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Sharon Music Academy

Newsletter

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Happy New Year!

Dear Students, Parents and Friends of the Sharon Music Academy,

The Faculty of the Sharon Music Academy wishes all of you Happy New Year! We wish you health, happiness and a lot of joy in the New Year! We want to thank everyone for the wonderful gifts the faculty has received this holiday season. But the greatest gift for all of us is to see how much joy music brings into our students' life. We look forward to seeing you in upcoming Spring Semester. We have scheduled a lot of interesting activities and performances for the next year. And it is your participation that makes all our events so exciting!

Tanya Schwartzman, Music Director

Quote of the Day

*"Music is forever;
music should grow
and mature with you,
following you right
on up until you die."*

~Paul Simon-

*I think sometimes
could I only have
music on my own
terms, could I live in
a great city, and
know where I could
go whenever I wished
the ablation and
inundation of
musical waves, that
were a bath and a
medicine.*

~Ralph W. Emerson

Winter Harvest

Students of the Sharon Music Academy usually see the results of their hard work in spring and summer, when most performances, competitions and festivals take place. This year we start to see the fruits of their commitment to music in winter. Brianna Arnold auditioned for District Orchestra and was chosen as a first chair alt saxophone for the Jazz Ensemble for the South Eastern District MMEA Junior Festival. More than 20 students of our Academy have won prizes at the International Crescendo Festival and will be performing in January at Carnegie Hall in New York and Longy School in Boston. Leina Xu also auditioned for the District Orchestra and was selected as a first chair cello. The more proficient our students become the more opportunities they have to experience music and the more fun they have.

Our teachers have also collected awards and other kudos this season. Ashley Paul, woodwinds faculty member, has been featured on the cover of the "Sound projector" magazine

<http://www.thesoundprojector.com/current-issue/>

and was picked in the top ten tapes of 2010 by NPR "All Songs Considered"

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/allsongs/2010/12/28/132312400/the-best-cassettes-of-2010>

Dizhou Zhao, piano faculty member, was a finalist of the International Piano Competition in Toronto and was invited to play in Italy. Mario Cerra, another woodwinds faculty member, was invited with his band to the Christmas Festival Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

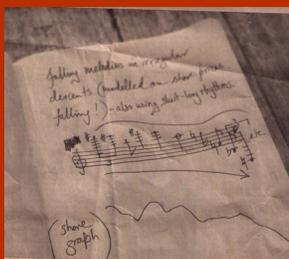
Talent is overrated

Yes, there is a hope for us, simple mortals - we also can become overachievers! This is a message of the bestselling book "Talent is overrated" by the Senior Editor at Large of Fortune Magazine Geoff Colvin. Though it is presented as a business book, the principles of great performance apply to virtually any activity that matters to you. And it is no wonder that this book contains many examples from music and music education—a quintessential human activity. It is a very useful book for parents as well. Hey, we all want to be proud of our children. We highly recommend this book to everybody, but if you don't have time to read it, here are some highlights:

1. Everybody can become an overachiever.
2. The secret is a "deliberate practice" - practice of the things that you don't do well. It is a very specific type of work that anyone can do—but most people don't.
3. "Deliberate practice" requires "the drive" to improve yourself through practice.
4. Nobody is born with this drive—it develops over time. Interesting fact: out of 24 finalists of the Van



Ashley Paul



Markets and Music

Cliburn International Piano Competition all 24 were made practice by their parents until the developed their own internal drive to practice.

5. That's where parenting becomes important. No one becomes extraordinary on his or her own—the supporting environment is critical. Good teachers are frequently not convenient, expensive and parents need to devote a lot of time and effort to driving to and from the lessons.

6. The greatest value of a supporting home environment is that enables a person to start developing early. Practice in childhood causes myelin, a special substance in brain that wraps slowly around neurons and strengthens key brain connections, to build up. And, contrary to popular belief, only in childhood and adolescence there is enough time for practice.

We want to finish this small excerpt with a quote by Walt Disney—“*The difference in winning and losing is most often...not quitting.*”

Notes on a Crisis

We always say that music is a mirror of life. But how far you can't take this analogy? According to the article in the Financial Times (12/22/2010) all the way to the current financial crisis. Julian Anderson—a composer in residence at the London Philharmonic Orchestra has been commissioned to write a musical interpretation of the financial turmoil of the recent years. “Music, like any natural phenomenon, ebbs and flows. And the market, economic patterns, they do all that” - says Prof. Anderson. The use of music as an analytical tool is not new. Many composers have addressed historical events (Tchaikovsky's “1812”, Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony on the siege of Leningrad, Beethoven's Opus 91 on the Wellington's victory), though they not typically focused on finance. But Prof. Anderson sees the connection between the worlds of music and finance: “Timing, proportion and excess feature in both worlds”. You can listen to Prof. Anderson's soundtrack to the economic crisis at www.ft.com/composer

Re-registration for the Spring Semester

Time flies—it is almost the end of our Fall Semester and the time to think about upcoming Spring Semester, which starts in February. Re-registration for the Spring Semester is now open. We've got quite a few requests to change times or days of the private lessons and we will try to accommodate all these requests. So, if you want to secure your current days, times and teachers please re-register as soon as possible. Final fall statements and invoices for the spring semester will be distributed starting January 20th, 2011. Because of the limited availability, we will not be able to guarantee your requests after January 23rd, 2010. The same applies to our Theory Classes and other group music program. We need to know enrollment before the beginning of the Spring Semester. Re-registration is a good time to talk to administration and instructors about your plans, expectations and concerns. We always welcome your feedback. Please send us email to if you need to change the lesson schedule. You are always welcome to make an appointment and talk to the Music Director. We have scheduled a lot of interesting events for the Spring Semester, including our annual April Families in Concert Recital, Faculty Concert and many more. Our goal is to teach how to love, understand and enjoy music all your life!

Bits and Pieces

- Don't miss our Academy's events—follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).
- Our Music Party for Adult students is tentatively scheduled for Friday evening, April 1st, 2011.