He defected to Germany, where he was promoted by Herbert von Karajan. He conducted notable orchestras on tours to Paris, Auckland, Los Angeles, Berlin, Vienna and Cape Town. He was also a teacher at the Hochschule der Künste in Berlin. From 1971 to 1974 he was the principal conductor of the Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie in Herford. In 1989 he was appointed principal conductor for life of the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra.

