

Overtures

The San Domenico Virtuoso Program Newsletter

Fall 2014

Growing our Community

by Rob DeNunzio
Director of Music Conservatory and Music Programs

San Domenico's 164 years as an institution have seen the school go through myriad changes, from school sites (our Sleepy Hollow campus about to celebrate its 50th year) to ages—and genders—of students served. Throughout its history, however, it has always been guided by one set of principles: the core Dominican values of study, reflection, service, and community. It's that last "pillar" that we as a school are currently most deeply investing in this year as a school, and what more appropriate a time than now, when for the first time in our history we prepare to extend coeducation to our high school, allowing us to enroll serious and passionate music students regardless of gender. Beyond allowing us the opportunity to provide a Virtuoso Program education to both boys and girls, it gives us the chance to make dramatically positive changes in our Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade music education experience, now that we are truly "one school".

In addition to being able to expand our program, we have been growing our community in other ways as well. This year we've already held masterclasses open to the public with cellist Zuill Bailey and violinist Nigel Armstrong, and have an upcoming visit from baroque cellist Tanya Tompkins in preparation for Junior Bach Festival auditions. And on the second page, you'll read about how we've been taking music out into the community at large. It's an exciting time for San Domenico and for the Virtuoso Program and are thankful to all of you whose support helps us thrive.



It took ten years, but former maestro George Thomson finally got his hard hat. A photo of the orchestra rehearsing on the spot where the Hall of the Arts was to be built was used to publicize the concert, and as you can see, they were one hard hat short that day. We were thrilled to have him in attendance, all the way from his home in Salem, Oregon.

Save the date!

Please join us on Sunday, March 1, 2015 for our

"Community in Music"

Orchestra da Camera Concert



Photo by Stephen Thomas

Highlights of the program include J. S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major and John Craton's *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* (on the 100th anniversary of the publication of T. S. Eliot's poem), featuring guest tenor Michael Dailey.

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



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Preparing the next generation
of string musicians.

Hall of the Arts Celebration



From left to right: Head of School Cecily Stock '77, Bettye Poetz Ferguson, Peter Wong, "Red" Wetherill, Faith France and Rob DeNunzio

"Vivaldi at San Domenico" is always a big event for the Virtuoso Program, and this year we had the added excitement of celebrating the 10th anniversary of our Hall of the Arts. In the past decade, our performing arts complex has not only been the proud home of the Virtuoso Program, but the epicenter for arts on campus, and we were thrilled to be joined by many of the people who were responsible for bringing Faith France's vision of a world-class performance space to life.

Peter Wong, the principal architect of the project, along with "Red" Wetherill, the principal acoustic consultant, were both in attendance and got to hear firsthand the results of their work. Longtime supporters of the program such as Bettye Poetz Ferguson—for whom the Hall of the Arts is named—along with the families and friends of current and past students filled the hall to capacity. Former Music Director George Thomson traveled all the way from Oregon to join the festivities, and of course our program's founder Faith France, alongside husband Hugo Rinaldi, was in attendance surrounded by many of the people who believed that the student musicians at San Domenico were deserving of a truly remarkable place to study and perform.

In honor of the anniversary, the concert featured two particularly special pieces: David Diamond's *Rounds*, which the Orchestra da Camera performed at the hall's opening concert, and with which we won our first National Orchestra Festival, and the premiere of Rob Kapilow's *4SD*, a special commission for the event that interwove elements of our school's *alma mater*, and the Ave Maria chant that San Domenico Singers performed at the hall's opening. Kapilow even provided a videotaped introduction to his compositional process and details on how his correspondence with President Emerita Sister Gervaise and chorus director Michael Mello helped personalize the piece for San Domenico.

It was an incredibly festive afternoon and a delight to share with so many attendees. Thank you to all of you who came and made it such a wonderful event!

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 orchestral!

Monday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.: Winter Chamber Music Concert
Thursday, February 12, 7:00 p.m.: Winter Solo Recital
Sunday, March 1, 3:00 p.m.: "Community in Music" Orchestra Concert
Monday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.: Spring Solo Recital
Monday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.: Spring Chamber Music Concert
Friday, May 22, 7:00 p.m.: Orchestra da Camera Final Concert

Out and About—Bringing Music to the Community

While having a standing-room only audience in our home concert hall for a performance is thrilling, what's equally exciting is how much our students share their talents with the greater Bay Area community. Here are some recent opportunities you may have had to hear them:

In October, a quartet consisting of mostly Crowden alumni participated in Crowden Music Center's Community Music Day, an honor considering San Domenico was the only outside school represented. They performed as part of the day-long event and even helped introduce little ones to their instruments at the "petting zoo".



In November, The orchestra joined Marin Baroque to perform Mozart's D Major Divertimento at their season opening concert, *Sturm und Drang*, at First Presbyterian Church in downtown San Anselmo.

In collaboration with the student-led organization Children in Need, students have been performing at institutions such as the Stanford Children's Hospital and senior care facilities in San Francisco.

Lastly, another VP quartet will perform alongside the San Domenico Singers and the Marin Symphony Chamber Chorus at their candlelight holiday concerts in San Rafael on December 6 and 7.

San Domenico Virtuoso Program Faculty & Staff

Ann Krinitsky, Virtuoso Program Director
Eugene Chukhlov, Violin Teacher and Chamber Music Coach
Aenea Keyes, Chamber Music Coach
Elizabeth Prior, Viola Teacher
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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