

## **Gallucci String Studio news March 2006**

### **Reminders:**

Studio fees for March are due starting Wednesday, March 1.

Add ons:

-If you wish to purchase a music theory book please add \$4 to the studio fee total.

-If your child is participating in the Coffeehouse concert (see details below), please add \$5 to the studio fee total.

Thank you for paying on time.

### **Special announcements:**

#### **Coffeehouse concert Saturday, March 25, 2-4pm Lecture Hall, Bangor Public Library**

A coffeehouse concert is an informal concert during which students will perform original compositions, fiddle music, and just about anything else! Most rehearsing will take place during regularly scheduled lessons. Students who are in Fiddle club, or are practicing the beginning fiddle tunes I have given them, are required to come to the following rehearsals:

#### **Fiddle club only:**

Friday, March 17, 7-8pm

Friday, March 24, 7-8pm (rehearse with guitar)

#### **Beginning Fiddlers:**

Friday, March 24, 7-7:20pm (rehearse in group with guitar)

A tentative program outline, as well as information about dress, etc., for the concert, appears after this month's article . . .

### **Spring Recital date:**

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

More details as the date approaches.

### **Make up lessons:**

Make up lessons are available on the following days and times the week of February 27:

Mon, Feb. 27 from 6:30-7pm

Tues. Feb. 28 from 7:30-8:45pm  
Fri., Mar. 3 from 7pm-8:45pm  
Sat., Mar. 4 from 10am – 12noon  
Please call or e-mail to confirm a time.

### **Summer Camps:**

#### **Summer Music on Central Street (or other such name, TBA)**

##### **Dates and times TBA**

I am planning a half day summer music camp for string students in grades 3-6. It will be one week long (several sessions during the summer). It will be small, no more than 8 students per session. The camp will include group ensemble instruction, music theory, ear training, fiddling, improvisation, and a year subscription to a home practice computer program (training included). I am in the process of choosing dates for the sessions. If you are interested, please let me know. I hope to have brochures completed and available by the Coffeehouse concert.

#### **Kneisel Hall Maine Young Musicians Program**

The Maine Young Musicians Program brings local student musicians to the Kneisel Hall campus to study and play with Kneisel Hall faculty and young artist mentors. The program includes a three-day workshop prior to the opening of the Festival. The program begins June 21 and ends June 24. The deadline for applications is March 18, 2006. For more information and application form, visit [www.kneisel.org](http://www.kneisel.org).

### **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**

#### **Music students / Bangor Public Library patrons attend BSO concerts free . . .**

Music students can contact the Symphony office, provide the name of the music instructor, and receive a ticket to a Bangor Symphony classical concert free of charge. Youth 17 and under can bring their Bangor Public Library cards to a Bangor Symphony classical concert and receive a ticket to attend the performance free of charge. All youth must be accompanied by an adult.

#### **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](mailto:groups@pcagreatperformances.org)  
Visit PCA on the web at [www.pcagreatperformances.org](http://www.pcagreatperformances.org)

**Bangor Symphony presents . . . Taste of the Symphony**

Saturday, March 11, 2006

7:00 p.m., Maine Center for the Arts

Never been to a classical concert? Can't tell Bach from Beethoven? Not certain if you'll like classical music? This concert experience was made for you. Maestro Li will also answer questions during this special dress rehearsal concert. Then meet Maestro Li, guest soloist Christel Lee and the BSO musicians for a special chocolate and champagne reception.

**Bangor Symphony Orchestra, Classical Concert four**

Sunday, March 12, 2006

3 p.m., Maine Center for the Arts

The Bangor Symphony will perform Giacomo Meyerbeer: Le Prophete: Coronation march, Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto, and Berlioz: Symphonie fantastique. Guest Soloist for the Tchaikovsky is violinist Christel Lee (not to be confused with Kristin Lee from a concert earlier this season). Older students would enjoy listening to the Tchaikovsky, as well as the Berlioz piece.

**Brandenburg Concerto #6**

Sunday, March 19, 10am

All Souls Church, Bangor

Brandenburg Concerto #6 written by J.S. Bach is a full length concerto written for viola duet, viola da gamba, cello, bass and keyboard continuo. I have been invited to play the first viola part and Dr. Peter Verlee, another local violist will play the second part. His wife, Dr. Patricia Stowell, will play piano. The piece is really unusual and beautiful and I highly recommend a listen. It will be performed as part of the Sunday morning church service at All Souls Church in Bangor. All are welcome to attend and there is no cost to come and listen.

**Vogler Quartet of Berlin**

Sunday, March 26, 2006

3:00 pm, Minsky Recital Hall

The string quartet is internationally recognized as one of the finest quartets of this generation. They are widely characterized for their extraordinary musical intelligence, highly creative playing, rich nuances and powerful interpretations. They will perform works by Haydn, Berg and Dvorak.

**Ethel (modern string quartet)**

Sunday, April 9, 2006

3:00 pm, Maine Center for the Arts

The interesting thing about Ethel is that I went to school with Todd Reynolds, the first violinist! This is quartet playing of another genre. Expect unusual pieces, sounds, and electric effects. The level of artistry is unquestionable. Ethel has quickly emerged as a powerful musical voice in New York City's ever-evolving concert scene. This Juilliard-trained, all-star foursome has stretched itself far past the limits of convention, genre and style to embrace a music that arises from the context of our time. Their use of amplification takes them outside the polite, carefully balanced sound world of traditional chamber music. They own their music, and when they want it to roar, they roar," and the *New York Times* hails Ethel as "extraordinarily skilled, passionate musicians."

**Fiddlin' 'n dancin'**

**Arcady Fiddle Festival** will PROBABLY be on Sat., April 8 at Hampden Academy. As soon as the date is confirmed I will let you know.

**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](mailto:larry.corbett@umit.maine.edu)

**Local contra dancing**

Orono, Keith Anderson Building

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

4<sup>th</sup> 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 process of learning and the learning of process . . .**

Children are incredibly creative beings. They want to do something different all the time, to have fun, and especially to play. Getting them to do the same thing daily or even several times a week is difficult, because it seems to go against the nature of creativity.

I have noticed over my years of teaching that a certain amount of struggle is involved in the learning process. Children react differently to this struggle. Some embrace it, and some reject it, and some complain about it a lot.

There are many times when we as parents are given a hard time about practicing. We wonder, “Does this kid still want to play the violin?” Usually the answer is yes, but it is tricky to figure out where the resistance comes from. A good question to ask is, “what difficulty must my child overcome in order to start a practice session?”

When we as parents experience this frustration, it’s helpful to remember we are teaching our children about process. Study of a stringed instrument does not produce immediate gratification! But it’s the allure and beauty of what can be achieved over time that beckons us to continue.

Children can’t do it alone. When parents sign up their children for violin study, some don’t realize how much of a partner they are going to be in the process. Since children don’t know how to be consistent by themselves, and they aren’t wired to do it, a lot of the impetus for the self-study in between lessons often comes from the parent. So we are dragged into what can feel like a nagging, cajoling power struggle regarding something the child supposedly couldn’t wait another minute to do!

The practice habit is a habit just like any other healthy habit we try to encourage in our children (like brushing the teeth). How long did it take to get your child to brush his or her teeth independently? I still struggle with my five-year-old over brushing, and often my ten-year-old needs reminders. How much more so with practicing?

A friend of mine who has five children once said to me about creating good habits, “It takes three days to get a child to do anything.” She had pretty compliant children! I hope you are so fortunate . . . But still, we have to be consistent in ourselves in order to create an appreciation of process, hence consistency, in the child. I know with my family, some of my own frustration is created because I have to be consistent above and beyond what I am trying to instill, and it’s tiring for me!

Children need time to play. Playtime is really valuable time, and is usually considered the first step in the process of learning. During play meaningful information is discovered and skills are developed. In turn the information is used to create, and then satisfaction and enjoyment is derived from the creating, which is then shared with others.

How much time does your child have to unwind, and just play? Here are some questions to ask yourself that could generate some meaningful information about how your child perceives the violin and practicing:

How scheduled is your child's day?  
Does your child look upon practicing like homework or playtime?  
Is your child really tired when you ask for the violin to be taken out?  
What are your own expectations for the child playing the violin?  
What are your child's expectations for playing the violin?  
Where does the violin fit within the larger picture of the child's life?  
What were the original reasons for taking up the study?  
Are you considering the changing factors that influence the practice habit on a weekly basis?  
On the larger continuum (looking at the school year so far) is the child's practice, improvement and interest reasonable?  
Is the child still deriving enjoyment from playing the instrument?

Goals for violin study can be modified from the original. I have seen students who start out with a vengeance and then in six months lose interest. Likewise I have had students who weren't particularly thrilled when they started suddenly develop an intense connection with music. There are many, many good reasons to study and play.

So the next time your child balks at practicing don't get frustrated. Think. Get creative with your response. Say something supportive and positive. Put on a recording. Sit and listen to your child play. Offer to take your child to a concert. How you react may mean the difference between the child choosing to pick up the violin, or the dreaded Playstation paddle . . .

## **What you need to know about the Coffeehouse Concert**

**What's this about a Coffeehouse concert?**

When I lived in NY, my husband and I used to organize free Coffeehouse concerts at public libraries. The library provided free coffee and goodies (BPL is buying biscotti) and the hall. The focus was original music, fiddle music, etc. The idea was to create an enjoyable, relaxed atmosphere in which children and adults could express themselves musically, and in which the general public could come and listen for free. They are a lot of fun.

**When is it?**

Saturday, March 25, 2-4pm at Bangor Public Library

**Is my child playing?**

If your child is in Fiddle Club, has written an original composition, has expressed an interest in the beginning fiddler's session, or is otherwise working on a piece for March 25, then yes, your child is playing!

**My child wants to get involved, what can he or she play?**

Any child may play just about any piece as long as it's adequately prepared. Just about any student is capable of playing the beginner fiddle pieces, come and see me asap if you want to participate.

**Is there a fee?**

Yes, there is a fee of \$5 per family, please include it in the March studio fee payment.

**What should my child wear?**

Casual clothes. There is no need to get dressed up at all. If your child wants to wear jeans and sneakers that is just fine.

**Will the concert be recorded?**

Yes. There have been some snafus with the December concert recording but I am hoping to have that available soon as well.

**What does the program look like so far?**

This is a tentative program. If you see your name and / or your child's name here and it just looks too impossible to accomplish by March 25, let me know. If you don't see your child's name here and want to, let me know also . . .

**Coffeehouse program (tentative program, order is not set)**

National anthem (electric violin)  
Leslie Anne DesIsles

Gallucci Studio Fiddle Club (or other some such name, we're still working on it!)  
Three sets of fiddle tunes with guitar and mandolin

Anna Eyerer, solo Bach (Gigue from first cello suite)

Michael Jacobs, James Van Kirk, Max Silverstein – Star Wars theme (accompanied by James Van Kirk, Sr.)

James Van Kirk and Sarah Van Kirk , Shire theme from the Lord of the Rings

Music of Life, quartet written by Stephen Salinas

Solo violin piece written by Samantha Nadeau

Beginning fiddlers – Bile them Cabbage down, Bonnie Tammie, Sally Goodin' and Old Joe Clark

Yankee Doodle duet for two violas

Korean folk song, Conor Millard

Marc O'Connor piece or other some such fiddle noodling (Laura Gallucci, if I can manage it, and if it doesn't take away time from the other performers)

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