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# Sharon Music Academy

## Newsletter

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## Encore! Encore! Encore!



On October 28th Catherine Song, 10 years old student of the Sharon Music Academy, performed piano concerto #2 by Dm. Shostakovich with the Maryland Youth Symphony. She was awarded this honor as a winner of 22nd International Young Artists Piano Competition, where she competed against many accomplished musicians, some as old as sixteen. It is worth noting that the composer wrote this concerto not for a beginner, but for his 19 years old son. You can listen to Catherine's performance on our website on Media Archive page. On the picture: Encore appearance by Catherine Song and the conductor of Maryland

## Support Young Artists Concert Program

Young Artists Concerts Program is the joint effort of the Bristol Chamber Orchestra and the Sharon Music Academy to provide opportunity for young musicians to play with professional musicians. Every year we organize several fund raising events to raise money for this program. You can donate to this program by purchasing a T-shirt. A sign-up sheet can be found in the lobby of the Academy. Some people may think that because this year their children are not playing with BCO they don't need to donate. Nothing can be further from the truth! If we don't support this program today, this program may not be around tomorrow when your child will be ready to play. You can also donate to this program through Bristol Chamber Orchestra Website: [Bristolchamberorchestra.org](http://Bristolchamberorchestra.org).



*"Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness."*

*-Maya Angelou*

*"We need magic, and bliss, and power, myth, and celebration and religion in our lives, and music is a good way to encapsulate a lot of it."*

*- Jerry Garcia*

## Holiday Recitals

**Thanksgiving Recital.** Those of you who will be around during Thanksgiving weekend are invited to participate in Thanksgiving Recital on November 23rd at 5 pm at the First Baptist Church. It will feature a demonstration of swing dancing. You will have an opportunity to join in the dance.

**Christmas Recitals.** Ready to perform? Sign up for our winter recital on December 8th, 15th or 16th. Or just come down to listen to your fellow students performances.

**Piano Duo Recital.** Don't miss Stanislava Varshavsky, our wonderful piano instructor, in a rare musical event— piano duo recital. December 14th, 8 pm, Longy School of Music.

## Halloween 2007

See all the pictures on our website on Photo Gallery page.



# Theory and Composition with Tanya

Want to know more about music? Learn the logic of chords? Listen to a song and be able to playing it? Make a practice easier by understanding the flow? "Introduction to Music Theory" course will start on Mondays at 7:30 pm. Tanya Schwartzman will be teaching. Don't miss this opportunity!

## Why pianists curve their fingers ?

Last month we announced the contest for the best answer to the question "Why pianists curve their fingers while playing?" We want our students to think about all aspects of good musicianship and not only to follow teachers' instructions. Many students have put a lot thoughts into their answers. We would like to share with you some very insightful responses we've got so far:

1. *The cutest answer.* The audience doesn't want to see their nails (Noah Levitt)
2. *The most scientific answer.* It forces the student to keep the back of the hand perfectly still and do all of the work with his fingers (Miranda & Melanie Tan)
3. *The most to the point answer.* So you can play piano faster (Gregory Zelevinsky)
4. *The most complete answer.* (Ben Zheng)
  - a/ You have more control so you play better softer or stronger notes
  - b/ Your fingers have better shock resistance because your body weight is in curving
  - c/ You are more accurate at playing the correct notes
5. *The most mature for his age.* Curve fingers make fingers easier to move (Mathew Wang)
6. *The closest to the right answer.* I think we should keep our fingers curved because then it will be more beautiful and if you did not have your fingers curved it would sound sloppy (Renee Yang)
7. *The most articulate answer.* If your fingers were straight you could not be as articulate as when your fingers were bent. And if your fingers were straight, you would play cracks. (Angelique Scully)
8. *The most musicianship in the answer.* You have to keep your fingers curved because if you do so you can make beautiful sound from the piano (Lucas Zheng)
9. *The most insightful answer.* Curving your fingers helps you to strike the keys harder and to have more control (Maria Gieg).
10. *The most technical answer.* You can strike the key harder and strong with your fingers (Antonia Mok)
11. *The most sensitive answer.* You touch the key easier and closer with the fingers stand up (Amanda Mok)

You have your own answer? Share it with us.



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