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Sharon Music Academy

MAY Newsletter

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Quote of the Day

"Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music"

Sergei Rachmaninov

Musical Moments

with Tanya

The first two episodes of "Musical Moments with Tanya" TV Show are now available online. Visit Sharon TV website sharontv.com and click on programming tab.

Music Seasons

Spring: Every season has its own sounds – just listen to “Four Seasons” by A. Vivaldi or “The Seasons” by P. Tchaikovsky. For our Academy spring sounds are associated with the “End of the Year” Concert Series. We’ve heard from so many students and parents how much progress they have made in this year and we look forward to listen to their performances. Academy recitals are scheduled for the week-end of June 12th – 13th, on June 20th we have performance at Stony Brook Senior Housing in Sharon and on June 27th our students will play in the “Beach Tree Concert Series” near Massapoag Lake.

Summer: For many people summer is a vacation time but there is no such thing as a vacation from learning and music. It is a very well documented fact (see “Outliers” by M. Gladwell) that people who keep studying in the summer have a significant advantage in learning and progress much faster.

We stay open in the summer for private lessons and we also offer several additional exciting one-week programs for our students:

Jazz Summer workshop. It is a group workshop on jazz improvisation, where students learn their role in a typical jazz combo setting while learning the basics of improvisation. The students will learn how to read jazz charts, simple chords, how to play in a group, "trading" (jazz's musical conversation) and taking solo's. Students will also learn about jazz style and swing through exercises and listening. They will build confidence and creativity while learning tunes. At the end of the week long session students will record their newly learning tunes as a group and each student will be able to take home their own CD. There is also an opportunity to learn jazz improvisation in a private lesson setting.

Chamber Group. Learn how to play with others chamber music. The chamber group will perform at the end of the session.

Singing in the Sun. Everybody loves to sing. Especially kids. We can help them find their own tune. This summer we are introducing two summer programs—“Disney Tunes” (for 8-9 years old) and “Road to Broadway” (for 10-12 years old). Each program consists of 5 group 1.5 weekly lessons. The students will learn the foundations of good singing technique, including proper breathing, singing in a relaxed, natural fashion with their voice. They will learn basic musicianship: how to follow a piece of music even if they don't read music; basic note names and rhythms, and musical symbols. They will also learn easy harmonies, and how to sing as a member of a group (listening skills). At the end of the program the students will have a graduation recital.

We have some flexibility with the dates and times of summer programs and final schedule will depend on enrollment. Please visit our website to register for summer programs or follow the link

<http://sharonmusicacademy.com/regsummer.html>

Fall: We have a lot of plans for the next year — new programs, workshops, courses, competitions, field trips, opportunities to perform and many others exciting music experiences for our students. One of the new programs, planned for the next year, is a Chamber Orchestra and Ensemble course.

In order to better plan all these activities and create a convenient schedule we need all students, who intend to continue to study music, pre-register for the next year. Pre-registration will guarantee that a time-slot will be reserved for a student. Please try to specify the time slots that would not conflict with other activities. Though we will make every effort to change a schedule if you need it, we can't guarantee it. You need to register even if you don't know your schedule for the fall to guarantee a slot with your teacher. We already have a waiting list for September, so please don't delay your re-registration. If you re-register after July 25th, it will be difficult for us to secure a convenient slot for you. This year all re-registration will be done online. Please visit our re-registration page:

<http://sharonmusicacademy.com/preregister.html>

Concerts, Concerts and more Concerts

April is the month of our two big annual events: “**Faculty Recital**” and “**Families in Concert**”. “Faculty Recital” is always a part of a fundraising event, where our teachers donate their time and talent to some charitable cause. This year we have raised almost \$800 for Young Promise International Festival and Competition, which will be held from June 4th to June 6th at South Shore Conservatory in Hingham, MA. Children from China, Taiwan, Mexico and USA will participate in this competition. If you have time, please don’t miss the opportunity to listen to the amazing performances of the young musicians. More information about this event can be found online at: <http://a-musetheworld.org>.

As always, those who came to the “**Faculty Recital**” were dazzled and charmed by our teachers’ musicianship and level of performance. The sheer variety of styles and instruments, from classical to jazz and blue grass, from saxophone and vibraphone duo to chamber trio and solo performances have made this concert a memorable event. If you like a to get a DVD of this concert, please let our Administrative Director know. You can also watch this concert in a small web format online at the Sharon TV website <http://sharontv.com/programming.html>.

There are only few activities in life that bring family closer than playing music together. And it is so much fun! You could see it in the performances of the family ensembles during our “**Families in Concert**” event. What a variety of ages and instruments—grandmother and granddaughter piano duo, father on drums and son on violin, brother on saxophone and sister on piano, twin sisters playing flute and piano! You don’t need to be a highly skilled musician to participate in this event—just a desire to have fun with your family. Don’t miss this event next year.

Playing for seniors is a long standing tradition at our Academy. We have a standing invitation to perform at several local assisted living and nursing facilities. Music brings so much joy and have a lasting therapeutic effect on seniors. Many facilities even have full time music therapists on their staff. This April a group of our students performed at North Hill Skilled Nursing Facility in Needham. Administration of North Hill highly appreciates time and effort our students have put into this concert and wants to thank Christopher Chen, Allen Wang, Grace and Laura Chiodo, Andrew and Catherine Song, Kristina Sharra, Huilin Emily Zhou and Sophie Tollefson.

You know that among our teachers are many actively performing artists. In April **Ashley Paul** was invited to play at the Jazz Festival in Paris, **Mario Cerra** and his group had several performances in Boston, **Junghee Park** performed at Weston Library. We usually announce performances of our students and teachers on our bulletin board and on our Calendar Page online. Please watch for our next announcements.



Faculty Concert

Congratulations to our winners

End of the school year is a competition time and many our students have successfully represented Sharon Music Academy in various music contests. Derek Nong, Lynn Fu, Patrick Yu, Danielle Oh, Lucy Zhou, Andrew Song received awards and raving reviews at 2010 URI Piano Extravaganza, which you can see on our bulletin boards. This year New England Piano Teachers’ Association has awarded several very prestigious awards for artistic achievement to several students of SMA. Kunwoo Shin, Angelique Scully are the recipients Nancy Oliva Award and Christopher Chen has received Wanda Paik Award.

Congratulations to all these wonderful young musicians!

Some of our students will participate in the MMTA Bay State Contest and International Young Promise Music Competition in June. Let’s wish them luck.