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Sharon Music Academy

MAY Newsletter

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Quotes of the Day

"I always loved music; whoso has skill in this art is of a good temperament, fitted for all things. We must teach music in the schools. "

-Marin Luter
Table Talk
1566

Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education.

-Plato

Spring Beats

Finally, the spring is here as well as the end of the school year. As always, 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: Halloween Party, the concert of family ensembles, the Faculty Concert, performances at Carnegie Hall, Piano Extravaganza to name a few. Many of our students have attended amazing performances of Phillip Mazza, Bjorn Wennas, Lilit Karapetian, 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. And the year is not finished yet! We wish luck to our students who will be competing in the MMTA Bay State Competition in May and Ensemble Competition at Steinert's in June. And, of course, we look forward to our Year End concerts – the showcase of hard work and talent of our students and teachers. But it is very important to keep a momentum and keep growing as musicians and human beings. The better the students become the more fun and satisfaction they will derive from music. Please make an effort to register for the summer and fall semester as soon as possible.

Music Director Tanya Schwartzman

Summer Studies—Use It or Loose It

Yes, 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](#)"). by **MAY 15th**. Summer semester offers another great experience – students have an opportunity to work with different instructors. After every summer many of the students who attended the summer programs, tell us what a wonderful experience it has been. We also offer several additional exciting one-week long workshops during the summer: Jazz Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, and Broadway in Sharon (singing workshop). The dates and detail descriptions will be published shortly. Ask Administration if you have any questions.

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 many other courses and programs. 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](#)". The schedule for the fall will be finalized by **AUGUST 1st**. So, please register before July 15th to reserve a convenient slot and your instructor's time.

Smooth Sailing, Joey !



When you are good at something you want to do more. That's why for many of our students music is not a chore, not an impediment to their other activities, like sports and academics, but an integral part of their life and a constant source of joy and happiness. And Joey Kaigler is one of these students. He joined SMA in 2006 and will stay our students until his graduation in June of 2013. Teaching is a rewarding profession, but nothing gives a music teacher more pleasure than watching his or her student growing as a musician and a human being and noticing how much music has enriched student's life. And Joey has been a constant source of such pleasure for all of us. He will attend De Paul University in Chicago in the fall. And whatever major degree

he will be pursuing his minor will always be in music. Smooth sailing, Joey! We will miss you and your wonderful family!

Youtube for Fun and Learning

Every parent in our Academy understands how much music enriches a child's life. But a child always needs help on a winding road of learning. Here comes Youtube – a tool for fun and learning. Here are some suggestions on how to use this tool.

Sometimes it is easy for a child, especially in the beginning of learning, to lose a focus on why he or she is learning an instrument. A student needs to see again that playing an instrument is cool and a lot of fun if you can do it well. Youtube is full of great, cool and fun performances where anybody can see that musicians are enjoying themselves. Ask your instructor what they would recommend. My personal favorites are: cello rock group Apocalyptica and violinist Naoko Terai. You can listen to these performances by accessing SMA's playlist on Youtube "[And you don't think it is cool to play an instrument](#)".

Playing a connoisseur of music with your child is another way to share an emotion and enjoy music. Listen to the several performances of the same piece by the different artists and discuss what he or she likes and doesn't like. You would not believe how much you will learn about your child! It is especially interesting to do this exercise with a piece that a child needs to learn. I often do it myself with the pieces that I like. Recently, while searching Youtube, I stumbled on amazing performances of one of my favorites - Libertango by A. Piazzolla by the different instruments and artists. You are welcome to enjoy it by accessing "[A. Piazzolla](#)" playlist on SMA's Youtube channel.

Bits and pieces

- 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 Saturdays June 08th and 15th. 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. It has been an amazing parade of instruments and artists. We need 25 copies to do a duplication run.
- Next Music Evening for our Adult students is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 30th, 2012.
- If you appreciate what we do and have a Facebook account please visit [SMA page](#) and "like" us.



Shee Family Ensemble



SMA String Ensemble



Julia Hutchinson and Isabel Johnson with the band Camp Kids performed at the charity concert in Newtown, CT