



Maryland Performing Arts Institute

MPAI Newsletter

November 23, 2009

Thanks

This Thanksgiving I reflected on the many blessings I receive from teaching at MPAI. MPAI is blessed with dedicated students and parents, committed to a quality music education. People that value this education not just for their own personal development, but people who also know the value music has in our society. My first private teaching experiences were in music stores. It gives me appreciation for the quality of our students at MPAI. This newsletter includes some the many accomplishments of our students last year. Keep up the good work.

As a director, I am also thankful for our talented dedicated faculty. They are committed to providing a superior music education to their students.

Have a safe during the holidays and keep practicing

WEBSITES FOR MUSIC GAMES

This issue I am looking for music reading games.

Here is a short review of some of the sites visited. I was most interested in freeware but was not able to find real good freeware except for musictheory.net. Please let us know what you think of these sites, or if you have found other software or websites worth exploring.

<http://www.musictheory.net/> Pros: is a good site with trainers and quizzes for note reading intervals and other beginning theory questions. The site can be downloaded and used off line. Con: The quizzes are dry and not like a video game.

<http://www.musicracer.com/> Pro: good note reading game. Con: getting on the top 50 list is really hard, requires good reading skill and great mouse technique

http://www.vicfirth.com/education/keyboard/spe_ednotegame.html Pro: good note reading exercise. Con: not game like, have to use the mouse for answers, teaches only the treble clef

<http://www.funbrain.com/notes/index.html> Pro: helps with notation and keyboard geography. Con: showed up rather small on my screen, no sound, not very engaging

http://ababasoft.com/flash_games/ Pro: links to many educational music games, including keyboard skills. Con: didn't find a good game for note reading

<http://www.happynote.com/music/learn.html> Pros: nice game. Con: Just limited trial version free. The software is a little expensive.

NEW PHONE NUMBER

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MPAI is trying to upgrade our availability by phone. We are experimenting with a new service from Google called Google Voice. It gives us the capability to forward phone calls and voice mail, along with other services that I haven't discovered yet. The new phone number is **410-929-6724**. The numbers are not particularly intuitive but you can remember **410-YAY-MPAI**.

PLAYATHON

The Maryland Performing Arts Institute at Towson University will be sponsoring a Play-a-Thon on Saturday, December 19, 2009, from 12 to 3 pm, at the Shops at Kenilworth, in Towson. The purposes of this event are to raise money for MPAI, and to give the students an opportunity to perform. Because we are a self-supporting, non-profit organization, we rely on contributions during our annual fundraiser, and your contributions are tax-deductible.

The students who will be performing in the Play-a-thon will be obtaining sponsors who may contribute as much or as little as they wish. Contributions should be either a fixed amount or so much per piece played. Students will be responsible for collecting pledges and turning them in to their teachers. It is not necessary to have sponsors in order to participate.

Students may perform any number of pieces during the time period chosen by their teachers. Memorization is not necessary. Because of the time of year, seasonal music is encouraged, but students may perform anything that they have ready.

There will be two prizes awarded – one for the student who raises the most money, and one for the student who brings in the most sponsors.

This event is intended as a fun activity that provides the students with an additional performance opportunity in a less formal atmosphere. We hope you and your family will participate, and we look forward to seeing you on December 19th.

Our musical theatre program is producing some budding thespians. Classes, under the direction and tutelage of Eugene Anderson, are held Thursday evenings. Isabella Cassidy has landed parts in the summer production of the Wizard of Oz at Cockpit and Court, as well as Seussical the Musical with Pumpkin Theatre. Isabella along with Darby Brandenburg and Taelor High will be in the production of Babes in Toyland with Baltimore Actors Theatre. Babes in Toyland will be performed at Goucher College. You can get tickets and further information at 410-337-8519 or 410-771-8427.

ENROLLMENT AND RE ENROLLMENT

MPAI is up and running with our enrollment software and database. Parents should be able to access their information through Jackrabbitmusic.com. Please let us know any strengths and weaknesses you see. A brief explanation of the process might be helpful. All currently enrolled students are automatically enrolled for the same lesson day and time for the next semester. The billing statement gets generated from this enrollment. A time limit needs to be set for confirmation of the enrollment. This is done through payment, either online through Jackrabbitmusic.com. MPAI accepts cash, checks, money orders and all major credit cards. Enrollments not confirmed then become open times available to new students and students that want to change day and or time.

Statements for Spring 2010 enrollment will be coming out soon.

MPAI CALENDAR

November 23-29	closed for Thanksgiving
December 21-January 3	Christmas break
January 9 and 10	recitals are scheduled
January 16 and 17	trying to reserve the recital recitals
January 17	end of fall semester
January 18-23	Make up week

Musical Theatre

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A reminder: MPAI follows the inclement weather and emergency closings of Towson University.

ZELLHOFER

Mike Zellhofer, the person that has been running the office for MPAI, has just had surgery. We

hope he will be up and running by mid December. Our apologies to anyone who has been inconvenienced by his absence. We pray for a quick and speedy recovery.

AWARDS AND CONGRATULATIONS

One of our piano instructors, Anabelinda deCastro, a MPAI and Towson University alumnus, is continuing her education. She is pursuing a Master's Degree in Piano Performance at the University of Delaware, where she has just won The AmPol Music competition Award.

Congratulations to all music students that passed there TCL exams.

TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON 2008-2009

Kaman Phamdo, Grade 4, Piano
Charl du Toit, Grade 8, Piano
Ashley Wong, Grade 4, Piano
Ramya Harshavardhan, Grade 3, Piano
Jimmy Zhang, Grade 4, Piano
Lydie Bavoil, Grade 7, Piano
Sean Li, Grade 2, Piano
Cynthia Li, Grade 6, Piano
Winnie Tsao, Grade 6, Piano
Makea Luzader, Grade 4, Piano
Makea Luzader, Grade 4, Clarinet
Brady Sack, Grade Initial, Piano
Colleen Sack, Grade 6, Piano
Conal Masters, Grade 1, Piano
Jeffrey Tse, Grade 4, Piano
Starr Chen, Grade 8, Piano
Cathy Choi, Grade 2, Piano
Jessica Yan, Grade 5, Piano
Michelle Wu, Grade 3, Piano
Angela Zhang, Grade 4, Piano
Megan Zhang, Grade Initial, Piano
Julie Chotivatanapong, Grade Initial, Piano
Nadia Steel, Grade 6, Singing,
Alyssa Houde, Grade 4, Singing,
Nikki Haririan, Grade 2, Piano
Aaron Shang, Grade 3, Piano
Sanjori Mukherjee, Grade Initial, Piano
Shoutik Mukherjee, Grade 2, Piano
Lucy Tartal, Grade Initial, Piano
Mir Shanaz Hossain, Grade 7, Piano
Cameron Kirschner, Grade 6, Piano
Don Yu, , Grade 7, Piano
Henry Grant, Grade 1, Piano
Saif Hossain, Grade Initial, Piano
Joon Kang, Grade 1, Piano
Mekhi Johnson, Grade Initial, Piano
Tyler Johnson, Grade Initial, Piano
Jeffrey Cai, Grade Initial, Piano

Bianca Zhu, Grade 6, Clarinet,
Cynthia Li, Grade 6, Clarinet
Jeffrey Tse, Grade 4, Clarinet
Anna Blake, Grade 4, Clarinet
Alishia Akhtar, Grade 4, Flute
Harleen Singh, Grade 5, Flute
Melanie Zheng, Grade 5, Flute
Alicia Hsieh, Grade 6, Flute
Sean Li, Grade 1, Recorder
Andre Chen, Grade 5, Saxophone
Jonah Sengupta, Grade 6, Saxophone
Charissa Zhu, Grade 2, Piano
Kristina Randazzo, Grade 3, Piano
Ashley Wong, Grade 4, Flute
Sean Li, Grade 1, Saxophone
Bianca Zhu, Grade 5, Piano
Benjamin Klawson, Grade 4, Saxophone
Daniel Gorelick, Grade 4, Saxophone
Alyssa Houde, Grade 4, Drama & Speech
Nadia Steel, Grade 6, Drama & Speech

THEORY OF MUSIC

Julie Chotivatanapong, Grade 1
Megan Zhang, Grade 1
Cathy Choi, Grade 1
Michelle Wu, Grade 3
Ramya Harshavardhan, Grade 3
Ashley Wong, Grade 3
Nadia Steel, Grade 3
Alyssa Houde, Grade 1
Lucy Tartal, Grade 2
Sanjori Mukherjee, Grade 2
Henry Grant, Grade 3
Shoutik Mukherjee, Grade 4
Mir Shanaz Hossain, Grade 6
Mindy Cheng, Grade 3
Kaman Phamdo, Grade 3
Angela Zhang, Grade 3

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Jeffrey Tse, Grade 3
Jimmy Zhang, Grade 2
Colleen Sack, Grade 2
Conal Masters, Grade 1,
Sean Li, , Grade 1,
Harleen Singh, Grade 2,
Andre Chen, Grade 3,

Special Awards:

Trinity College London Exhibition Prize 2008

Charl du Toit, Grade 7, Piano
Lydie Bavoil, Grade 6, Piano
Cynthia Li, Grade 5, Piano
Jonah Sengupta, Grade 5, Saxophone,

Trinity College London Certificate of Special Merit

Cameron Offutt, Grades 1 - 8, Piano
Jennifer Tse, Grades 1 - 8, Piano

Friends of Trinity Guildhall Awards

Julie Chotivatanapong, Piano, Silver Medal
Sean Li, Piano, Bronze Medal
Megan Zhang, Piano, Bronze Medal

Melanie Zheng, Grade 3,
Bianca Zhu, Grade 4,
Daniel Chen, Grade 2,
Cynthia Li, Grade 4,

Andre Chen, Saxophone, Gold Medal
Michelle Wu, Piano, Bronze Medal
Cynthia Li, Piano, Bronze Medal
Conal Masters, Theory, Silver Medal
Melanie Zheng, Theory, Silver Medal
Bianca Zhu, Theory, Bronze Medal
Alyssa Houde, Drama & Speech, Silver Medal
Nadia Steel, Drama & Speech, Silver Medal
Charl du Toit, Piano, Three Distinctions
Cynthia Li, Theory, Three Distinctions
Kaman Phamdo, Theory, Three Distinctions
Jeffrey Tse, Theory, Three Distinctions
Angela Zhang, Theory, Three Distinctions
Bianca Zhu, Theory, Three Distinctions
Lydie Bavoil, Piano, Four Distinctions
Cynthia Li, Piano, Four Distinctions
Michelle Wu, Piano, Four Distinctions
Jeffrey Tse, Piano, Five Distinctions
Angela Zhang, Piano, Five Distinctions

Don Yu took second place in the 2009 CHARLOTTE NACHMAN piano competition.

Shanaz Hossain took second place in the 2009 Helena Zurstradt piano competition.

MPAI
Towson University Music Dept.
8000 York Road
Towson, MD 21252