A year of traditions, new and old
by Rob DeNunzio
Music Conservatory Director

Summer at San Domenico is an amazingly tranquil place. While day campers and music lessons provide the soundtrack to an otherwise quiet campus, the local fauna come out of hiding and those of us who remain on campus to prepare for the fall can ruminate on the coming school year in a deeply peaceful setting. That said, we miss the students terribly during the extended break!

It’s been particularly rewarding looking back at the past year, examining how to best capitalize upon our many successes, carrying on a tradition of excellence in music education rooted in nearly 35 years of foundational guidelines while bringing fresh perspectives and unique opportunities for the students to learn each and every year. Our appointment of Ann Krinitsky as the new music director last year, along with our inaugural “Women in Music” concert ushered in a renewed focus on providing strong role models for the young women in our program. Meanwhile, events like our annual “Vivaldi at San Domenico” benefit concert and visits from old friends such as Annie Fullard and the Cavani String Quartet reinforced our commitment to offering the very best training possible to aspiring classical musicians. With each year, we have more history to take pride in, and more new experiences to afford the students, while doing service to our school’s message:


An additional exciting piece of news this summer is the plan underway to implement some crucial technological upgrades in our beautiful Bettye Poetz Ferguson Hall, which was made possible by funds donated by parents at last spring’s school fundraiser. With an eye towards augmenting our already excellent acoustic space with state-of-the-art electronics, it promises to raise the bar in how the Hall of the Arts is utilized for the performance, study, and recording of live music. I can’t wait to share details as they unfold over the coming months.

Mark your calendars!
Don’t miss any of our first semester performances, with opportunities to hear Virtuoso Program students as an orchestra, as chamber ensembles, and as soloists:

Vivaldi at San Domenico—October 23, 3:00 pm
Fall Solo Recital—November 7, 7:00 pm
Fall Chamber Music Concert—December 5, 7:00 pm

Our students say “Thank You!”
The students of the program recognize the unequivocal opportunities made available to them by the support of our generous donors. We asked them to put their thoughts into writing to share:

“Thank you SO MUCH for your generosity. It has given me an experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life.” - Nina Pak ’11

“The VP has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. You’ve made this musical education possible. Thank you for everything!” - Caitlin Gowdy ’12

“Thank you so much for supporting us in our music careers. We are so grateful to have such a wonderful program!” - Joyce Kwon ’13

“The VP defines us and brings great pride to the people at our school. Thank you for helping us to continue this experience!” - Jacqueline Rees-Mikula ’12

Congratulations to graduates Nina Pak ’11 and Allie Simpson ’11!
Here’s wishing you the very best in your new adventures at UC Berkeley and New England Conservatory

San Domenico School Music Conservatory & Virtuoso Program
A collaborative “season finale”

Like every year, the end of our spring semester saw the Virtuoso Program finalizing its year of intense study with a celebratory orchestra concert not only to showcase the students’ hard work but to also honor our graduating seniors. And as in recent years, that celebratory spirit was shared not only with some of our school’s very youngest string musicians, but with the voices of our primary school’s chorus and high school’s San Domenico Singers. After opening the concert with a Rossini sonata for strings, the Orchestra da Camera surrounded our primary school’s Prelude String Orchestra. Director Shaina Evoniuk literally raised the roof with a barnstorming round of “Boil Them Cabbages Down,” complete with solos by all the young fiddlers. The risers then filled with singers from 5th to 12th grade to perform John Rutter’s “For the Bounty of the Earth”, a song whose theme resonates strongly with San Domenico’s commitment to sustainability and ecological awareness.

Outgoing senior Allie Simpson ’11 wowed the crowd with an impassioned performance of Bloch’s Suite Hebraique, and the orchestra concluded the evening with an exuberant interpretation of Villa-Lobos’ Bachianas Brazilianas No. 9, bringing the crowd to their feet. For many in the audience, particularly families of the younger San Domenico students who were performing alongside the Virtuoso Program students, it was a first time seeing the orchestra in performance, prompting one parent to comment on how “inspiring” it was to witness such a high degree of skill on stage alongside the budding virtuosi of our primary school. In a year when “positive role models in music” was a goal, it was touching to see our own students being role models to our community’s fledgling musicians. One has to believe that collaborations such as these not only help introduce young students to the power and beauty of music, but to recognize that the ability to make such music themselves is within their grasp, supported right within their very own school.

Award Winners

It’s not just our alums who are doing great things…

Congratulations to current VP students on their great recent achievements!

Caitlin Gowdy ’12—Marin Music Chest winner, Senior Division
Elena Kim ’14—Etude Competition of Santa Rosa, first place
Clodagh Martin ’12—Summer Music Legacy Competition, first place

San Domenico Virtuoso Program Faculty & Staff

Ann Krinitsky, Virtuoso Program Director
Eugene Chuklov, Violin Teacher and Chamber Music Coach
Susan Bates, Viola Teacher and Chamber Music Coach
Sergei Rjabtchenko, Cello Teacher and Chamber Music Coach
Miles Graber, Piano Accompanist
Rob DeNunzio, Music Conservatory Director
Teresa Notari, Administrative Assistant

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