Spring Forward

by Rob DeNunzio
Director of Music Conservatory and Music Programs

As another year winds to a close and we prepare for both our final performances of 2014-15 and bid a fond farewell to our sole graduating senior, we’re simultaneously preparing for what next fall will bring—and with the extension of coeducation in the high school, excitement is running high. Bringing young men in to the Virtuoso Program allows us two tremendous opportunities: welcoming talented, passionate, and hard-working young musicians into our program regardless of gender, and truly growing our own Virtuoso Program from the ground up, helping to support young boys and girls in our lower and middle schools as they all now have the potential to develop into our next generation of Virtuoso Program students.

Already we are delighted to see success on both counts, as for the first time in many years, one of our own San Domenico 8th graders will be continuing as a member of VP in the fall, alongside the very first young man to receive a Virtuoso Program scholarship (whose profile you can read below). Add to that the largest incoming freshman class that VP has seen in over ten years, with students coming from as far away as Thailand as well as our own backyard and you can understand how thrilled we are for the future.

But before we begin that next chapter, we are preparing to celebrate the successes of our current student body. I certainly hope you can join us for one of our final concerts as our students culminate their work as soloists, chamber ensembles, and lastly, the Orchestra da Camera. Be sure you’re following us on Facebook to get up-to-date news and event information:

www.facebook.com/musicatsandomenico

Join us on Friday, May 22 at 7:00 pm for our final orchestra concert of the year, when our Virtuoso Program Orchestra da Camera will hit the stage in a concert featuring Mirah Ray ’15 as our soloist on Bruch’s Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, 2nd mvt. In addition, the orchestra will be performing works by Albinoni, Gershwin, Respighi, and be joined by our Middle School Orchestra with music from Pirates of the Caribbean. The concert is free and will be followed by a light reception hosted by our parent committee.

Student profile: Daniel Stone ’19

What school do you currently attend and who do you study cello with?
I am an eighth grader at the Crowden School in Berkeley and study with Robert Howard.

Who are your favorite musicians?
I really enjoy listening to the music of composers from the Romantic period, such as Schubert, Brahms and Elgar. My father is the second violinist of the Cypress String Quartet and through him I have met some composers they commissioned to write music for the group. Elena Ruehr and Kevin Puts are some of my favorites among them.

My favorite cellists include Jaqueline du Pré, Mischa Maisky and Zuill Bailey, who I also met through my father.

Do you have any musical goals or aspirations of your own?
One day I hope to be able to play the Schubert Cello Quintet!

What is your favorite music to play?
I was part of a piano trio for a couple of years. Among the repertoire we learned I loved performing the trio by Clara Schumann, as well as the Four Seasons of Buenos Aires by Astor Piazzola. Playing the Elgar Serenade with my orchestra at the Crowden School was one of this year’s highlights for me. I am learning the Elgar Concerto right now and I like it a lot. However, I really did not anticipate how hard it was going to be!

What are you looking forward to about being in the Virtuoso Program?
I am looking forward to playing lots of different chamber music repertoire as well as orchestra music (which I haven’t done that much so far).

What other hobbies do you enjoy?
Right now, I love devouring manga (gotta love the taste of paper!). I like playing baseball and Frisbee.

Do you have any heroes (musical or otherwise)?
I can’t think of any right now. Maybe my grandfather (my dad’s dad)…

Do you have any musical goals or aspirations of your own?
One day I hope to be able to play the Schubert Cello Quintet!

We look forward to welcoming Daniel and the rest of the class of 2019 this fall!
Community in Music

Principal cellist Jessamyn Fry ‘17, guest tenor Michael Dailey, and principal violist Tara Sola ‘16 enjoying the post-concert reception.

Our March orchestra concert was an adventure through time as we explored the interconnectedness of composers past and present, and the musical community they’ve built for us to be a part of. Among other things, the afternoon included the first-ever complete performance of John Craton’s setting of T.S. Eliot’s “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” on the 100th anniversary of its publication, as well as personal video greetings from composers Barbara Gallagher and Liz Lane. Connecting our students and audiences with the threads that run through our musical history allow them to not only see the relationships between the past and the present, but to prepare for the future as well.

Congratulations, Mirah!

Congratulations to concertmaster Mirah Ray ‘15 for her Guild Competition scholarship award win at Westmont in Santa Barbara! You can catch Mirah’s final solo performance at San Domenico at our May 22 orchestra concert, where will be wishing her bon voyage as she graduates to a life sure to be filled with music.

Junior Bach Festival

Shades of “Abbey Road” as the orchestra makes its way to the season finale of this year’s Junior Bach Festival at Old First Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. The orchestra performed Bach’s 3rd Brandenburg Concerto to close the concert.

The 2014-15 Virtuoso Program Scholarship Fund

Were you aware that all students in our program receive some form of financial assistance in the form of a Virtuoso Program scholarship? As we get close to the end of our fiscal year, gifts from individual donors can make the difference in students’ ability to afford a Virtuoso Program education. Please consider making a gift today using the enclosed envelope. For more information, please feel free to contact the Conservatory office. Thank you!

Alums! Send us your news!

Every time we get word of alumni successes out in the music world (and beyond!) it is a thrilling reminder of the importance of the foundational work we are doing with each generation of Virtuoso Program students. Let us know when you have news to share—upcoming concerts, exciting achievements, or even just a great photo you’d like to share. Between Overtures, our Facebook pages, School Ties, and the San Domenico School website, we want to celebrate all that you’re doing and teach our current students about all the exciting things life has in store for them as well.

San Domenico Virtuoso Program Faculty & Staff

Ann Krinitsky, Virtuoso Program Director
Eugene Chukhlov, Violin Teacher and Chamber Music Coach
Anea Keyes, Chamber Music Coach
Elizabeth Prior, Viola Teacher
Sergei Rjabtchenko, Cello Teacher and Chamber Music Coach
Miles Graber, Piano Accompanist
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