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Sharon Music Academy

MAY Newsletter

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Quote of the Day

"Music and engineering share some common threads: you are combining individual elements – different instruments, different harmonies, different melodies to make something better."

Miles Barr
Ph.D, MIT
Serial Entrepreneur

Fast Beat of the Seasons

I can't believe that it is already May! This year has been filled with so many activities, concerts, events and competitions that time really has flown by. A quick look at our Academy's calendar online shows how many different music experiences our students have had this year. From Halloween Party to a Master Class with a famous violinist, a pupil of a legendary violinist Jascha Heifetz, Victor Romanul; from the concert of family ensembles to meeting with Russian composers and their music; from the Faculty Concert to performances at Carnegie Hall and other great stages of New York and Boston. Many of our students have attended amazing performances of Phillip Mazza, Bjorn Wennas, Michal Shein, Pei Tsai, Mario Cerra and many other wonderful musicians, whom we are lucky to have as faculty members. Each of these events and concerts has contributed a great deal to our students' music education. And it shows in our students achievements – just visit our "Hall of Fame" page online.

Fall Registration. 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. We will expand our Ensemble and Chamber Group programs, Electronic Music and Sight Reading Workshops and Vocal Audition courses and schedules. We look forward to seeing all of our students next year at the Academy. Let's continue this wonderful journey of learning music together! But it is VERY IMPORTANT to re-register for the fall as soon as possible to reserve a slot. It is especially important for the families with several students at our academy, who need special scheduling arrangements. As you probably noticed, we keep growing and for many programs, teachers, days of the week or time slots we already have a waiting list. Please try to specify the time slots that would not conflict with other activities of a student. Though we will make every effort to change a schedule if you need it, we can't guarantee it. To re-register go to our website and click on "[Admissions->Re-Registration](#)".

Music Director Tanya Schwartzman

Don't Stop The Music

No, it is not Rihanna's music clip or, for those who a little bit more mature, the name of the song by [Yarbrough & Peoples](#). **It is a common sense.** Any skill requires a constant exercise to maintain. Music is no different. Again, we remind you of a saying attributed to the famous pianist and Polish Prime Minister I. Paderewsky : "If I miss one day of practice, I notice it. If I miss two days, the critics notice it. If I miss three days, the audience notices it". Long breaks in learning process always negatively affect the learning progress. If you are not convinced, here is another quote by Nobel Laureate, a psychologist D. Kahneman: "The acquisition of skills requires a regular environment, an adequate opportunity to practice, and rapid and unequivocal feedback about the correctness of thoughts and actions". To help you not to lose your skills we stay open during the summer for private lessons. Summer scheduling provides a lot of flexibility – just let us know what weeks you are around to take lessons. To do so, please fill out our Summer Registration form online ("[Admissions -> Summer Registration](#)").

We also offer several additional exciting one-week long workshops during the summer.

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.

Summer Voice Workshop. Spend a fun-filled week exploring and improving your vocal talent this summer at the Sharon Music Academy Voice Workshop! Beginner and intermediate level singers will

receive private and group instruction in vocal technique, breath support, acting, movement and performance. Vocal technique and performance will be strengthened through solo, duet and ensemble repertoire of the musical theater and classical genres. Singers will have the opportunity to refine their skills in a nurturing master class setting culminating in a public recital at the end of the workshop.

Space is limited! No audition is required for admittance. However, applicants must prepare a song of their choice prior to the first private session with the instructor. (Beginner – Intermediate ages 9-16)

We'll miss you, Sophie !



Sophie's first trophy, 2004

There is always a heartbreaking moment in any teacher's life, when a teacher has to say "Good Bye" to a pupil. It was such a moment on May 6th, 2012 after Sophie Tollefson's graduation performance. And what a performance it was! She played beautiful and very technical piece by Ginastera, performed a fiery Spanish dance Malaguena in a piano duo and accompanied another student of our Academy, Angelique Scully, who sang an aria from Boheme by Puccini.

Sophie joined our Academy 11 years ago at 6. It has been such a rewarding experience to watch her grow as a human being and as a musician. Sophie and all her wonderful family became a part of the Sharon Music Academy – another rewarding experience that we will always cherish.

There is no doubt in our mind that, like many of our graduates before her, Sophie will carry her love of music not only through college, but through her whole life. Whether it is UPenn, Stanford, John Hopkins, Harvard or GWU – our former students could always find the time, opportunity and willingness to keep playing. We have already reserved a place in our photo album "Family Ties" for a picture of Sophie performing at GWU.

Farewell and good luck, Sophie! We will miss you!



Sophie with her teacher Tanya

Short Notes and Announcements

- Don't miss a lecture and a workshop "History of a Sound—from Harpsichord to Piano" by David Hagan on June 2nd, 2012. More info on our "News and Events" webpage.
- After a year of hard work and serious dedication it's time to celebrate the many accomplishments of our students. Mark your calendars – Year-end recitals are on weekend of June 09-10, 2012 Please discuss with your teacher the date and time of the concert.
- For those of you, who missed performance of your teacher at the Faculty Concert, but would like to see it anyway, please talk to Sergey to get a DVD. You can also get DVDs of the TV show "Musical Moments with Tanya". The latest episode is titled "Music and Diplomacy" and contains an interview with Ruben Shougarian—the former Ambassador to US and EU and Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia.
- Next Music Evening for our Adult students is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of June 30th, 2012.
- Do you want to see music? Follow [this channel on youtube](#)