



Music Notes

a newsletter from the Cady School of Music

Vol. 8 April 2011

From the Director

As we enter April and leave (hopefully!) the winter behind I find myself taking in a deep breath of fresh air and pausing for a moment to reflect on what and who we are at the Cady School of Music.

We are teachers, friends, parents, and families. We are people who value the Arts – not just to the benefit of ourselves and/or our children but to our society as a whole. Every student who studies music has the potential of being that someone who someday we may talk about and say “I knew them when...” The experiences we provide could turn a child into an amazing teacher, a performer, or as an adult simply someone who passes the joy of music on to those around them. You all chose the Cady School of Music for your studies, and for that we surely are grateful, but more so you chose to study music, or to have your children study music. And that is a wonderful thing in itself!

Our week-long summer camp will start on Aug. 8th. Students will have the opportunity to learn music theory, ear training, and sight singing. Small ensembles will be formed to play chamber music, and individual lessons will be available as well. Last year the camp was a great success, and we hope to continue that this year. Registration forms will be available in the waiting room.

As always, I hope this message finds you all well, and I look forward to seeing you as our semester progresses.

Bryan Cady
Director

Upcoming Events at the Cady School:

TBA NYSSMA solo practice class

Sun. 6/19 2:00PM, Hubbard Interfaith Sanctuary
Spring Recital

August 8-12 9:00AM-5:00PM
Camp Cady Summer Music Camp

Piano

Wind through my fingers
As I play through the breeze.
Piano is awesome.
I want lessons, please.

Alyssa Koh
Age 7
Guilderland Elementary
Guilderland (grade 3)



Are you interested in joining an email news mailing from the Cady School? You will receive email reminders of important dates, vacation days, and other musical opportunities. Please email Assistant Director Susan Gierthy to sign up: sgierthy@cadyschool.org

In the spotlight...

This area of the newsletter highlights an area of a special interest. In this issue, guitar gurus Tom Smith and Andrew Wheeler urge us to...

“Spring Into Guitar Care”

Spring is a time we often associate with new beginnings and cleanups! As musicians, we all need to take good care of our instruments. After all, it's your best friend!! We are in a perfect season to begin some good habits for maintaining the general condition and playability of your instrument. This article will speak to guitar students with some ideas to develop good habits.

♪ **Guitar health starts with new strings.** If the guitar is being played even a couple of hours a week, it is advisable to change the strings at least once a month, if not more. You may determine to change your strings if they go out of tune quickly; if they have oxidized and turned color (usually dark); or if they have gone tone dead and no longer sound bright and responsive. Changing your own strings is a skill you should learn early in your musical career. If you have questions, please ask your teacher for help and advice.

♪ **Wash your hands before playing your guitar.** This can lengthen your string life.

♪ **Wipe down your strings every time after you play the guitar.** This will also lengthen your string life. You may use a guitar polish cloth. An old cotton T-shirt works great, too!

♪ **Bring your instrument to a guitar shop for a professional set-up** at least twice a year, or when seasons change. This is necessary for a neck adjustment that no guitar should go without.

♪ **Frequently check your guitar's intonation** using an electronic/digital tuner. This ensures that the frets you play are ringing true with correct notes. Test your intonation by playing different frets and seeing if the tuner is telling you the proper note. A persistent intonation problem is an indication of a neck problem and requires professional attention.

If some of these suggestions sound like just too much to do, start out a little at a time. Along with practicing your guitar, begin to develop a routine for healthy instrument maintenance. Following these points as you grow in your musical life will benefit you and your best friend.

Stay in tune!!

Andrew “The King” Wheeler
Tom Smith

Good luck to all students
attending New York State
School Music (NYSSMA)
Solo Festivals!



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