

Notes

Celebration of Strings



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the WKU Pre-College Strings Program newsletter for fall 2016! As always, I am delighted to share with you news about our wonderful program and activities, update you on what our students and faculty members have accomplished, and celebrate the work of everyone involved in our program.

This time the newsletter draws particular attention to how our faculty and students have been taking their music out into the community. Our faculty members have been working with local visual artists. Our students performed so beautifully for the Kiwanis Club of Bowling Green and the Village Manor retirement community. We also brought in a guest faculty member from the community: Marcela Joachimstaler from Bowling Green itself. It is important for our program to both share our music with the community and also to embrace the wonderful artists in Bowling Green! Music has charms to connect people, to bring inconceivable joy, and to move our souls.

I am constantly amazed and humbled by how much all our students learn in a short time. What a pleasure it is to see them growing, both musically and personally. I can only stand back and smile. At



the same time I am also thrilled and fulfilled by the concerts I participate in with our Strings Program faculty members and guests. We practice our parts individually, we rehearse with our colleagues, and then we share what we have worked on with our audience. It's a familiar three-step pattern, but I never cease to marvel at how miraculous the results can be.

Andrew Braddock and Sarah Berry performed at their alma mater, Vanderbilt University: what a spectacular concert! And in turn, professors from Vanderbilt helped us to create a great Viola Day and a great Violin Fest.

I know many of you miss Alyna Bloecher dearly, and I am happy to share some news from her. Alyna describes how she and her husband Josh have taken the methods and the spirit of our program out to Crockett, Texas. How heartwarming to hear how much they have accomplished in such a short time.

A huge thank-you to everyone concerned for your hard work, your dedication, your persistence, and your creative spirit.

A handwritten signature of Ching-Yi Lin in red ink, written in a cursive style.

Ching-Yi Lin

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Student Performances

Kiwanis Bowling Green Presentation

August 31

Sarah Hathaway and Jack Willis performed beautifully at the Kiwanis Bowling Green meeting. Everyone loved them! Jack made a little speech before his performance: "I have been playing the violin for a year, and I will be playing Andantino. What I like about this piece is that it's challenging and fun to play." Sarah performed Minuet in G by Beethoven.



Sarah Hathaway and Jack Willis

My Suzuki Book Two Recital

September 10

By *Chloe Pitcock*

At first, I was a little nervous, but then I started to feel less nervous. I was glad my friends were there and my teachers came, too. At the reception, I ate the violin made of fondant icing on the top of my cake. I had a great time at my recital.

Halloween Recital

October 29

By *Emily Simons*

At the Halloween Recital, over 75 students aged 4 to 18 filled the Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center with beautiful music by composers from Suzuki to Shostakovich. The students performed pieces that they had been learning since the beginning of the semester. This recital is the favorite of many students and faculty members because the kids, teachers, and some siblings dress up, so we get to see more of their wonderful personalities. A favorite of mine was the Beginner Violin Group's performance of GDG. Some of the students were able to use their bow for the very first time, and the pure joy on their faces when they picked the bows up to play will stay with me forever. Because of the passionate Pre-College Strings Program faculty members, beginning students are able to learn so much in only two short months that it is truly remarkable. Another of my favorite moments was being able to witness students congratulate each



Chloe Pitcock's Suzuki Book Two Recital



Violin II at Halloween Recital

other when they stepped off stage. This program fosters not only the love of music, but also the importance of friendship. The atmosphere that fills the recital hall is one of love and pride. With Violin Groups I–IV, the audience was able to experience a wide array of talent. Group IV’s performance of “E lucevan le stelle” from *Tosca* by Verdi left the audience aching for more. The Western Ensemble’s performance of Duet for Two Violins by Shostakovich was a fantastic way to end the recital, promoting the love of music and inspiring the Pre-College students to strive for their best—always.

**St. Joseph School
October 31**

By Lydia Houchens

I got to play the violin in the Halloween Talent Show at St. Joseph School, where I am in first grade. I played *See a Little Monkey* for the whole school and my parents. At first I was nervous, but I played well and

was happy. I hope I can play again with my brother, if he takes violin someday. Curtis Lin also performed in the show, playing Concertino by Charles Dancla, with Sarah Berry accompanying him on the cello.

**Solo Recital Marathon
December 3**

We enjoyed a day of four back-to-back solo recitals. Our students performed beautifully. We are so proud of their hard work this semester!



Halloween Talent Show at St. Joseph



Cello Choir at Halloween Recital

Christmas Recital

December 10

The Christmas Recital was held in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. The Strings Program has grown so much in recent years that, even though we brought in twenty extra chairs, there were still people left standing. The students performed Christmas favorites in addition to Suzuki pieces, and even Star Wars made its way into our festive recital.

The Program wants to extend special thanks to Marcus Dukes in University Publications, Amanda Lee of the Music Department, Erin Wittkopf in DELO, and all of our wonderful student assistants: Vanessa Brown, Joseph Breslin, Anna Darling, James Han, Grace Kim, Xinyu Liu, and Emily Simons. We are looking forward to Spring 2017!



Christmas Recital

Christian Health Care at Village Manor

December 11

By Bella von Steinfort

I had a wonderful time playing for the elderly citizens of our community at Village Manor. The event brought me great joy. It was a very valuable experience and I am glad to have participated. Not only did I play my solo piece, *Gavotte* by Lully (from Suzuki Book Two), I also played *The First Noel*, one of our group pieces, with Sarah Hathaway and Zoe Hu. It was a very enjoyable day. I deeply appreciate everyone who made it possible.

Juliette Berry, Leah Chen, Olivia Gaskill, Sarah Hathaway, Zoe Hu, Morgan Jones, Henry Logsdon, Trinity Rose, and Brett Ruiz also shared their music with the residents at Village Manor.



Celebrating Christmas at Village Manor

GUEST ARTISTS

Violin Group Class with Marcela Joachimstaler

By Emily Vaughn

We were very fortunate to have Marcela Joachimstaler lead our WKU Pre-College Strings Program Violin Group II Class on September 19th. Marcela came to Kentucky from San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, in 2010. She has performed in various music ensembles all over Mexico as well as on national radio and TV. She also taught in elementary schools and music schools in San Miguel de Allende and Mexico City.

Marcela started the group class with student performances by Millie Cardwell and Jack Willis. She worked with Millie on focusing her attention on her left hand while playing *Perpetual Motion*. She suggested to Millie that she hang her hand like a monkey's to help form a healthy and relaxed left-hand position. Jack performed *Andantino* for our guest; she worked on helping him play with a relaxed shoulder, so he could play using the weight of his arm. After the mini-master class was done, all the students played together as a group doing fun activities. My own favorite activity was dividing up into groups and playing *Twinkle* and *May Song* at the same time. The kids' favorite activity was doing a "hurricane version" of *Song of the Wind*,

starting out slowly and increasing speed each time.

Ben Sollee Masterclass

By Josh Propst

Shelly Burgess and I were thrilled to have had the opportunity to perform for the Kentucky cellist and genre-bending composer Ben Sollee in a masterclass on October 20th. Sollee

her with vocal harmony. Although he enjoyed our arrangement of the song, especially our voicing of extended chords, he had some constructive criticism about balance and vocal blending. He suggested that I back off for most of my accompanying line and only bring out the interesting, "colorful" parts, allowing Shelly's vocals/melody to take precedence. He also suggested that Shelly and I experiment with varying the timbres of both our cellos and our voices. For instance, singing bright and thin while playing near the fingerboard allows vocals to project more, whereas singing with a darker/thicker tone and playing near the bridge allows for the cello line to project better. Ben finished by showing me



Ben Sollee Masterclass

has inspired both of us to think outside of the box musically and to challenge both our and others' understanding of the cello. We have loved his music since his first album, *Learning to Bend*. Shelly and I played our own arrangement of "Come Together" by The Beatles. Ben said he was impressed by Shelly's ability to sing and play at the same time as well as by my ability to "chop" and accompany



Marcela Joachimstaler with Violin II students

various "chopping" patterns in order to expand my ability to accompany myself and others. This masterclass was an experience that Shelly and I will never forget.

A Touch of Aqua Blue: Music and Art Collaboration

By Alesia Speer

On August 26th, WKU music faculty members teamed up with three local artists to present their first music and community art collaboration. The musicians—Ching-Yi Lin on violin, Andy Braddock on viola, Scott Harris on drums, Patrick O'Rourke on bass, and Alesia Speer on piano—performed Claude Bolling's Suite for Violin & Jazz Piano Trio. On display in the recital hall were works of art by Teresa Christmas, Janet Bass Smith, and Jordan Speer. Teresa's work depicted the ragtime pianist Ernest Hogan from Bowling Green, with scenes from various locations in the area. Janet created a beautiful abstract painting of Old Faithful. Jordan's print of his digital art demonstrated his unusual use of three-dimensional form.

The Bowling Green Art Community has been hosting a Gallery Hop for the past couple of years. This event, which brings together many local artists, offers an opportunity for the public to view their works of art and get to know the artists. Because music and art have many common elements, it seemed a great idea to combine the two for an event at WKU.

It was exciting to see many students and parents among the diverse audience viewing and commenting on the artwork. Hannah Basham, a student at Greenwood High School, had this to say about the evening: "I really enjoyed the dynamics between the musicians. For example, the violin and bass would play a melody, then the piano and drums would play the same. They would toss it back and forth almost playfully. That was my favorite part. The art was beautiful and detailed. I loved Mrs. Christmas' work and the vivid color of Smith's and Speer's pieces. It's wonderful to see different forms of

Faculty Performances



A Touch of Aqua Blue



Down Around State Street by Teresa Christmas

art coming together, especially when created by people from your own town that you know. It was an awesome night."

Arts on Main Summer Concert Series: Ching-Yi Lin and friends

This concert on August 28th featured works for string quartet by W. A. Mozart and Benjamin Britten as well as a string trio by Georges Enesco. The concert opened with Enesco's luscious *Aubade* for string trio, a single-movement work full of innocent melodies and charming textures. Mozart's String Quartet in D minor, K. 421, is one of the most beloved of his 26 works for this medium. From the divergent themes and formal interplay in the first movement, to the elegant buoyancy of the second movement, and the sprawling variations in the last movement, this work contains a bounty of musical riches. Although the British composer Benjamin Britten (1913–1976) is best known for his operas, his writing for string quartet showcases his lyrical and imaginative style. His three-movement String



Britten and Mozart String Quartets with Tim Strang and Juliet Yoshida



Early Music Chamber Recital Q&A

Quartet no. 2 in C major features twisting melodies and explores a wide range of instrumental color in its first movement. The second movement is a blisteringly fast scherzo in which each instrument's lines interweave and chase each other throughout the movement. The work concludes with a monumental Chaconne, putting a modern twist on an ancient musical form. The performers were Ching-Yi Lin and Andrew Braddock from WKU as well as Tim Strang and Juliet Yoshida from the Omaha Symphony.

The concert was held at Scottsville Baptist Church in historic downtown Scottsville, KY and also performed at the University of Omaha Nebraska on September 1st.

Early Music Chamber Recital

On September 12th, Sarah Berry performed in a concert with WKU professors Julie Lyn Barber (soprano) and Liza Kelly (mezzo soprano) as well as Ball State University professor Rebecca Burkart (harpichord). They performed works by J. S. Bach, Handel, Monteverdi, Purcell, Soler, Strozzi, and Vivaldi. Immediately after the concert, the performers hosted a question-and-answer session for the audience members about early-music tuning,

doubling, and general performance practice. The recital was also performed at Ball State University on September 17.

Transcriptions for Viola and Piano

By Grace Kim

On September 21st, Andy Braddock performed a concert entitled Transcriptions for Viola and Piano. Professor Braddock was accompanied by Dr. Bernadette Lo from Sewanee: University of the South. Before Professor Braddock performed, he explained that none of the pieces in the concert were written for the viola but were

transcriptions of pieces written for other instruments as well as songs.

The concert began with Dmitri Shostakovich's Cello Sonata, Op. 40. This early work by one of the greatest Russian composers of the 20th century has unusual shifts of key and a dark, bleak slow movement. Next Professor Braddock played his own arrangement of Arnold Schoenberg's Four Songs, Op. 2, in which the viola takes the beautiful vocal line and the piano provides a chordal accompaniment. Professor Braddock finished the concert with César Franck's Violin Sonata in A major, one of the finest works in the violin repertoire, and here sounding even warmer on the darker-toned viola.

The recital was also performed at Southern Illinois University, Middle Tennessee State University, and Austin Peay State University.

An Evening of Chamber Music with Carolyn Huebl, Blair Alumni, and Friends December 4

From Vanderbilt University Press Release:

"Blair is thrilled to welcome back graduates Sarah Berry, cello, and Andy Braddock, viola, as well as friends Ching-Yi Lin, violin, and Bernadette Lo, piano. The program will include two masterpieces of early 20th-century string chamber music, Prokofiev's Sonata for Two Violins, Op. 56, and Kodály's Serenade for Two Violins and Viola, Op. 12. The unusual instrumentation allows the listener to closely follow each individual voice of the ensemble. Bernadette Lo and Sarah Berry will join in for a performance of one of the most beloved works in all of chamber music, Schumann's Piano Quintet in E-flat major, Op. 44."

This program was first performed at Western Kentucky University during the weekend of the 2016 Violin Fest.

University of North Texas
College of Music
Faculty and Guest Artist Recital

CHING-YI LIN, violin
FELIX OLSCHOFKA, violin
DAPHNE GERLING, viola
NIKOLA RUŽEVIĆ, cello
STEVEN HARLOS, piano

Friday, September 30, 2016 8:00 pm Voertman Hall

PROGRAM

Piano Quintet No. 2 in A Major,
Opus 81 (1887) Antonin Dvořák (1841-1904)
I. Allegro ma non tanto
II. Dumka (Andante con moto)
III. Scherzo-Furiant (Molto vivace)
IV. Allegro

-Intermission-

Piano Quintet in F minor,
Opus 34 (1864) Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
I. Allegro non troppo
II. Andante, un poco Adagio
III. Scherzo (Allegro)
IV. Finale (Poco sostenuto - Allegro non troppo)

Photographs and videography are prohibited.
Seventy-eighth program of the 2016-2017 season.

COLLEGE OF MUSIC **UNT**

Dvořák and Brahms Piano Quintets at University of North Texas, September 30

College Masterclass

By Anna Darling

Saturday, October 1st was WKU's very first Viola Day. We were fortunate enough to have Kathryn Plummer, Professor of Viola at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music, as our guest artist and teacher. She and Andrew Braddock, viola instructor at WKU, spent the day teaching viola technique, giving master classes, and sight-reading chamber music with the students. In the afternoon, Professor Plummer taught a college masterclass that I was fortunate enough to attend. The students who played were phenomenal, and Professor Plummer gave wonderful feedback.

First to perform was Emily Vaughn, graduate assistant at WKU, and a student of Professor Braddock's. She played the first movement of Rebecca Clarke's Sonata for Viola and Piano. Emily was extremely sensitive with dynamics, and played with great expression and tone. Professor Plummer focused much of their time on improving Emily's rhythm, encouraging her to practice with a metronome, while making sure not to compromise the piece's musicality. In addition, they worked on shifting: knowing the whole and half steps and the finger configuration before playing each note, in order to improve intonation.

Second on the program was Amaro Dubois, from the University of Louisville, performing the Allegro from Stamitz's Viola Concerto in D major. Amaro played with a beautiful tone and vivacious energy. Professor Plummer encouraged him to approach the piece with the style and elegance with which he would play a

VIOLA DAY



Viola Technique Class

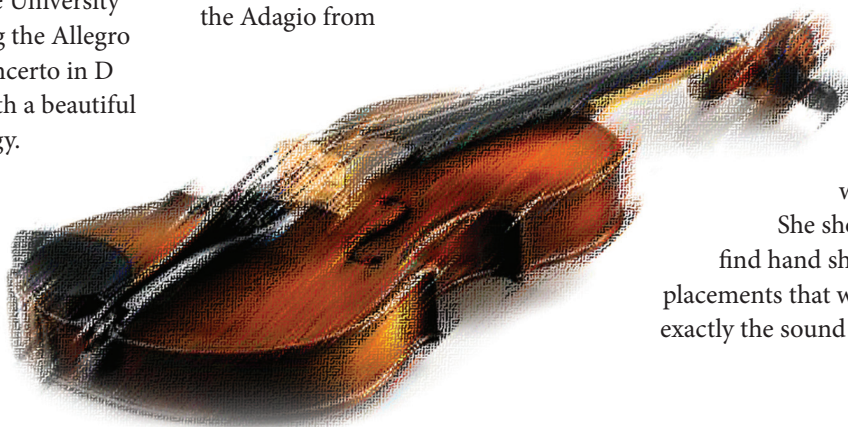
Mozart Concerto. After trying this with Professor Plummer accompanying him on the viola, Amaro's playing was significantly cleaner, and the rhythms were more precise. Professor Plummer also gave him practicing tips that will help him relax while he plays.

Landon Case, also one of Professor Braddock's students, performed the Adagio from

Hoffmeister's Viola Concerto in D major. Although Professor Plummer noticed that Landon paid great attention to detail and was systematic in his approach to the music, she thought he could become more imaginative. After having Landon sing a couple of phrases from the piece, she encouraged

him to break some of the "rules" of bow division and technique to allow him to play the phrases the way he sang them.

She showed him how to find hand shapes and finger placements that would help him create exactly the sound he wanted to hear.



The afternoon's final performer was Rossana Cauti, a student from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She played the first movement of Béla Bartók's Viola Concerto. Rossana was a highly sensitive player, and it was clear that she felt her music strongly as she played. Professor Plummer encouraged her to pay closer attention to the way she moves while she plays, being sure that it reflects the music and doesn't work against her bow, compromising the tone quality and sureness of bow placement. With such attention, Rossana's sound became richer and wider. Professor Plummer also reminded Rossana of the importance of not taking rhythmic liberties that the composer did not intend.

The three things that Professor Plummer addressed the most were sound, intonation, and rhythm, which she called the non-negotiable parts of playing the viola. She gave wonderful instructions and tips to help every musician, not only violists, improve in these key areas. We are so thankful to have had the opportunity to learn from such an accomplished musician and teacher.



Landon Case and Professor Plummer

Pre-College Masterclass

By Elizabeth Hook

The pre-college masterclass with Professor Plummer began with a performance from Taina LeBlanc, a student of Michael Hill's in Louisville. She performed the second movement of Telemann's Concerto in G major. Professor Plummer began by focusing on practice methods. She explained that you should break the music up into smaller chunks, and find a tempo where you can play the chunks perfectly. Taina

then played the more difficult passages at a slower tempo, focusing on the right weight and point of contact of the bow. Professor Plummer went on to compare the viola to a trampoline: the stick of the bow, the hair, and the wood of the viola are all flexible and somewhat springy. This makes the pitch of the instrument flexible as well.

Sophie Lee, a student of Shu-Zheng Yang in Nashville, followed with a performance of the first movement of Zelter's Concerto in E-flat major. Professor Plummer talked extensively about how a healthy playing posture enables the students to extract a better sound from the instrument and to avoid future injuries. She suggested a reconfiguration of Sophie's hand in order to better accommodate the piece and improve intonation. Professor Plummer also emphasized the importance of practicing scales in order to improve intonation, muscle memory, and left-hand frame, among other things.

In sum, Professor Plummer taught many interesting techniques and methods that all students could use to improve their playing, not only on the viola but on other string instruments as well.

"Viola Day was great! My favorite part was the master class. One of the points Professor Plummer made was that when playing the violin or viola, you need to have your feet completely flat on the floor. She said this is important for good balance and body alignment. She told us that you should never wear high-heel shoes while standing and performing because, even though you might look pretty, you cannot keep the entire bottom of your feet flat on the floor. She also said that your upper body and shoulders should be loose, 'like a puppet hanging from strings.'

Professor Plummer also told us about the importance of practicing with a metronome. She encouraged everyone to practice at a speed they can play the piece perfectly, so that you don't need to slow down at the more difficult spots. She even had one of the students demonstrate marching around while playing, to be her own metronome.

Professor Plummer had many helpful practice suggestions. I am glad I had the opportunity to learn from her."

– CHLOE HAWKINS, a Pre-College Strings Program student

Faculty Recital

On November 11th, students and parents of the Pre-College Strings Program gathered in FAC Recital Hall to watch the opening concert of Violin Fest. Our guest instructor, Dr. Carolyn Huebl from Vanderbilt University, took the stage with Dr. Ching-Yi Lin, violin, Professor Andrew Braddock, viola, Sarah Berry, cello, and another guest, Dr. Bernadette Lo, piano, from Sewanee: University of the South. They performed pieces by Prokofiev, Kodály, and Schumann.

The concert started with Dr. Huebl and Dr. Lin performing Prokofiev's Sonata for Two Violins, Op. 56. The two violinists passed the melody back and forth so seamlessly that it was difficult to tell which performer was playing which part, and at times it sounded like only one instrument.

Professor Braddock then joined the violinists to perform Kodály's Serenade, Op. 12. The Allegramente and Vivo were lively and full of energy, whereas the Lento, ma non troppo had an

Violin FEST

2016

ominous feeling. Throughout the work, despite the absence of a regular beat, the performers kept perfectly together. Through breath, eye contact, and movement of the body they personified nonverbal communication. This piece was a crowd favorite; I heard violinists still talking about it a week later.

The concert ended with the Schumann Piano Quintet; Professor Berry and Dr. Lo joined the other three musicians on stage. This work, one of the composer's finest, established the genre in music history, combining the counterpoint and brilliance of the string quartet with the power and dynamic range of the piano. At times the five instruments engage in a friendly after-dinner conversation; at other times, the strings strive together in contrast with the piano. In this performance, the quintet made an unflinchingly warm and lush sound.

The night ended with a big round of applause from an audience inspired and ready for the next day.

Masterclass with Dr. Carolyn Huebl

The masterclass began with Anna Darling performing the first movement of J. S. Bach's E-major Partita for solo violin. Professor Huebl gave Anna praise for her performance, then



Violin I Rehearsal with Andrew Braddock



Violin Ensemble excited about Violin Fest 2016



Anna Darling and Professor Huebl in college masterclass

offered some helpful tips that would be useful for any musician. She advised Anna to start practicing at the end or in the middle of a piece, so she knows the end just as well as the beginning. She shared that when musicians are concerned about their intonation, their tone often suffers; one way to fix this is to focus on the contact point of the bow, which helps to keep up the energy especially when playing on the lower strings. She also advised Anna to play in the practice room with confidence, which will translate to the stage.

Grace Kim gave a beautiful performance of Sibelius's Violin Concerto. Professor Huebl complimented Grace on her varied dynamics, melodic phrasing, and singing tone. During the ensuing discussion, Professor Huebl stressed the importance of learning about the composer of any piece you are playing, so you understand which emotions are being conveyed in the piece. Sibelius was a melancholy man, although the movement goes through many mood changes, leading to reassurance and redemption. Finally, Professor Huebl gave a tip for keeping accurate rhythm: subdivide each note into smaller notes.

Sarah Hathaway performed Antonín Dvořák's *Humoresque*. Professor Huebl complimented Sarah on her accurate use of bow division, also known as "Z bow." Sarah's beautiful posture and light bow strokes contributed to the folk quality of the piece. Professor Huebl likened the mood of the piece to a bunny hopping, whereupon Sarah changed the style of her playing accordingly, clearly enjoying herself.

The young Leah Chen gave a rousing performance of Robert Schumann's *The Two Grenadiers*. Professor Huebl praised Leah's obvious confidence, which had contributed to her admirable phrasing and the energetic contrast in her dynamics. Professor Huebl related



Balance, Breathe, and Movement in Violin Lecture with Dr. Huebl

playing with a straight bow to a familiar childhood metaphor: “Your eyes are like training wheels for the bike; even I still need them! Watch the contact point of the bow when you play!”

Closing out the morning, Xinyu Liu delivered an emotional performance of the Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto. Professor Huebl complemented Liu on how he handled the changing emotions of the movement. She also told him that the secret of maintaining the energy of a piece is to integrate emotion into the confidence of the practice room, which will help the emotion come to life on stage.

Balance, Breath, and Movement in Playing the Violin

Professor Huebl’s participatory lecture was attended by students of all ages and even some parents. Throughout, she focused on how to find a relaxed yet powerful way of playing. She began by inviting the audience to take a moment to stretch. Then we could fully engage our bodies and create the best sound possible on

our instruments. She demonstrated how movement and countermovement can aid in bow division as well as dynamics.

We did many fun exercises over the course of the lecture, but the one I found most interesting might be called “Sumo Legs.” Everyone took a stance similar to that of a sumo wrestler about to fight. Our bent legs and slightly lowered torsos gave us more contact with the floor and a better sense of being grounded, allowing our upper bodies to focus on making good contact with the violin and producing a naturally larger and more wonderful sound. Playing the violin involves the whole body!

Participants’ Recital

The concluding concert began with the Suzuki Book One students playing three pieces composed by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki himself. Next the Beginner Violins group demonstrated their ability to play using both the bow and pizzicato. Afterwards, the Suzuki Book Two students performed two

pieces by George Frideric Handel. Leah Chen performed *The Two Grenadiers* by Robert Schuman, showing how much she had learned from working on it with Professor Huebl during the masterclass earlier in the day. Sonia Conte skillfully performed *The Polish Dance* by Edmund Severn that featured harmonics. After those two marvelous solos, the Suzuki Book Three violinists performed *Gavotte* by the Classical composer Giovanni Battista Martini. Other notable performances include the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto performed by Sarah McGuire, and solos by Asa Ashley, Juliette Berry, Lydia Houchens, and Alona Lupardus. The concert ended with Duet for Two Violins composed by the modern Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich and performed by The Violin Ensemble. The pride in their hard work displayed by all the performers in this fine concert was evident in the smiles on their faces.

WRITERS: Vanessa Brown, Abby Preston, LeeAnna Sewell, and Emily Simons

THE LANGUAGE OF MUSIC

By Stephanie Barr, M.S. CCC-SLP

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where the message you were attempting to communicate was unable to be understood? Perhaps you were in a foreign country, where your native language was not the listener's language. Or you were attempting to communicate with your child, who did understand your language but, through refusal or frustration, did not comprehend your message. I know in my own life, as a parent and professionally as a speech language pathologist, I have both experienced and witnessed communication breakdowns and the frustration, fear, and confusion that followed.

After such breakdowns, I have returned to a language I learned from my childhood on. A language that needs no words, and yet communicates eloquently and effectively our deepest thoughts and emotions. A language



Stephanie and Garrett Barr

that allows the non-native speaker to understand and the frustration of a child to melt away. It is the powerful language of music.

Can you imagine the benefit of knowing a universal language, spoken by everyone throughout the world?

Imagine the many uses it would have, not only to the individual who knew this universal language but the many individuals it would impact positively? And yet, is that not what music provides? As Henry Longfellow once said, "Music is the universal language of mankind."

Music benefits all who experience it, as both speaker and listener. I have witnessed patients with advanced dementia have a sparkle return to their eye when a song from the past is played, and a withdrawn child engage socially with other peers during an activity centered around music. I have also seen the joy and happiness spread across the faces of individuals from all walks of life and all cultures when they hear our young musicians in this program perform both on campus and in our community.

I have had the opportunity to meet so many fantastic individuals, other musicians, and talented children as a result of having my son Garrett in this Program. The friendships born, encouragement given, and support provided are among the many blessings of this wonderful program. All because of the language of music—a language that speaks, connects, and impacts in a way our semantics never can and never will.

Music is powerful. Music is communication. Music is a language all its own. Equipping our young people with this powerful language now gives them another language they can use to be heard, to be understood, to be successful, and to listen to others. What a bright future our children, and we in turn, will have as the language of music continues to thrive.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Kiwanis Club Presentation

August 31

Jack Willis made a wonderful speech, introducing himself and talking about why he loves to play the violin before his performance at the Kiwanis Club Presentation!

2nd Annual All-District Orchestra

October 27

"I had the honor of being the Concertmaster for the 2nd Annual All-District Orchestra. Students from South Warren High School, Greenwood High School, Warren Central, Warren East, Bowling Green High, Barren County, and Glasgow City schools all had the opportunity to perform under Jeffrey Reed. Jeffrey Reed, the music director of Orchestra Kentucky, helped lead us to musical success in just a day and a half! Participating in all-district has been one of the highlights of my high-school career. Having the ability to be directed by maestro Reed, being able to meet friends from different schools, and coming together to make beautiful music in Van Meter Hall is an experience I will always cherish." - Emily Simons

WBKO Midday Live

November 22

Our Baker Quartet players joined Dr. Brian St. John in promoting the upcoming Symphony Concert. Here is a picture of them performing at the WBKO Midday Live!

Grace Kim and Abby Preston, *violin*
Emily Vaughn, *viola*
Shelly Burgess, *cello*



WBKO Midday Live



Rebekah Alice Johns' Suzuki Book One Recital

Rebekah Alice Johns' Reflection on Violin Suzuki Book One Recital

May 8

"I am so happy that I had my book one recital. I had so much fun. I was a little more nervous when I actually got on stage than I thought I would be. It was a very special day because it was also on Mother's Day. I was so thankful that my friends and family came. I was proud to say I finished my first violin book. I just want to thank Dr. Ching-Yi, Mr. Andy, and Mr. Steven for teaching and helping me learn to play. I also want to thank my dad for helping me, and I was really happy that he played the piano for my recital. So that made it even better!"

– Rebekah Alice Johns



Anna Darling working with Beginner Violins

Last Summer, Dr. Ching-Yi Lin and Emily Vaughn had the incredible experience of traveling to Tanzania, Africa to bring Western string instruction to a secondary school in Moshi. While they were there, I was excited every time a new picture was shared, and brightened by the joy on the children's faces. I dreamed of going there the following year, and of what it would be like to give more of this beautiful gift of music to these kids. At the beginning of the fall 2016 semester, with the help of Professor Andrew Braddock and Dr. Lin, I applied for the Faculty Undergraduate Research Grant (FUSE). I was delighted to be chosen to receive this grant, as it will entirely fund my traveling to Tanzania this summer 2017 to become a part of the Daraja String Initiative in Moshi, teaching the violin for three weeks. It is such an honor to know that this trip, the research that I will be conducting while there, and learning how to teach these children all have the complete support of this music department and this university.

– Anna Darling



Pre-College Strings t-shirt designed by Marcus Dukes

The WKU Pre-College Strings Program would like to welcome the following students to our program in Spring 2017:

Laurel Bray	Willow Romans
Meredith Edwards	Ema Takenaka
Chris Kim	Adelae Thompson
Chloe Mcneely	Peyton Rhodes
Gabrielle McNeely	Emma Watson
Caroline Powers	Paisley Wilson

Congratulations to Liheng Cao (violin) and Maxwell Conte (cello) for getting into the Kentucky Music Educators Association All-State Orchestras! They have been selected to perform in the 2017 conference in Louisville, KY.

The program would like to thank Marcus Dukes, a Senior Graphic Designer in University Publications, for his support of the WKU Pre-College Strings Program. Marcus has designed countless recital posters, advertisements, t-shirts, bumper stickers, newsletters, rack cards, and other promotional material for the Pre-College Strings Program. In all of these activities, Marcus goes well beyond merely designing materials for the strings program; he is truly invested in our mission and does all that he can to promote it. Thank you Marcus!

News from the Bloecher Family

By Alyna Bloecher

Since moving to Texas, our life has been a whirlwind! There has been a lot of change and a lot of adjusting for all three of us. Letting go of our memories of Bowling Green and the WKU Pre-College has been a particular challenge. But the community here has welcomed us warmly and God has met every one of our needs in abundance.

The adventure here is just beginning, but we are already in love with East Texas. Josh is working hard to build a house for us and complete a chicken farm, which is set to begin production in a few short weeks. John Isaac is growing in height, weight, and attitude. John has started “practicing” the violin with mommy using a Foam-a-lin from Young Musicians, Inc. We practice placing the violin on his collarbone and putting his pinky “in the house.” He also practices identifying the “bow” and the “violin,” a fun game for all of us.

Josh and I launched a music education program in Crockett, Texas in September. Because we truly felt that the WKU Pre-College Strings Program was educationally solid and produced incredible results, we wanted to pattern our program after it. Our program is called the Bloecher Strings Academy, for obvious reasons. The Academy consists of weekly private and group instruction as well as monthly master

classes, workshops, and other events in the community. Our pedagogy is based closely on what we learned from Dr. Ching-Yi Lin. The main difference is our target audience. We loved what we saw at Pre-College so much that we wanted to offer the experience to adults and toddlers, too. In addition to the



Masterclass with Alyna Bloecher

violin and viola program for ages 4-18, we offer a violin and viola program for ages 18+, and music classes for three-year-olds with their parents. These additions have been both a delight and a challenge. We are glad to have surmounted the challenge and have the opportunity to bring the joy that we experienced at WKU to so many people.

This past semester, both Josh and I taught masterclass workshops at the Academy. I taught a class based on Johann Sebastian Bach, and Josh taught one about ear-training and

intonation. We also participated in a number of festivals this past semester. We attended the World Championship Fiddlers Festival and were part of the Fall Festival at First Baptist Crockett, the location where we are currently holding all of our lessons and classes. We were also part of an exciting event called Christmas in Crockett. This event, actually held in early November, consisted of an evening parade and a day-long festival. The parade was a blast! We decorated our float to look like a symphony orchestra and had all of our students dress in concert black attire. Our float boasted over 1,000 Christmas lights and many lit balloons. The students all took turns

conducting the orchestra while the teachers and parents walked alongside the float. Seeing the four-year-olds conducting was hilarious and will be a sweet memory. The festival was equally as exciting. We put up our own booth where students and faculty could come throughout the day to perform for the festival attendees. Violin solos, duets, and ensembles filled the air. Once the performances had finished at our booth, we were invited to the main

stage on the Square to perform again. Our students were all excited and humbled to be a part of such a great event.

We are looking forward to the spring 2017 semester with excitement. We are planning more workshops and a summer camp, and are currently searching for more teachers to join the Academy next fall. We miss everyone in Bowling Green very much and we have loved hearing about all of your accomplishments. We wish you continued success and a very musical 2017.

SAVE THE DATE

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Summer
String
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July 24–28, 2017



A week of fun music making for new and continuing string students ages 4 and up!

**Faculty for the 2017
WKU Summer String Institute**

Andrew Braddock
WKU Viola Professor, Institute Director

Dr. Kasia Bugaj
*Professor of String Music Education
at The Florida State University*

Micah Claffey
Music Director at Fresco Arts Academy

Dr. Ching-Yi Lin
WKU Violin Professor

Patrick O'Rourke
Bowling Green City School Orchestra Director

Dr. Brian St. John
*WKU Baker Professor of Music
Orchestra Director*

Tim Strang
Cellist at Omaha Symphony

Emily Vaughn
WKU Pre-College Strings Program Faculty

Juliet Yoshida
Violinist at Omaha Symphony



Dear Parents,

I want to invite you and your children to participate in the 11th annual WKU Summer String Institute. The *Twinklers Session* of the camp is for brand new beginners and for young students, ages around 4 to 8 years old. The sessions are from 9:00am–11:30am daily, and they will include ensemble playing, solo performances, theory exercises, and fun musical games. We will meet in the Music Rehearsal Hall every morning for student drop off.

The Orchestra Session is for students who have been playing for at least a year and are comfortable reading music. Registered students will be assigned to one of the orchestras: beginning (Suzuki Book 2 and 3 levels), intermediate, and advanced (high school). This session is from 9:00am–3:30pm daily.

The registration deadline is July 1st for a guaranteed t-shirt, but register earlier to receive the best rate! To register and for more information, visit the camp website at wku.edu/strings/ssi.php

I look forward to seeing you this summer!

Andrew Braddock
Director of the WKU Summer String Institute



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Bowling Green, KY 42101-1029

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A stylized graphic of a violin in a golden-brown color. The body of the violin is filled with white, leaf-like patterns, and the neck and scroll are also in the same color.

Register Today! wku.edu/strings