

Overtures

The San Domenico Virtuoso Program Newsletter

Fall 2013

Planting the seeds

by Rob DeNunzio
Director of Music Conservatory and Music Programs



Preparing teenage music students to hone their skills as 21st century musicians involves increasing their awareness and of 21st century music. So while we underpin all our teaching with the core skills necessary to interpret and communicate the art of classical music's greatest artworks, we strive to

expose our students to music being written today— music intended for today's audiences and more importantly, today's performers.

To that end we have spent time the past few years working particularly with female composers as role models for our all-girl orchestra, and we are proud to announce an award of a seed-money grant from New York Women Composers, Inc. to support our programming and education of modern music by female composers. Our March 2 "Women In Music" concert will feature NYWC composers Victoria Bond (US), Hilary Tann (Wales), Elisenda Fabregas (Spain) and Chen Yi (China), as well as Natalia Cherniy (Poland), Grazyna Bacewicz (Poland) and Virtuoso Program member Jo Griffin, whose most recent work was the winner of the national Young Composers Challenge".

Founded in 1984, the New York Women Composers has awarded nine 2013 Seed Money Grants for the coming season. One is a recording grant and the others are a mixture of focused and disseminated concerts. Some other 2013 seed-money grant recipients include the Nouveau Classical Project, an all-female cutting-edge music ensemble that re-imagines classical and new music through interdisciplinary projects and connects emerging composers with diverse audiences, and a music festival produced by Ensemble Mise-En, an innovative and versatile New York-based contemporary music collective led by composer Moon Young Ha. A diverse range of projects has been initiated and supported by New York Women Composers over the years, including many concerts not only in New York but also in Russia, Bulgaria, Canada, and New Mexico, and an exchange concert with the Cincinnati Composers Guild.

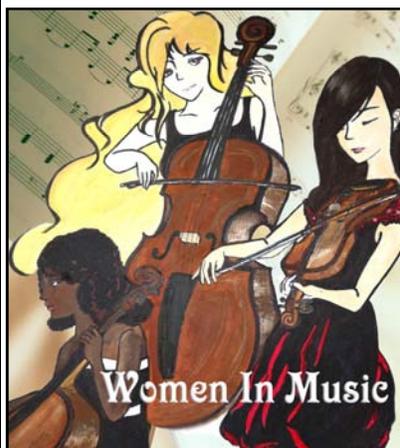
We are honored to be a recipient of this grant and are excited to use it to broaden the musical worldview of our students and our audiences. I hope to see you at our March 2 concert when we can share this—and more!—new music with all of you.

Save the date!

Please join us on Sunday, March 2, 2014 for our fourth annual

"Women in Music"

Virtuoso Program Benefit Concert



Highlighting works by female musicians from throughout history and around the world, and featuring the Virtuoso Program Orchestra da Camera, this concert is sure to inspire you with the vibrant artistry and incredible biographies of these composers of lesser-performed works. Special guest artists and premieres of new music help make this a concert you won't want to miss.

The concert begins at 3:00 p.m. and will be followed by a light reception. Make sure you're on our mailing list so that you receive an official invitation as the day of this special event gets closer!



Enjoying the post-concert reception, Virtuoso Program director Ann Krinitsky is joined by San Domenico Singers director Michael Mello and VP student president Holly Wheeler.

Faculty Profile—Aenea Keyes

Virtuoso Program students have the privilege of working each week with a variety of gifted coaches. The newest member of our chamber coaching faculty is none other than VP alum Aenea Keyes '82, whom we recently asked to share a little bit about herself and her music.

Where did you grow up and go to school? I was born in San Francisco and grew up in Marin County but before I started 1st grade, we lived in four countries—USA, Japan, Spain, England—and each country/place has influenced my view of the world. I spent my high school years at San Domenico School and the Virtuoso Program, as well as the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. In college, Sarah Lawrence, and the National Academy of Music in Sofia, Bulgaria for grad school.

How has the Virtuoso Program changed from when you were in it? Back in my day, we had a much smaller music building and no large concert hall, we wore long white dresses for Vivaldi Concerts, and the uniform required skirts or dresses—no trousers! We didn't have the internet, computers or iPads!

Who are some of your favorite composers? That's a hard question to answer... I have so many favorites! I've always loved Bach, and I find it exciting to listen to and teach 20th century and contemporary music. I also must admit I like to listen to my own music and compositions too! With each passing decade I'm finding I hear more and better when studying scores and listening to performances, especially music I didn't entirely comprehend as a youngster. In fact, when I lived in Central Europe and Russia, that part of the world had an atmosphere which allowed me to slow down and take the time to hear "the space between notes". You could say I enjoy studying and performing composers who give us a deeper sense of their era and their sense of time through the music they write.

Who are your favorite performers? That's also a hard question! Without naming lots of performers, I'd say I love to hear performers who are present to every moment of their performance. If they are a classical musician, then they communicate a composer's ideas as well as a presenting a point of view that's unique to who they are. Miles Graber, your resident pianist (and fellow MusicAEterna member) is a favorite.

Who do you hope to collaborate with some day? I would like to collaborate with more museums and visual artists. I have a passion to create music inspired by visual art. I'd also like to do more collaborative work in my teaching so that musicians from chamber ensembles such as from the Alexander String Quartet can add to the knowledge base I give to my chamber music students.

What has been your most memorable performance so far? I'll have to name two here: My first performance in Carnegie Hall—what a beautiful sound, you could hear everyone on stage so clearly! And MusicAEterna's last day of recording "Seasons, A Musical Dialogue" at Skywalker Sound. The recording team captured an incredible depth of sound. I was truly overwhelmed (in the best way) by the experience!

Any words of wisdom for young musicians? Music students already know that we put time in to learn technique, etc. that goes with the work of becoming a musician—a training that is not unlike being an elite athlete. But at the end of the day, it's important to remember that we are communicating whenever we perform. Good instrumentalists are numerous, but artists with a unique voice who communicate more than notes or technique are what I believe interest all of us and give us an artistic goal to strive for, regardless of technical level we hold. And whether we pursue music as a professional or not, the self-knowledge we gain from studying music is something that we take into all aspects of our lives.

Where else do you work? As a chamber music coach and violin teacher at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and as a violinist-composer for MusicAEterna, Ensemble-in-Residence for Santa Sabina Center's Contemplative Music Series.



What are your other interests? I really enjoy hiking, swimming, reading, watching films, and eating delicious food!

Which languages do you speak or read? English, Japanese and Spanish are my best languages.

Favorite book? I'll have to name categories here—a good mystery, an interesting cookbook, a historical novel...to name a few!

Favorite food? ...dark chocolate!

Virtuoso Program Concert Calendar

Be sure not to miss any of these upcoming concerts in the coming months and take advantage of experiencing exquisitely crafted music by soloists, chamber ensembles, and orchestra!

Monday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.: Winter Chamber Music Concert
Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 p.m.: Winter Solo Recital
Sunday, March 2, 3:00 p.m.: "Women in Music" Benefit Concert
Wednesday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.: Spring Solo Recital
Monday, April 28, 7:00 p.m.: Spring Chamber Music Concert
Friday, May 23, 7:00 p.m.: Orchestra da Camera Final Concert

Alum Updates

Geneviève Durst '09 is the Student Life Coordinator at the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. She writes, "ADA is a school which specializes in undergraduate study-abroad semester programs, though we also have a two-year MFA program. In the fall semester, we have programs in theatre and music, and in the spring semester, the programs are theatre and dance. So I am working in student life, leading workshops (this semester I lead a playwriting workshop) and organizing student events. I also take classes and attend guest artist workshops in physical theatre." **Danielle Taylor '05** is keeping busy as a violin instructor and performer in the Bay Area. **Camille Buchanan '08** has started up her own tutoring practice and is working towards a certificate in educational therapy.



San Domenico Virtuoso Program Faculty & Staff

Ann Krinitsky, Virtuoso Program Director
Eugene Chukhlov, Violin Teacher and Chamber Music Coach
Aenea Keyes, Chamber Music Coach
Sergei Riabtchenko, Cello Teacher and Chamber Music Coach
Miles Graber, Piano Accompanist
Rob DeNunzio, Music Conservatory Director
Teresa Notari, Administrative Assistant



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