



Newsletter

The Monthly Newsletter of *Hunterdon Academy of the Arts*

November 2016

Is Social Media Your Friend?

Most of us can admit that “staying connected” can be a blessing and a curse. Social media outlets can be fun, helpful, but also take up a lot of our time. I am busy all the time, so checking my multiple email accounts, in addition to social media, has become a bit challenging. Here are some new habits I’ve adopted in order to prevent Facebook from taking over every moment of my free time. Perhaps this will help you, as well.

1. **Commit to only checking your phone at certain times of day: once per hour, or 3-4 times a day when you have a moment to breathe.** I know, that’s hard, but obsessively checking for updates is probably not the healthiest thing we can do. I found that by reading posts fewer times a day, I’m more focused and don’t actually miss too much info.
2. **Check group-specific notifications to find content that interests you** (rather than keep scrolling through hundreds of posts until you’re nauseated).
3. **Block content (and people) that you find to be negative or draining.** If you pay close attention to your feelings while reading social media posts, you may find that certain people always post negative news or comments, and some organizations post info you don’t even care about. Blocking them saves a lot of energy and time.
4. **Bring a book to read if you are in a waiting area (at HAA, doctor’s office, etc.).** It’s helpful to have some reading material ready. If you like the book, you will look forward to reading it. Otherwise, there goes another 30 minutes wasted on checking random “updates” posted by random people.



Highlights

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HAA’s Social Media Updates: are they important to you?

We’ve received feedback from some of our families that calling or emailing them with important scheduling or billing updates is not very effective. We try to only contact you when it’s important, so when you don’t get our message I’m sure it is frustrating--especially if you are driving here in bad weather or heavy traffic. That said, we want to make sure we provide one more communication tool: we’ve created a new closed Facebook page just for HAA students and families. Of course, joining is optional, but highly encouraged, as we will post important information you will want to read--especially as we are heading into the cold season. For example, if you are a member of our Show Kids Choir, you can check this Facebook page for info about the upcoming performance, what to wear, when to drop off or pick up your child etc. But that’s not all! **You will have access to some special offers, raffles and other pleasant surprises available only to the members of this Facebook group.**

To join, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HAAFamilies/>

Click on “Join Group”. We will approve your request to join within 24 hours and that’s it! You are in!



Hunterdon
ACADEMY OF THE **ARTS**

Flemington & Lebanon

Student of the Month: Keshav Viradia

This month we're congratulating Keshav Viradia on winning November's Student of the Month Award!! Keshav is an 11 year old drum student and has been attending HAA for over 6 years.

What do you like about your teacher and the way he plays and teaches music? I really like how my teacher is loose, but still can guide me though. He teaches like the student is his friend, which helps me focus.



You've been with us for many years. What do you like about being part of Hunterdon Academy of the Arts? I love how playing a instrument can lead to so many opportunities, especially at HAA.

What kind of music do you like to listen to in your free time? I mainly listen to dubstep, like Skrillex and Teminite.

We interviewed you last year because of an important award you received. What's new in your life since? I have actually quit piano, which is what I got that award for. I have moved to drums and I started to play the flute for my school. I am now in 6th grade.

What's next for Keshav? What new skills are you developing: sports, hobbies, etc.? I have continued to play tennis, and I have been playing for 7 years. I am shooting for the high school team.

Student Achievements

HAA student, Tom Flynn will be participating in the "Mostly Mozart in Montclair" piano competition for young musicians ages 14 to 18 years old, on Saturday, November 12, 3:00 – 6:30 p.m., at the Cali School of Music, Montclair State University. **Good luck, Tom!**

Faculty Achievements

June Asai: I recently released an EDM feature, "Blue Eyes ft. June Asai," with an up-and-coming, 18-year-old French producer, VOWED. I wrote the melody and lyrics and VOWED produced the instrumental track and sampling. We received label interest, but we decided to release the song ourselves because we had both been stifled by labels in the past. I think it is paying off because, while there is no monetary gain as of yet, we are having success with getting much hype on this release. "Blue Eyes" appeared on YouTube promotional channels and blogs like Kyra, Dubstep Nation, EDM Lead and countless others which boosted our reach to 100,000 or more people and counting. The song is supported by world DJ's ESKEI83, Tomsiz, Levi and Suiss and more. It is really exciting! My realistic goal with this song is obtaining synch licensing. It may be a pie in the sky dream for independent artists like us, but my dream goal is to get mainstream radio play. The song can be found on Spotify, iTunes and multiple places on the internet.

Thank You for Your Referrals!

A BIG THANK YOU to several individuals, for referring their friends to *Hunterdon Academy of the Arts!* It's wonderful to have such strong supporters who spread the word about HAA in the Hunterdon community! We'd like to give a special shout out to: **Grayson Schlesier, Jennifer Hoffman, Zahra Davachi, Jennifer Bednar, Phoebe Morgan. THANK YOU!!!**

Save the Date!

Friday 11/4 Jam Session
7:15-8:15pm
Thursday 11/10, Business Expo at HCHS
Friday 11/12, Acting Out!
Free Acting class for Grades 2 and up
7:15-8:15pm
11/24-26, Closed for Thanksgiving

Birthdays in November

Arjun Manoj, Julia Rinehart, Jlou Velasquez, Charlie Kaufman, Leo Allentoff, Arielle Fetzer, Dakota Berenger-Stern, Ana Colagreco, Grace Paulicelli, Lucas Pisani, Nicholas DePinto, Joe Cheeli, Kelsey Messinger, Leo Fraser, Nishant Vellanki, Neil Khalsa, Ben Sherwood, Ryan Nourbakhsh, Reena Verma, Evan Perrin, Quinn McNulty, Senyo Ofori, Frances Peare, Claire Rozpedowski, Nathaniel Wright, Luke Berardi, Isabella Chen, Alyssa Cooper, Dinah Betsker, Emily Kane, Natalie Coppeto, Charlotte Kelly, Madeline Lesica, Micah Varughese, Olivia Wardzinski, Thomas Mongioi, David Stampoulos

★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!

Thank You!

Pet of the Month: Natasha "Wookie" Mango

Congrats to Wookie for winning the November Pet of the Month Award! Her Mom, Priya Gupta, tells us, "My mother has always been allergic to cats, [so] we never ever thought we would be able to have one, and it was always a struggle to see other families with them. So finally, in 2014, we started researching hypoallergenic cats. On Mother's Day, we went and picked her up, and the bond has never been broken! She is a very gentle cat, and she has been the absolute perfect addition to our family. She loves to chase after milk tabs, catnip-stuffed animals, and don't even get me started on her beloved laser beam! :-)." AWWWWW

Pet of the Month (continued)

Don't despair if your pet isn't featured in this issue. We will keep all materials on file for future issues! Do you love your pet and can't wait to tell us all about him/her? Just visit www.HunterdonAcademyOfTheArts.com/MyPet and fill out the form on that page! If we choose your pet as the next *Pet of the Month*, we will feature him in the upcoming issue of the *HAA Newsletter* and send you a \$25 Gift Card!



www.HunterdonAcademyOfTheArts.com/MyPet

Fall Referral Contest: Win a FREE Breville 800ESXL Espresso Machine on December 19!

This may well be one of the nicest holiday presents you've ever received--a beautiful Breville 800ESXL Espresso Machine! This highly rated gadget has lots of attractive features, including:

- 15 Bar Italian Pump
- Purge Function: Automatically adjusts water temperature after steam for optimal espresso extraction temperature
- The Triple Prime Pump releases 3 bursts of hot water to moisten the ground coffee resulting in greater build-up to extract the fullest flavor
- Thermoblock Heating System
- 75 Fl.oz (2.2L) removable front-fill water tank
- Espresso machine with ThermoBlock heating system and 15-bar Triple Prime pump
- Durable stainless-steel housing; selector dial for espresso, steam, or hot water
- 4-1/2-inch cup clearance; swivel steam wand with frother; 75-ounce removable water tank
- Filters, tamping tool, cleaning tool, and stainless-steel frothing pitcher included
- Measures 12 by 10 by 12-1/2 inches; 1-year warranty



A Value of \$323!

Referrals Are a Win-Win, Each and Every Time

To enter the Fall Raffle for this amazing prize, just refer your friends to HAA! It's easy! As a sign of our appreciation, we are rewarding **both you and your friend with a \$25 check** when s/he enrolls in our programs! Refer as many friends as you like!

www.HunterdonAcademyOfTheArts.com/Referrals

Faculty Showcase: Mauricio de Souza, Drums

This month, we are spotlighting Mauricio de Souza, one of our most successful Drum Teachers. We're fortunate for having Mauricio on board, and can't wait to share with you the interview we had with him.

How old were you when you started your formal music education and what made you choose percussion? I started learning to play drums at age 11. My first teacher was Ricardo Gianetti in my hometown of Brasília, Brasil. Within a few months, I began playing in a cover band with friends from school. Later, I joined the youth percussion ensemble at the Teatro Nacional Cláudio Santoro. From 1991 to 1997 I played in numerous rock cover bands, ranging from the Beatles, to Pearl Jam, to Rush, to Metallica, Pantera,... Eventually, I became interested in Fusion (mix of jazz with rock). Always looking to forward my studies, I took a summer course with Brazilian classical percussionist Ney Rosauro in 1996 and came to the US in 1997 to study with jazz drummer Joe Morello.

You have a degree in Jazz percussion, but you also have classical training. What are the benefits that you've experienced in getting trained in both fields? Jazz combines numerous elements from classical music and (today) world music, allowing individual artistic expression through improvisation. As a professional musician, I want to be the best I can be. By studying and performing in both fields alongside musicians equally devoted to their craft, I get exposed to a wealth of ideas, techniques, and unique musical expressions which allow me to keep growing as a musician. Also, the more versatile a musician is, the more work one can do. In my

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Award-winning Hunterdon Academy of the Arts has campus locations in Flemington (NJ) and Lebanon (NJ). Founded in 1981, we are the largest performing arts school in Hunterdon, serving students of all ages and levels of ability. The school is particularly well known for its high-quality Music lessons and classes, but has more recently added Acting instruction to its services.



Faculty Showcase (continued)

experience, classical and jazz training have given me the foundation to be able to play any style of music I want or need to and to become the musician I want to be.

You often perform in some world-renowned venues. What’s it like (for you) to perform at the “Blue Note” in NYC? I’ve been lucky to be able to perform as a band leader in such venues as Blue Note, NJPAC, and this October, at the Québec International Jazz Festival in Canada. [The Blue Note is] my favorite jazz club and the place where all of my heroes have performed.

There is a new CD you released recently. Tell us a bit about it. My new album, “Trajetórias”, was recorded live at Galeria West in Westfield in May of this year. We have performed there numerous times over the years, it’s one of my favorite venues to perform in. It’s a very intimate and naturally artistic venue. This is my third commercial album as a band leader. I recorded nine tracks with my Brazilian jazz group, Bossa Brasil. The music features my arrangements of compositions by Tom Jobim, Milton Nascimento, Hermeto Pascoal, and Pat Metheny. The group is a quartet/quintet with Dmitry Baevsky on alto sax, Jerry Weir on vibes, Bob Rodriguez on keyboard, Gary Mazzaroppi on acoustic bass, and myself on drums. The album is available at live performances and online at Pandora (in a few months), iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, CD Baby, and most online music sites.



You are a kind and patient drum teacher and your HAA students love working with you. What is your #1 tool to motivate them to practice? :-) I love working with my students at HAA! They are all unique in their learning styles and interests and it’s a pleasure to watch them grow. My #1 tool to motivate my students to practice is always focusing on their interests. As a teacher I feel it’s my responsibility to show them how to play the instrument but I also feel it’s my responsibility to help them achieve their musical goals. I may expose them to different techniques but I don’t like to force anyone to study something they’re not interested in. I think the best learning happens in a friendly and relaxed environment.

What do you enjoy about being part of the Hunterdon Academy of the Arts community? I enjoy all aspects of being part of the Hunterdon Academy of the Arts community. I thoroughly enjoy interacting with the students and parents, they’re all dedicated to making the most of their experience at HAA. The staff is very friendly and professional. I feel HAA is dedicated to constant growth and improvement in providing the best learning musical environment possible. And I love that about the school.