

# The String Academy of Wisconsin

## NEWSLETTER

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at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

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### STRING ACADEMY "AT HOME" AT UWM

The String Academy of Wisconsin has received a warm welcome from the administration and faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. James Sappenfield, Dean of the School of Fine Arts, Dr. Franklin Miller, Chairman of the Music Department, and Professor Jerry Horner, on behalf of the Music Department faculty, have all sent their personal greetings to String Academy students and their families.

### Office Hours

The String Academy Office, Room 434 of the UWM Music Department, now has regular office hours. James Olsen, Administrative Coordinator, will be available in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons from 4:00 until 6:00, and on Saturday mornings from 10:00 until 11:00. You may call the office at any time to leave messages for String Academy faculty. If no one is in the office when you call, leave a message and we will deliver it to the appropriate person. Messages may also be left in the envelope which is taped to the office door.

The String Academy bulletin board is located in the 4th floor hallway of the Music Department.

### \*EDITOR'S NOTE\*

*Darcy Drexler*

**Welcome** to the premiere issue of the String Academy newsletter! Our hopes for this and subsequent publications are to let you know what will be taking place in the SAW program, students' musical accomplishments, important happenings in Milwaukee's musical scene, helpful and motivating articles dealing with string related subjects, and all the dates and events you need to know. Beginning with this issue, these two new columns will be introduced: **FOR THE FIRST YEAR PARENTS** and **CARE FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT**. I am open to your suggestions for features in our coming issues.

### From JAMES OLSEN

*Administrative Coordinator*

As the newest member of the "crew", I'd like to say how pleased I am to be part of this new and exciting endeavor. I look forward to getting to know all of you as we work together during the months ahead. Feel free to call me with your questions and concerns (229-6121).

### HALLOWEEN CONCERT

Students of the String Academy of Wisconsin will perform in a special public concert at the Milwaukee Art Museum on Sunday, October 28, at 1:00 PM.

The music of Tartini, Telemann, Paganini are a few composers whose works will be featured in group and solo performances. The museum will charge an admission fee--please call 271-9508 for ticket information. String Academy families will be admitted free of charge. Performers and audience members are all encouraged to wear costumes!

### STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to Gene Kennedy. He has been named concertmaster of the Shorewood High School Orchestra.

Two SAW Cello Students, Kevin Phillips and Kris Riley, occupy the first stand of the No. 1 Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. Other SAW students in Orchestra I are: Jeannie Kim, Erin Aldridge, Rachel Bienemann, Cindy Nunag and Jennifer Kuhagen.

### INSTRUMENTS FOR SALE

1/4 Violin - Call: Brenda Morrow 447-8038  
1/2 Violin - 100 years old German Call: Ruth Kapustin 367-3016  
1/2 Violin - Call: Mrs. Babcock 963-9573  
3/4 Violin and Two Bows - Call: Bonnie Bellehumeur 332-9071  
3/4 Violin and Bow - Call: Julie Hamner 962-2143  
3/4 Violin - Call: Joan Diderrich 962-0714  
Full Size Violin and Bow - Call: Kay Smith 263-4727

### WANTED TO BUY

1/2 Cello - Call: Peggy Stenborg 691-4251

## Board of Advisors Named

The String Academy now has an Honorary Board of Advisors comprised of some of the foremost musicians in the world. This board includes:

**CARL BECKER**, a master violin craftsman, recognized throughout the world as being one of the great violin makers of the 20th century,

**JOSHUA BELL**, an international violin soloist, a former student of Mimi Zweig and one of the foremost concert and recording artists of his generation,

**JAMES OLIVER BUSWELL**, Professor of Violin at New England Conservatory of Music, an outstanding violinist and pedagogue in the United States,

**DAVID CERONE**, President of Cleveland Institute of Music and Professor of Violin, recognized as one of the world's leading music educators,

**FINE ARTS QUARTET**, Professors of Music and Quartet in Residence at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Ralph Evans, violin  
Efim Boico, violin  
Jerry Horner, viola  
Wolfgang Laufer, cello

The members of the Fine Arts Quartet comprise one of the leading string quartets in the world with a distinguished international performing, recording and teaching career,

**MIRIAM FRIED**, Professor of Violin at Indiana University, a prize winning violin soloist and pedagogue from Israel with an active performing and recording career,

**RAYA GARBOUSOVA**, an internationally known cello soloist whose career spans the greater part of this century,

**JOSEF GINGOLD**, Distinguished Professor of Violin-Indiana University, widely regarded as the Dean of American violin teachers; his students having received acclaim throughout the world.

**KIM KASHKASHIAN**, Professor of Viola-Hochschule fur Musik-Freiburg, Germany, a renowned young American solo violist and recording artist.

**YO YO MA**, an international cello soloist, has established one of the great performing and recording careers in the world.

**ZDENEK MACAL**, Artistic Director of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, one of the leading symphony orchestra conductors in the world,

**DONALD McINNES**, Professor of Viola at the University of Southern California, an outstanding viola soloist, teacher and chamber musician,

**MARVIN RABIN**, Professor of Music at the University of Wisconsin, a leading force in string education for young people in Wisconsin,

**JANOS STARKER**, Distinguished Professor of Cello at Indiana University, a great artist and teacher who has made a significant contribution to the high level of cello virtuosity.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### *KIDS-TAKE YOUR PARENTS TO A CONCERT!*

Saturday, October 27- 11-1 Halloween Dress Rehearsal in Room 320

Sunday, October 28 1:00 Halloween Concert  
Milwaukee Art Museum

Saturday, November 3 -Noon Solo Recital

Sunday, November 4- 2:00 Rachel Bienemann will perform a recital in Room 280

Saturday, November 10- Noon Solo Recital

Saturday, November 17-Noon Solo Recital

The week of November 20 there are no group lessons. Please confirm your private lesson schedule with your teacher.

November 24 and 25-Milwaukee Symphony Concert

November 30, December 1 and 2-Milwaukee Symphony Concert

Saturday, December 1-Noon Solo Recital

Sunday, December 2- 3 PM Fine Arts Quartet Concert in Recital Hall

Sunday, December 9- 5 PM Cello Group Concert in Room 280

Saturday, December 15-Marathon Day of Solo Recitals (There will be no Group Lessons or Theory Classes this day.)

Holiday Break: December 22-January 2

Group Lessons will Resume on Thursday, January 10 and Saturday, January 12 after the Christmas Break.

*Solo Recitals will take place in  
Room 280*

## THANK YOU

Thank you for the following contributions:

Coat Rack-Joan Diderrich  
Filing Cabinet-Astrid Beroukhim  
Coffee Pot-Jay Aldridge  
Collating Time-Connie Bienemann  
Printer-Katie Brooks  
Computer-Jeff Drees of Computer Services  
(Associate of Jay Aldridge)

To Ruth and Dan Kapustin, for continued support in all matters of business.

## ON STEPS AND JOURNEYS

*by Daniel B. Kapustin, Chairman  
Board of Directors*

To paraphrase the ancient Chinese philosopher, Lao-Tze, a long journey begins with the first step. But a step can look like a journey without a further destination, and a short journey can look like a long journey without a mileage marker. For organizations, the destination is defined by the Mission Statement, and the mileage marker is the amount of time and effort it takes to achieve each element of the Mission.

We are proud to include in our first newsletter the current draft of the String Academy's Mission Statement. We encourage you to read it carefully, and to communicate with us regarding any potential additions, deletions or modifications. It is an ambitious vision of the future—indeed a journey. It comprises many strategies and tactics, some of which do not yet exist.

Based on our experience with just the first step, it is indeed a long journey. That first step included negotiating agreements with both UW-M and the Conservatory; forming a non-profit, exempt Corporation; concluding a contract with UW-M; concluding contracts with our employees; creating an employee benefits program; launching a promotional program; establishing bank and merchant credit card accounts; moving into the UW-M facilities; plus all of the normal requirements of running the String Program.

Our Mission appeals to many constituencies,

some quite distinct: patrons of the arts and arts education; supporters of excellence in education generally; and advocates of education and role models as powerful tools for social betterment. We hope that many of you will adopt multiple elements of our Mission, and become fellow travelers on our lengthy journey.

The most immediate goals are recruiting a full Board, enrolling approximately 220 students (up from 170), and funding the scholarship program through grants and contributions. An important activity which bridges all of these goals is an effective communication program, including projects such as this Newsletter. We need volunteers for all of these activities, and we ask for your support.

All of us have many responsibilities which force us to acknowledge priorities, and to make difficult decisions to allocate our time and money accordingly. Although your involvement with the String Academy may have begun with the singular purpose of supplementing your child's education, we hope that our Mission Statement will broaden your view of our value, enhance our ranking in your priorities, and motivate you to participate more extensively in our activities. You have taken the first step. Now become a long-term traveler. It promises to be an exciting and rewarding journey.

### MISSION STATEMENT

#### STUDENTS

1. To provide a program of serious study in the violin, viola and cello, in an environment of educational excellence, to students between the ages of 4 and 18:
  - a curriculum involving private and group lessons; ensemble and master classes; and instruction in music theory and history
  - performance in solo, chamber music and chamber orchestra
  - a faculty of professional musicians with advanced degrees in music and

## MISSION STATEMENT

### *CONTINUED*

special training and dedication to educating young people

- a commitment to strive and to achieve by the student, and to support and facilitate by the parents
- 2. To provide a life model for personal excellence, aggressive goal-setting, and the achievement of one's potential at a pace unrestrained by external limitations.
- 3. To provide the basis for a lifelong involvement with and commitment to the performing arts, as a professional, an amateur or a patron.
- 4. To identify, to enroll, and to support financially and in other appropriate ways, students for whom the Academy is likely to be a positive, life-altering experience that would not otherwise be available.
- 5. To enhance achievement through financial support based on both merit and need.

### FACULTY

1. To compete successfully for the most competent and dedicated teachers of music to young people.
2. To provide a career opportunity that provides professional growth and satisfaction without unduly sacrificing reasonable material objectives that would otherwise be attainable in alternate opportunities, such as collegiate teaching or professional performance.

### COMMUNITY

1. To add to the quality of life in the Milwaukee metropolitan area that contributes to attracting the labor and capital required for economic development.
2. To provide public performances, especially for audiences that would not otherwise have such opportunities.
3. To represent Milwaukee and Wisconsin to other communities, and to encourage cultural exchanges with similar organizations, both foreign and domestic.

September 20, 1990



## CARE FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT

### Bein and Fushi Representative Tells How to Shop for a Violin, Viola or Cello

On September 22, Joe Overmeyer of Bein and Fushi, a well-known violin shop in Chicago, discussed with String Academy families the process of shopping for a violin, viola or cello.

The first step, according to Overmeyer, is to develop a concept of the desired sound. Do this by listening to, and playing on, as many instruments as possible.

The second step is to set a price range in which you will shop.

The third step is to listen to the instrument you are considering, not only under your ear, but also from a distance and in a variety of situations (i.e. in rooms with varying acoustical properties, playing solos and in ensembles).

The next step is to try and determine who has made the instrument. Since most labels have been altered over the years, this needs to be done by a knowledgeable dealer who can appraise the instruments age, origin and maker.

You should then evaluate the condition of the instrument. Look for serious cracks, the quality of the repair work and what percentage of the instrument is original.

Finally, become aware of the hierarchy of makers. The old Italian makers of the 17th and 18th centuries such as Stradivarius, Guarnerius and Amati are at the top of this pyramid. There are many other fine older Italian instruments that are very valuable today. Later in the 19th century the important center for violin making moved to France where Vuilliamie was the master craftsman.

Today, there is a resurgence of violin making in the world. One can find beautiful new violins made in Milwaukee by Scott Sleider and fine instruments made by the Becker family of Chicago.

**Just remember**, looking for a violin takes **time and patience**. It is a learning experience for you and your family.

## ACADEMY SPONSERS OUTREACH PROGRAMS

During the past five weeks, String Academy faculty and students participated in a series of educational presentations in local elementary schools and child care centers.

On Monday, September 17, Felicia Ray (cello) and Jeanette Jang (violin) performed for new students' parents at the Golda Meir School.

Sherry Sinift, assisted by Ruth Kapustin, performed for and discussed violin playing with children at the Plymouth Children's Center and at the UWM Daycare, in a series of five programs during the past few weeks.

Derek and Austin Bacchus accompanied by their mother, performed for students at the White Rock Elementary School. Katie Brooks and Sara Edgerton led a discussion about stringed instruments with the first and second graders. A few lucky volunteers had a sample violin and cello lesson.

### WISH LIST

Shelves for our busy office  
Folding chairs for the hallway  
waiting area, or possibly a sofa

### THANK YOU

## VIOLIN SHOPS CLOSE TO HOME

**Scott Sleider**

2948 S. Delaware Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI  
744-0045

**Carl Becker**

1416 Belmont Ave.  
Chicago, IL  
312/348-5698

**Bein and Fushi**

410 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60605  
312/663-0151

**Warren and Sons**

407 S. Dearborn St.  
Chicago, IL 60605  
312/427-7475

## FOR THE FIRST-YEAR PARENT

Successful progress, in anything, but especially on a stringed instrument, can be achieved only through well disciplined and consistent practicing. Daily practicing is hard work with no shortcuts. However, with lots of patience, you as a first-year parent can help your child develop technically and musically.

Your role as the teacher at home is very important. Attendance at all the private and group lessons is crucial. Take notes and feel free to ask questions. The first lessons set the foundation on which all future learning takes place. Relaxed hands and a good position can be monitored in the daily practice. Don't hesitate to check for supple hands and fingers.

Establish a regular practice time. Early in the day produces the best results. With young beginners, several shorter daily practice sessions work well. Gauge the practice session length by the number of repetitions your teacher has required of each task, not by the clock.

Young children's concentration spans grow from week to week. Since sound is abstract and thus difficult for young children to recognize its progress, it is perfectly acceptable to reward their work with stickers, a cookie or a short rest after 10 repetitions. A small chair is handy to have around for this deserved break.

Everyone needs rewards for tasks completed. The rewards for the young string players are the successful solo and group performances. Patience, creativity and networking with other parents leads to opening the wonderful world of music.

### LOOKING FOR STUDENT REPORTERS

Now is your chance to find out whatever you can about your teachers. Interview them, write it up and we will print your story in the coming issues.

### ENROLLMENT

Our enrollment for the Fall Semester is currently 170 students. We would like to increase enrollment to 200 by January, 1991. Our best recruiting source for new students is YOU. Please pass the word.

### NAME THIS NEWSLETTER

The search is on for a name for our newsletter. If you have a name that is descriptive, catchy and appropriate, let us know.

### CONCERT TICKETS

The String Academy has tickets available for many Milwaukee concerts. See James Olsen for the details.

### STUDENT DIRECTORIES

Student Directories are now available at The String Academy Office. If you have not received yours, contact your private teacher.

### THE STRING ACADEMY 10 COMMANDMENTS WHICH WILL INSURE EXCELLENT PROGRESS

1. Master the correct notes (Attention to correct position)
2. Play with correct rhythm (Practice all etudes and repertoire at least once a day with the metronome)
3. Make sure all bowings are correct and well-marked in your music
4. Correct fingerings
5. Attention to intonation
6. Shifts - Isolate all problem shifts and practice them in both directions
7. Bow Division - Be aware of how your bow must be divided
8. Vibrato
9. Awareness of tone production (Does every note sound beautiful?)
10. Interpretation