

Gallucci String Studio news February 2006

Reminders:

Studio fees for February are due starting Wednesday, February 1. Thank you for paying on time.

Special announcement:

Coffeehouse concert date set:

I am pleased to announce that a March Coffeehouse concert has been scheduled for Saturday, March 25 from 2-4pm. A joint venture with Bangor Public Library makes this concert possible. The theme for this concert will be fiddle and original music, although any student may play just about any prepared piece he or she would like. Sign up starts February 1. Recital fee is \$5 per family. The concert will be free.

Spring Recital date set:

Saturday, May 6, 12noon – 2pm, First Baptist Church in Bangor

Many thanks to Reverend Stephanie Salinas and the Salinas family for the use of the church space for our Spring recital. More details as the date approaches.

Make up lessons:

Make up lesson dates and times will be announced as times become available. Please call or e-mail to confirm a time.

Fiddle Club

Fiddle club is gearing up for the coffeehouse concert on Sat., March 25 from 2-4pm. New members are welcome! Club will meet on the following dates:

Friday, February 3, from 7-7:45pm

Friday, February 10 from 7 to 7:45pm.

Friday, March 17, from 7-7:45pm

Friday, March 24 (Dress) from 7-7:45pm

Coffeehouse, Sat., March 25, 2-4pm, Bangor Public Library

Local competitions and auditions:

Arcady's Melba Wilson Youth Competition

Saturday, May 6, Minsky Auditorium

Any age student is eligible to participate in this competition. If you are interested, please see me as soon as possible. Applications are due April 6, 2006

Concert Opportunities:

Mark O'Connor's Hot Swing Trio

Thursday, February 2 at 7:00 pm

You've GOT to hear this guy play . . . Violinist/composer/fiddler Mark O'Connor is widely recognized as one of the most gifted contemporary composers in America and surely one of the brightest talents of his generation. Mark O'Connor's *Hot Swing Trio* is his tribute to his friend and mentor, the great jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli. *Hot Swing Trio* features Jon Burr on bass and Frank Vignola on guitar.

Silver Duo recital

Noreen and Phillip Silver will give their annual recital at Minsky Hall, University of Maine, Orono, on February 4 at 7:30pm. The program, which completes the cycle of Beethoven's sonatas for cello and piano, is as follows:

Beethoven Sonata in D major, Op 102 No 2

Schumann Fantasiestucke;

Violin Recital by Anatole Wieck and friends

Saturday, February 11, 7:30pm

Minsky Hall, Umaine

Join Dr. Wieck for an evening of violin, viola, Viola D'gamba and Viola D'amore short pieces. If you've never seen or heard these baroque period instruments (viola d'gamba and viola d'amore) you should really go and listen. The program is as follows:

Bach, Viola d'gamba and Harpsichord Sonata played on viola and harpsichord

Schumann, Fairytale pictures (Viola)

Glinka, Sonata Ariosti, Sonata for viola d'amore and basso continuo

Paganinni, Caprice # 24 (violin)

Wienawsky, Scherzo Tarantelle (violin)

Dr. Wieck will also play several miniatures written friend, Arcady Levitin

All the pieces are short, the recital will be about one hour.

Joshua Bell in Concert

Tuesday, March 7 at 7:30pm
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, PCA Great Performances is able to offer discounted tickets to the upcoming Joshua Bell concert. Music teachers, their students and escorts, in groups of 5 or more, may purchase tickets for \$20 each directly from PCA. For more information, contact Hilda Taylor, Group Sales Specialist, PCA Great Performances, 207.773.3150 x226, groups@pcagreatperformances.org
Visit PCA on the web at www.pcagreatperformances.org

Fiddlin' 'n dancin'

Fiddlin'

Fiddle Jam at Umaine campus
Every Tuesday, 6pm-8:30pm
FFA Room in the Memorial Union
Now until May 2 . All levels welcome. Contact Larry Corbett at 581-1683 or email at larry.corbett@umit.maine.edu

Local contra dancing

Orono, Keith Anderson Building
2nd Sat. of each month
Optional beginner's session at 7:30 and the dance usually starts around 8:00 and runs until 11:30ish. The Marsh Island Band is the house band.

Hampden, Hampden Grange Hall

4th Sat of each month

The band is Up River Reel. Dancing starts at 7:30 and usually runs until around 11:00ish.

This month's article:

The Bow Grip: Classical vs. Fiddler, a big difference

Attendance at the 2005 Folk Festival as well as the Arcady Fiddle Festival has taught me that there are stylistic grips used in playing the violin. There's the classical bow grip, and the fiddle grip. Students who play both styles of music should make a distinct difference between the two.

Classical bow grip: The classical bow grip has many flavors. There is the Franco-Belgian grip, the German grip, and the Russian grip. The differences usually have to do with the placement of the index finger as it leans on the bow, and the way the rest of the fingers relate to the bow as a result. Overall, however, the classical grip is designed to

produce a solid, powerful sound with maximum control of all areas of the stick. It involves the use of arm weight and a lot of elbow. It is a heavy grip, with all the fingers over the stick, and the pinky sitting on top.

Fiddle grip: The fiddle grip is designed to maximize speed and string crossings, and minimize the effort of the arm and elbow. I learned by trying to play Golden Wedding Reel with the classical bow grip that my arm would soon fall off! Too much effort required!

The fiddle grip is usually high up on the stick (above the winding). This shortens the bow length and downplays the weight of the bow. Most bows weigh about 60 grams. Many fiddlers like to purchase bows weighing around 50 grams.

The index finger and the thumb are what really hold on to the bow. The rest of the fingers may not even touch it, and just hang from the hand, enjoying the ride. The elbow stays low, even when playing on lower strings. The wrist is very active, overly so in comparison to the classical grip. Fiddlers usually play in the middle to upper half of the bow.

Students interested in both fiddling as well as classical music would do well to play each with the appropriate bow grip. Beginning students should stick with the classical grip until the bow hold is well established, before trying the fiddle grip. It is easy to confuse the two, creating a hybrid grip that is really not very good for either style of playing.

-Laura Gallucci

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