



The Music Academy
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815.986.0037 · www.MusicAcademyInRockford.com



Newsletter 2020

FALL PERFORMANCES AT THE MUSIC ACADEMY

We are musicians; we improvise, change keys and modulate in live time and those have been pretty handy skills to have as we create novel solutions in response to this pandemic. Fall performances will adhere to social distancing practices; audiences must be 50 or fewer. And so,

Saturday, September 12th (13th rain date) Pop Up Performances on the Bike Path Stages are at gazebos along the Sinnissippi Bike Path (Swedish American Riverfront YMCA & Nicholas Conservatory)

Saturday, October 31st - Orchestra and Ensembles will perform during their group classes. Audience will be younger students coming from their group classes. Concerts will be recorded and a link to the video will be provided so that you can share with family members near and far. Wear costumes!

Saturday, November 7 Suzuki Solo Recital will be during Saturday group classes. Accompanist provided with rehearsals during group classes in prior weeks.

Saturday, November 21 Traditional and Measure 5 Solo Recitals. (No Suzuki groups that day.)
No December Holiday Concert and Carol Sing.

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

Phil Blair
Hope Collins*
Marti Frantz*
Candy Glidden*
Jon Rozman**
Janice Westlund - Chair
Christopher Wrate**

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Lynn Andreini
Richard Baker
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Catherine McMichael
Rick Nielsen
Joel Ross

* Music Academy Parent
** Music Academy Alum

Hey Friends!

We are here!

It is a New Year!

The "World may be on Fire" but we have the same focus on excellence and access. We are putting the same love in action. Study, preparation, patience and discipline will lead us. The outpouring of mutual support and creative ideas is a testament to our vitality. Students have practiced more, more effectively, and are better rested, ready for learning. Their success motivates them to work harder and to make more beautiful music than ever as we continue to strive to bring beauty, cultivate character and reimagine lives. It's been a spring and summer to remember for the good work we've done.

For the happiness of children,

Marti Frantz

Executive Director, The Music Academy



We Pledged!

Safety at The Music Academy means:

- ◆ Plastic barriers have been installed in smaller studios
- ◆ Masks are required – by everyone on the campus
- ◆ Extra masks are available, should you forget yours
- ◆ Sanitize hands on your way in and out of the buildings
- ◆ Equipment will be sanitized between lessons and classes
- ◆ We only will use our larger classroom spaces
- ◆ Class starting times are staggered
- ◆ Audiences will be limited to 50 or fewer
- ◆ Some larger concerts, gatherings have been dropped from our calendar.
- ◆ Recitals and concerts will be modified for audiences of 50 or fewer
- ◆ No breakfast table this year (boo, hoo!)
- ◆ The buildings are regularly being cleaned and sanitized

COVID-19 protocols approved by the CDC and Winnebago Co Health Department will be followed



WELCOME DR. DEBRA DEW

Do you know we have a new faculty member who says she “firmly believes that aesthetic experience enhances the quality of life”? Do you know who has written a book about Chopin? Watch for an upcoming reading for students of The Music Academy. Do you know who recalls as a high point of her life performing in a Monster Piano Ensemble with **10 pianists**? Please join me in welcoming Dr. Debra Dew to the artist faculty of The Music Academy!



Dr. Deb recently retired from Rockford University where she was a professor in the Education Department. She also served as a dean and directed a Teaching with Primary Sources grant from the Library of Congress.

Dr. Deb always has been an active musician. She attended West Virginia University where she majored in music education, with piano as her primary instrument. Following graduation, she returned to the Maryland Eastern Shore where she taught K-8 music and earned a master’s degree from Salisbury State University with a music and piano pedagogy emphasis.

During this period, she operated a private piano studio, accompanied for various churches and musicals, directed a children’s choir, and sang in choral groups. She was active in the Eastern Shore Association of Piano Teachers and attended a number of pedagogy sessions at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. In addition, she was a judge for the National Guild of Piano Teachers.

She then relocated to Carbondale, Illinois, where she earned a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from Southern Illinois University. During that time, she taught piano ensemble for summer school camps and directed a children’s choir. One highlight of her time in Carbondale was performing in a monster concert with 10 pianos directed by Donald Beattie, music Professor Emeritus at SIUC.

Dr. Deb is excited to resume her piano teaching career at The Music Academy in Rockford. The piano has always been her first love, and her primary goal is to instill and enhance a love of music in her students. She firmly believes that aesthetic experience enhances the quality of life.

OUR JOURNEY



Kairo Brunson, is a viola student of Brandon Lamm’s at The Music Academy and the beneficiary of a “Our Journey” Micro-Grant to The Music Academy. In partnership with Rockford Art Deli’s #HereForGood RKFD campaign, the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and Rockford Area Arts Council this grant encouraged us to “be creative, express our love for Winnebago County and celebrate all that our community has to offer as we recover from the economic effects of COVID-19.” Our Journey

Begins at Home and with Cairo and his viola.

WHAT IS WORTH A LISTEN

Rhiannon Giddens, “a beautiful ambassador for women and all of humanity” will be stepping in to replace Yo-Yo Ma (whom Music Academy cellist, Isabel Olson, recently called Yo Ma-Ma) as the new Artistic Director of the Silk Road Ensemble. Giddens says her keen desire for Silk Road is “a sharpening and reinterpretation of what it means ‘right now.’ That it becomes obvious to all the Silk Road is as American as it is possible to get in spirit...for what is more American than the gathering of influences from disparate areas of the globe to create something unique and fantastic.”

Giddens says she began to sing at an “impossibly early age” bouncing up and down in her crib, warbling to anyone who passed by. She is a 2000 graduate of Oberlin Conservatory where she studied opera. She is the founding member of the Carolina Chocolate Drops, a Grammy Award winning country, blues and old-time music band where she is the lead singer, fiddle player and banjo player. It was though Ken Burns’ documentary *Country Music*, a comprehensive look at the history of country music in American and its evolution though out the 20th century, that I became aware of Giddens, a MacArthur Fellow. Last December, when I first heard her speak and sing, I thought this is someone we should pay attention to if we want to know and feel what is ‘right now’ in American music.



If you haven’t heard Rhiannon Giddens’ work - you should! If you haven’t watched the Burns *Country Music* documentary – you should! If you don’t know of the work of Silk Road– you should! All are wonderful ways to delve deep into American music.

It is ultimate luxury to combine passion and contribution. It is also a very clear path to happiness. ~ Sheryl Sandberg

WHEN YOU SHOP ONLINE!

Remember to support The Music Academy by shopping at:

If you have an Amazon account, you can use that login to get to your account on the Amazon Smile page!

Here is what you do:

- ◆ Go to www.smile.amazon.com
- ◆ Select Music Academy Foundation as your non-profit charity of choice
- ◆ After you register you will receive an email verifying your choice
- ◆ Every time you shop use www.smile.amazon.com and a donation will be made to support us



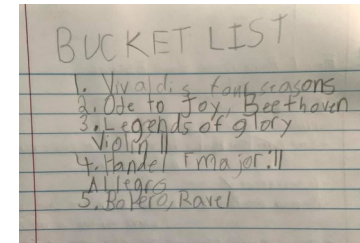
WINDOW INTO THEIR WORLDS



Who knew that on a bucket list of a 9 year old would be to one day play Ravel’s *Bolero*, *Ode to Joy* by Beethoven, or Griesinger’s *Legends of Glory*. It is good to learn more of their aspirations, their joys, and their frustrations. We hope they learned to be a little more purposeful in their *daily* practice.

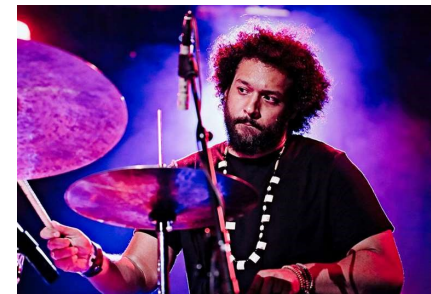


Thanks to Culvers for helping to sponsor this challenge by providing custard coupons to those who managed all the 30 tasks. Yum!



BRASS DRUM SLUMBER

Makaya McCraven is a drummer who grew up learning by being around great musicians. As a baby he napped on a pillow in his American father’s faceless bass drum. He listened to his Romanian mother sing jazz classics in Paris. He talks about jazz being “...an aural tradition, constantly evolving, not stagnant, and impacted by actual physical touch and the energy of music.” He talks about “...the most magical musical moments in live spaces being the silences and that sharing the silent moments is what makes live music so special.”



These are strange times. Live music is virtually absent. Those most magical of musical moments are gone - the energy, the silences, the dialogue between performer and listener. We are operating in a void, and we find we just must perform again soon! We will be extremely careful in planning to come together over music in the coming months. But, the joy, the energy, the dialogue of live performance must return. Music matters!

Watch for more from The Music Academy about how we are reimagining performances.

The first reinvention will be **Pop Up Performances on the Bike Path on Saturday, September 12 at 2:00 p.m.** (or September 13 as a rain date.) Stroll between gazebos or bring lawn chairs for family pods or sitting singly, 6’ apart; masks required. Free and open to the public though our violin cases will be open for busking. Sponsored by Thermo Fisher of Rockford.

Any idiot can learn to juggle chain saws. It’s the day-to-day balloon animal making that wears you out. ~ Anton the Clown

GROUP CLASSES ACCELERATE LEARNING, SHARING AND GROWING

Participation in weekly group classes is critical to a student’s success. During class, students are polishing the repertoire and techniques they have already learned in lessons, developing good listening, note-reading, theory, and performance skills, and learning how to play in an ensemble. We teach them technical skills through the music they are already playing. Group classes help students stay motivated and gain confidence in their music and their skills by playing with the teacher and a supportive group of friends.

I agree with the teachers at the Suzuki Music Institute of Central Florida when they claim, “It has been our experience that **students overcome performance anxiety** and look forward to playing for each other. Regular performances help students to memorize their pieces, and for some memorized performances by other students set the standard.”

Besides all the “bottom line” reasons why group lessons are powerful in your child’s musical training, they are just fun. We play games. We get to know each other in a different environment than private lessons. Student’s personalities blossom. We laugh. We learn. We grow.

Brad Gant put it beautifully when he wrote, “Music lessons can be a solitary experience. Students grow to practice alone. Lessons are alone with a private instructor. **However, music is a language. It is meant to be shared.** It is through this sharing that learning is accelerated. Group classes provide the environment to share, to learn and to grow. These learning communities are absolutely essential to encourage the positive growth of music students.”

PRELUDE: MUSIC FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Early Childhood Music Education for Babies ages 6 months to 4 years and their caregivers at The Music Academy in Rockford.

Registration is now underway for classes beginning September 12 and 15.

Led by artist faculty members.

\$85 for a 10-week semester (best bargain in town!)

Contact Janice at 815-986-0037.

Classes fill quickly (even in a pandemic!) – don’t delay.

