



The Music Academy
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Summer Newsletter 2021

Congratulations Graduates!



The Senior Recognition and Closing Concert is an annual tradition celebrating our high school seniors before sending them off to the next chapter of their lives.

Senior Recognition Commemoration

composed by **Christine Swanberg**,
City of Rockford Poet Laureate and Music Academy Foundation Board Member

Robert Frost said regarding roads,
“ I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.”

In an era of sound bytes, you chose complexity.
When others settled for sounds of chaos, you chose beauty.
You became precious guardians of the classics:

The delicacies of Mozart delighted you.
The brutal passion of Beethoven beckoned you.
You did not shy away from brilliant and difficult composers.

You know them by name.
You know them by heart.
You know them as friends forever.

The litany of classics created in discipline
Dared you to slow dance to excellence.
You did not mash with mediocrity.

For all your hard work and sacrifices,
For your dedication and diligence,
For all the time you spent practicing,

For all the scales and spicy staccatos,
For all the arpeggios and luminous, lyrical legatos,
For the wild and wacky key changes- Bravo!

In sheltering and isolation, you prevailed.
In the worst of the pandemic, you persevered.
In the darkest days, you dared light the torch of music.

We salute you and celebrate you.
We honor you, your teachers, and family,
On this day of contiguous culmination.

You took the road less traveled,
The challenging road to virtuosity,
The promise of an exciting future,

A road that leads you somewhere significant,
Somewhere earned, deserved, with steadfast commitment.
May that road bring you treasures, joy, and fulfillment!

May music filter and fortify your heart and days
With immeasurable pleasure and excellent exaltation.
May your future shine like the stars that you are,

Constellations sparkling note by note.
And stars you will continue to be, on fire
In the musical galaxy you navigate. Yet

Back to earth on a road uniquely yours,
A path set apart, pushing upward.
For you have made all the difference.

With Gratitude

Many thanks to Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI) a fraternity for those who share a commitment to music for their gift of Rachel Barton Pine's new book, *Music by Black Composers* to The Music Academy library.

The book is for solo violin with piano accompaniment parts. The gift of the book helps advance ongoing diversity, equity and accessibility work at the school.



Why Summer Lessons at The Music Academy ?

1) Continuing lessons in the summer keeps students' skills sharp. If you don't use it, you lose it...very easily! In continuing lessons through the summer, we are able to avoid the multiple fall lessons that it takes to retrieve skills and establish a practice routine. Consider this general rule: if you take a 2.5 month break, it takes about 2.5 months to regain the skill sets. Talk about slow progress! Talk about losing momentum and incentive because progress isn't being made! And, then, consider about how cost ineffective the learning and then re-learning is.

2. There is more time to practice in the summer as students have fewer activities. Teachers have more time, too. Consider scheduling a 45 minute lesson for the summer to really make hay while the sun shines or as a transition to longer lessons in the fall.

3. Individualized lesson goals – look to try different, new or “fun” music that you've wanted to play with, but haven't had the time to work on. Or, double down on reading, sight reading or theory during the summer!

4. Try a different time of day for lessons in the summer. Perhaps your teacher will have a day-time lesson available. An earlier lesson can make a huge difference in attention span, focus and fun!

5. Take summer lesson time to make plans for the coming school year. What pieces need to be learned and why? Are there upcoming festivals, recitals, concerts, auditions that can be anticipated? Use summer lessons to get a leg up on future work and deadlines.

6. And, yes, also available to you during your summer lessons are the beauty and power of music, the opportunity for the “self to blossom,” a means to strive for meaning, purpose and excellence, and the chance to work closely with the wonderful people who are the artist faculty members of The Music Academy.



Faculty & Staff

Mary Ann Anderson* - violin
Janice Bartik - Business Manager
Michael Beert* - cello
Valerie Blair* - piano
Lauren Canitia* - early childhood
Ella Caswell** - piano/violin
Grace Cifonie** - piano
Cindy Doering* - violin
Debra Dew - piano
Shannon Englert*** - violin
Richard Evans - cello
Nanette Felix - harp
Marti Frantz* - Executive Director
Candy Glidden* - Piano Program & Early Childhood director
Rachel Handlin* - violin, String Program Director
Lauren Hart* - Music Lab, early childhood
Cathy Herdeman - voice
Patricia Jeske* - piano
Brandon Lamm*** - violin/viola
Don Larson - clarinet/saxophone
Candy Lovan* - piano, early childhood
Kerena Moeller - cello
Dave Nelson - guitar
Anne Olson* - piano program assistant
Jacques Saint-Cyr - flute
Tarah Wolf** - piano, early childhood
Leah Zahn*** - violin

School Board

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* Music Academy Parent
** Music Academy Alum

WHY CHOOSE THE MUSIC ACADEMY?

Talent is equally distributed in this world, but opportunity is not. This work changes the equation for countless youth by providing exposure to the beauty and power of music, along with opportunity for personal development. We make it possible for students to experience the exhilaration of performing music with their peers. We guide them through the thorny years of their adolescence and arm them with confidence to stay the course and to have the courage to stay true to their own inner convictions. We tell our students that it is a gift and a sign of our love that we expect nothing short of high standards from them. And we endeavor to serve as personal role models by striving for excellence ourselves, and by showing them that perseverance may be the single most important ingredient to success.

MAKE MUSIC THIS SUMMER!



Encourage the families in your community to make music together! Music making can offset the effects of this past year of social isolation and any delayed emotional development. Music making supports the group process and builds self-confidence as well as literacy skills. Check out the ways in which music can support social, emotional and intellectual development and share it with parents or primary caregivers. Join our **PRELUDE: Early Childhood Music Classes** this summer starting June 1st. Offered for 8 weeks at \$90. Taught by Shannon Englert, a Music Academy alumna and graduate of the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music. Class size is still limited due to COVID but we are meeting in person with small groups. Call Janice Bartik today to reserve a spot for you and your young child – 815-986-0037.

HEART STRINGS 2.0

ON 2.20.22 AT 2:00 PM

Say whaaaat? It is a palindrome.

Did you know Haydn (Minuet and Trio from Symphony 47 was nicknamed “The Palindrome”) and Bach (“The Crab Canon”) wrote palindromic music? Save the date...forward and backward musical surprises are coming your way!

SUMMER FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Features RVC College and Community Orchestra and **Measure 5**, Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at Sinnissippi Park Bandshell. **Free, Open to the Public.** Watch for more social distancing guidelines. This event is held in collaboration with Rockford Public Library to promote their Summer Reading Program. Watch for a soloist and narrator (of considerable fame!)

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois, Community Grants Program with support from the Glenn E. Thiel Memorial Fund.



THE JAPANESE MINDSET

Ikigai – (ee-kee-guy) has no direct translation from the Japanese but is an action taken in pursuit of happiness. It is “the realization of what one expects and hopes for. It is something to live for, the joy and goal of living. It is a life worth living, the happiness and benefit of being alive.” Have you found your *ikigai* yet? I believe making a practice of music, something you engage in daily to make yourself and your family and friends happy can be a root source for finding your *ikigai* – a reason for living, a meaning for life, what makes life worth living. A music education over many years is the process of allowing the self’s possibilities to blossom and a worthy investment for a life-time of contentment.

Omoiyari – (oh-moi-ya-ree) Omoiyari can be applied to our lives and all it takes is a little thoughtful consideration about what someone else might need. Omoiyari are small acts of kindness and compassion that add up. If we want to live in a respectful society where people are kind to each other, it starts with individuals. We must take on this *personal responsibility* and its effects will ripple out from there. Shawn Clankie (Hononegah High School graduate and professor of applied linguistics at Otaru University in Otaru, Japan) reports that he has seen even more of this philosophy manifested in this past year and he believes that has played a large part in keeping the coronavirus numbers down on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido. Mask up and vaccinate folks – think of it as a personal act of responsibility and a part of thoughtful consideration of others – *omoiyari*.

About Standing (in Kinship)

By Kimberly Blaeser

We all have the same little bones in our foot twenty-six with funny names like navicular. Together they build something strong—our foot arch a pyramid holding us up. The bones don’t get casts when they break. We tape them—one phalange to its neighbor for support. (Other things like sorrow work that way, too—find healing in the leaning, the closeness.) Our feet have one quarter of all the bones in our body. Maybe we should give more honor to feet and to all those tiny but blessed cogs in the world—**communities**, the forgotten architecture of friendship.

LEGENDARY WOMEN - BLAZING TRAILS

Women’s stories are not cherished and preserved in the same way (as men’s.) ~ Marin Alsop, Ravinia’s Chicago Symphony Conductor and Curator

Rev. Jane McChesney (July 14, 1948 - February 10, 2021)

On leadership:

“If you are going to lead, lead fearlessly, and lead from your heart. Lead and love unconditionally.”

“Some of you have never been chased by a merciless farm animal as a child and it shows!”

“The mark of a great church is not how many people come, but how many live differently for having been.”

“Focus, tradition, discipline and mental training...education can make a difference.”



Jane McChesney was a farm girl, baseball player, square dancer, flautist and music educator. She was ordained at age 53 and became Pastor of First Lutheran Church (owners of Loreen Hall and home to The Music Academy since 2011) and a very skilled leader.

She was a grand friend of The Music Academy in Rockford and an advocate for our work. She lobbied to make Loreen Hall our new home in the historic, downtown neighborhood she loved and served. She reminded us we were returning Loreen Hall to its roots as it once was the home of a European-style choir school that served church members, neighborhood families as well as students who attended Rockford Female Seminary/Rockford University and at one time, located two blocks west of Loreen Hall. She also had the energy to be an advocate and activist for Katie’s Cup and for Constance Lane Elementary School, also integral parts of her church’s neighborhood.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg (March 15, 1933 - September 18, 2020)

On creating change:

"I tell law students... if you are going to be a lawyer and just practice your profession, you have a skill—very much like a plumber. But if you want to be a true professional, you will do something outside yourself... something that makes life a little better for people less fortunate than you."

“Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.”

"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

From an interview with **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** by WNYC (New York, New York): WNYC Did you study an instrument as a child? GINSBURG I studied the piano first and while I have a passion for music, I have no talent as a performer. I worked hard at the piano but then in my high school years I wanted another instrument so that I could perform in the school orchestra so I would have that experience and I selected the cello. WNYC But you didn't stay with it? GINSBURG No, I studied long enough to be able to make at least the first note of every bar. I was in the very last row of the cellos and I did remain in the orchestra throughout my high school years.



Bader was recognized for being a tireless and resolute champion of justice in her life. Her mother was a major influence on her life and taught her the value of independence and a good education and both of those values impacted her life’s work. The American Bar Association awarded her the Thurgood Marshall Award for her contributions to gender equity and civil rights.

Colleen Holmbeck

On serving community:

- ◆ WTVO Remarkable Woman finalist
- ◆ Former president and member of the Rockford School Board
- ◆ A “prime mover” in the successful development of the Riverfront Museum Park. “If you can look outside yourself and think about the good of thousands and thousands of people, that is quite a vision.” Sarah Wolf, Discovery Center.
- ◆ UnCommon Lives: Extraordinary Women in the Arts steering committee member and a loyal donor to UnCommon Lives.
- ◆ Colleen and husband Jack are long time donors to The Music Academy and have created an endowment for the school.
- ◆ Colleen (whom I did not know well at the time) spirited me off to Chicago one spring day to hear her friend and the cellist Stephen Isserlis rehearse with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra – probably one of the most moving moments in my lifetime. Such a gift!
- ◆ Colleen was a baseball player on the Farm Team for the Rockford Peaches – her competitive nature showed early on!

It is the “difficult” women who have been an inspiration, held us to the highest standards, taught us to aspire to more, and to say what was on our minds. ~Colleen Holmbeck

