



Newsletter

The Monthly Newsletter of *Hunterdon Academy of the Arts*

January 2017

Music Can Help You Keep Your New Year’s Resolutions

Happy New Year, Everyone! It’s hard to believe that we are in 2017 and maybe even harder to figure out what positive changes we can introduce in our lives right now. January 1st is a fresh start, a new beginning. It’s a new opportunity to reset our “bad” habits and eat better, exercise more, work less, spend more time with our loved ones...the list goes on. However, even typing this is making me feel anxious. How about you?



That’s probably for two reasons:

1. The list suggests that we are currently NOT doing what we SHOULD be doing, so that’s a pile of negative feelings right there, and
2. There is the nagging question, will I be able to stick to my resolutions?

Here’s how music can actually help you keep your New Year’s resolutions:

- Listen to your favorite tunes when you work out (if exercising is one of your goals in 2017).
- Turn on Pandora or Spotify while cleaning out your garage or organizing closets, paperwork, or even painting. It’s worth spending a bit of time to create an exciting playlist.
- If your goal is to spend more time with your loved ones, why not pick a show you all like and go to a live performance? We are fortunate to have many great venues in the tri-state area, so go for it! These are such precious memories you can share with your family or friends.
- Want to learn a new language or travel to a foreign country? Google their music and find something you like. Figuring out what those lyrics mean can be a fun project and it will get you started.

Lastly, if this happens to be the year when you finally learn how to play a musical instrument or take up a new one, try this: pick the instrument that you like listening to. Not the one you have sitting in your attic, but the instrument that makes you feel happy. Think of your favorite band and why you like their music. Is it the guitar, bass guitar, drums or the vocals? If classical music calms you down or transports you to another place, which instrument and composer make you feel that way? Be honest with yourself, do what feels good to YOU and the rest will fall in place.

Have a great New Year! I look forward to hearing what you are up to. Cheers!

Highlights

Student of the Month: Emily Rubin (2)

Faculty and Student Achievements (2)

Pet of the Month: Muffy Chryst (3)

Spring Referral Raffle Prize Announced (3)

Faculty Showcase: Angy Estrada, Piano (3-4)



Hunterdon
ACADEMY OF THE ARTS

Flemington & Lebanon

Student of the Month: Emily Rubin

This month we're congratulating Emily Rubin on winning January's Student of the Month Award!! Emily is a Piano and Acting student.



How old are you and how long have you been a student at HAA? I am 11 years old and I have been at HAA for 2 years.

You take piano lessons and acting classes at HAA. What do you like about each of these two programs?

I love being able to play an instrument, such as piano. And my Acting program makes me love to be in front of the camera.

What kind of music do you like to listen to at home? I like listening to Ballads (Adele, Twenty One Pilots, etc.)

What are your hobbies and what do you like doing in your free time? I love to draw and play video games in my free time.

What do you like about being part of Hunterdon Academy of the Arts? Being able to learn so many new things (Piano, acting)

What do you want to be (professionally) when you grow up? I want to be a professional artist when I grow up.

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, the **Bennington Family**: **THANK YOU!!!**



Faculty Achievements

Our very talented Acting and Voice instructor, Kristen Blossom, recently completed her 200 hour yoga training and is now a certified yoga instructor.

Student and Faculty Achievements

Students of Kristen Blossom: This past fall, Anna Bennington (Voice), auditioned for and successfully made it into Golden Eagles Singers, an advanced choir at her school. Matthew Woodward (Private Acting, Guitar, Voice, and ROCK Plus), just landed the role of Donkey in his school's production of Shrek the Musical. Kerry Glacken (Acting 301), successfully landed a role in her high school's production of The Addams Family.

Student of Mialtin Zhezha: Kevin Zhang won the Royal Conservatory Music Development Program Center Certificate of Excellence, State Certificate of Excellence, and the National Gold Medal for his Level 1 and 2 Violin assessment. He will be performing at Carnegie Hall next year!

Congratulations Everyone!!!

Save the Date!

**Monday 1/2, HAA Re-Opens
for Lessons and Classes**

**Friday 1/6, Jam Session
7:15-8:15pm**

**Friday 1/13, Acting Out!
7:15-8:15pm**

**Saturday 1/14, Recitals at
Stanton Reformed Church
9:30am-8:30pm**

**Saturday 1/21, Recitals at
Stanton Reformed Church
10:00am-9:00pm**

Birthdays in January

Daniel Coutinho, Samuel Freed, Chase Testa, Ellie Webster, Alexis Maurer, Steven Molineux, Avery Fulton, Evan Kousoulas, Julia Miller, Alex Lesica, Jeffery Pan, Anna DeMartino, Jack Connolly, Rylan Dentale, John Jayden Luo, Aliana Whelan, Kyra Geoffrion, Aidan Chen, Emma Horan, Helena Shore, Eden Berenger-Stern, Antonio Dotro, Katie Fazio, Megan Corbin, Christina Pastor, Selina Zhang, Sean Winston Luo, Joshua Millman, Jacob Bacino, Madelyn Baum, Stephanie Coppola, Max Qi, Julia Qian



Pet of the Month: Muffy Chryst

Congrats to Muffy for winning the January Pet of the Month Award! Her mom Ms. Lynda tells us, “Muffy is very lovable and enjoys being with people. She likes to dance on her back two feet and give visitors a high-five. Muffy always likes to play, whether it be a duck toy or a sock she stole from someone. She enjoys snuggling in bed. She is not a fan of music practice. Muffy usually hides away when she hears the piano, and is really not fond of hearing violin!”



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

Spring Referral Contest: Win a FREE PathFinder Inflatable SUP Stand Up Paddleboard 9' 9" (5" Thick)!

Get ready for some great summer adventures!! The **Pathfinder Inflatable SUP** is a perfect all-around SUP board. This versatile and durable board is 9'9" long x 5" thick. The complete package includes SUP board, high pressure air pump, removable center tracking fin, bungee tie-down, adjustable aluminum paddle, valve wrench, and a carry bag with shoulder straps. So portable and easy to store! When fully inflated, it feels very similar to a hard board (inflate to 15 PSI). Great for all day family fun wherever the next water adventure takes you!



A Value of \$299!

**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: Angy Estrada, Piano

This month, we are spotlighting Angy Estrada, one of our most successful Piano Teachers. We're fortunate for having Angy on board, and can't wait to share with you the interview we had with her.

Tell us a bit about your musical journey. When did you start playing music and why did you choose piano over other instruments? My musical journey started when I was 7 years old and I joined the music program at my school. I played piano with our Salsa Band while attending “Bellas Artes” Music Conservatory in Colombia.

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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)

Who inspired you to become a professional musician and why?

My Mother was always very supportive and my teachers encouraged me to study Music professionally. My colleagues from “Orquesta La Misma Gente” inspired me to continue my education and my piano teachers, Lucia Mora and Dr. Baruch Meir were highly supportive, as well.

You received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Rutgers University, but you also studied jazz composition and arrangement. How does classical music fit in with the rest of your music interests?

Classical music is the foundation for my Piano Technique, Music Theory, Music History and Musicianship. My studies with Prof. Stasio expanded my horizons in Jazz allowing me to create my own music, and performing other genres such as, Latin Jazz and Gospel Music.

What is your recommendation for students to get motivated to practice on a regular basis?

Students should build their weekly schedule including practicing their musical instrument. I recommend my students practice earlier in the day before they get too tired. In addition, having performance opportunities motivates my students to practice and achieve significant progress.

What do you enjoy about being part of the Hunterdon Academy of the Arts community?

Hunterdon Academy of The Arts is a very organized community. I enjoy the respect and commitment that everyone shares with each other to make sure our students improve their musical skills.

