



Music Notes

a newsletter from the Cady School of Music

Vol. 7 March 2010

From the Director

Dear Parents and Students,

A belated Happy New Year to everyone! I hope that your 2010 is off to a wonderful start!

Thank you to all the students and parents who helped make the Winter Recital at the end of January such a success. The performances were all wonderful to listen to, and it is always nice to see how the students progress from performance to performance.

A few changes will be happening for the studio. Most will not be until the fall, and I will keep everyone abreast of those changes as they become finalized. However, there are three immediate changes that everyone needs to be aware of:

1. Students no longer need to sign in – this will now happen in their lesson.
2. Tuition payment is due in full at the FIRST lesson of each month. ***This has always been the policy, along with a \$20.00 late fee for payment received after the 10th of each month.***
3. Tuition payments that are received late will have a late charge applied and an invoice for the fee mailed out. In the interest of trying to work with our families, we have not charged late fees and have accepted payments even at the end of the month. I can no longer do this. As I am sure you all can appreciate, I need to be able to pay the

teachers and they get paid every other week, not at the end of the month.

As always, your business and support are greatly appreciated! It is our goal to provide the best music education we can for our students, and that is best accomplished by having great teachers on the faculty. Keeping such great teachers at the school also means paying them appropriately which is the reason for the “hard line” that I now have to take regarding the tuition and the business part of what we do as educators. Again, I hope you all understand, and thank you again for your patronage.

Bryan Cady
Director

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Upcoming Events at the Cady School:

Thurs. 3/4 6:00-7:00PM, \$5 per class  
**Chamber Music**  
Guest Instructors

Thurs. 3/11 6:00-7:00PM, \$5 per class  
**Medieval Music**  
Instructor: Lisa Nielson

TBA NYSSMA solo practice class

Sun. 6/20 2:00PM, Hubbard Interfaith Sanctuary  
**Spring Recital**

Chamber and Medieval Music meet on  
alternating Thursdays throughout the semester!  
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In the spotlight...

This area of the newsletter will highlight a special area of interest. In this issue, Medieval Music scholar Lisa Nielson introduces us to...

Medieval Music

Starting on February 25th, the Cady School will be offering medieval music ensemble as part of our Chamber Music program. The medieval ensemble will be open to students, parents, and teachers who are interested in learning more about this fascinating repertoire.

The time period known as the Middle Ages or Medieval period in Europe and England is still being debated. Some think it begins as early as 400CE and ending as late as in 1450, which is the beginning of the Renaissance, while others think it begins around 750-800CE and ends earlier in 1400. In music, it is generally placed between 400CE and 1400 – one thousand years!

All of the important developments in music had their start during the Middle Ages: church music began with what is now call Gregorian or plain chant, notation was invented, instruments were developed, and popular music of all kinds was passed from kingdom to kingdom by traveling musicians. At first, most music was sacred, or meant to be sung in church. Until the late 10th century (about 950CE) there was no standard musical notation except for some abbreviated symbols and shorthand, so church singers had to memorize everything. Since there was a chant or office for every day, and several services each day, this meant a church singer had to memorize up to 1,000 tunes, with the proper scripture to go with them!

Even though there was no standard notation, we have fragments of many tunes from this time, and once notation became used more often, music that had previously been taught orally could now be written down. Starting in the 11th century, secular music started to become more popular. A new class of poets called troubadours traveled around France and Spain trading news and playing songs about love, war, and politics. The songs these poets sang were written down hundreds of years later, along with instrumental dances, motets, and musical dramas for the church.

In the medieval ensemble, we will explore both sacred and secular music. We'll sing some chant and early 2-3 part music, try our hand at playing dances, look at different types of notation and learn about how people in the middle ages used music in their everyday lives. We'll also try some different stringed instruments and learn a little about medieval improvisation. Anyone who has a recorder is welcome to bring that as well but it is not essential. Participants need only to bring their voice and a willingness to try something completely different!

For any questions about the Medieval Music or Chamber Music program, please feel free to contact Lisa Nielson at: lnielson@cadyschool.com



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