



# Newsletter

The Monthly Newsletter of *Hunterdon Academy of the Arts*

**February 2017**

## Winter Fun at HAA

As I'm writing this article it is 21 degrees outside and there is still some snow on the ground from the mini storm we had this past weekend. I personally love warm weather and truly miss seeing green leaves on trees, hearing the birds chirp and generally spending hours at a time outdoors. Today I stopped and challenged myself to imagine what winters were like 100 or 200 years ago. What did people do for fun and how much was music part of their lives?

I've done a little bit of research and it turns out, people spent their winter days playing chess, dominoes, marbles, checkers, card games, etc. Apparently, winter sports were popular in the 1900's and were often accompanied by singing and a cheering audience. Wealthier people participated in "Winter Balls" dressed in beautiful gowns, dancing to then popular--now classical--music, and gossiping (of course). Weeks of preparation went into these events. Times were slower and simpler, but music was always part of it all.

Fast forward to 2017: what are HAA students doing this winter? Some of our families enjoy going on skiing trips, while others like to stay home to watch a movie or play video games. To spice up your winter months, HAA's January recitals are always exciting, bringing together hundreds of our Music Lesson students to perform at Stanton Reformed Church. Each year so many of you come out and take pride in showing off your skills. Music is still an important part of who you are. In February, we will have our ROCK Plus play live at Long Valley Pub and we hope many of you will come out to hear these fabulous young musicians play, while enjoying a dinner at this cool local venue.

Also in February, we will celebrate Valentine's Day by hosting our annual "From HAA With Love" event on the 11th from 10am to 1pm. This was so much fun last year, so don't miss it. As part of the event we will again offer face painting, music, refreshments and enough positive energy to keep you warm until spring arrives.

Join us and celebrate winter the HAA way!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valentina Jotić". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

## Highlights

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**ROCK Plus at Long Valley Pub & Brewery (2)**

**Pet of the Month: Darla Paulicelli (3)**

**Spring Referral Raffle (3)**

**Faculty Showcase: June Asai, Voice and Piano (3-4)**



**Hunterdon**  
**ACADEMY OF THE ARTS**

*Flemington & Lebanon*

# FROM: HAA, WITH LOVE

FACE PAINTING | RAFFLE | REFRESHMENTS

10AM - 1PM

Join us for our **FREE** Valentine Festivity on **Saturday, February 11 - From HAA, with Love.**

Enjoy face painting for the little ones, light refreshments, and win a special Raffle Prize: This irresistible Teddy Bear! <3



## ROCK Plus Gearing Up for First Performance of 2017

We can't wait to hear ROCK Plus students at their first performance of the season. The band is scheduled to perform **Saturday, February 25 at 4:00pm** at Long Valley Pub! **Admission is FREE!** Come out to hear these amazing young musicians perform some of the best songs ever! **Long Valley Pub (1 Fairmount Road, Long Valley, NJ 07853)** is a wonderful local venue serving delicious food and, yes, some amazing beers! As you'll recall, the ROCK Plus program was launched this past fall with an impressive debut performance of our "pilot band" at the DIY. The first official band has since been rehearsing weekly on Saturday afternoons in preparation for the upcoming Long Valley concert. **Don't miss out; it's going to be great!**



## 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, Riggi Family, and DeSimone Family: THANK YOU!!!**

## Student and Faculty Achievements

Violin students of Mialtin Zhezha: Kevin Zhang has been selected to perform at the upcoming New York Celebration of Excellence Awards Recital of the Royal Conservatory Music Development Program. This performance will take place on Saturday, February 18 at 1PM at Carnegie Hall. Kevin is also a recipient of both Center and State Certificates for both Level 1 and Level 2 of the Royal Conservatory Music Development Program.

Erin McGowan is the recipient of both Center and State Certificates for Level 4 of the Royal Conservatory Music Development Program

## Save the Date!

**Friday 2/3, Jam Session**  
7:15-8:15pm

**Friday 2/10, Acting Out!**  
7:15-8:15pm

**Saturday 2/11, From HAA with Love, 10:00am-1:00pm**

**Saturday 2/25, ROCK Plus Performance at Long Valley Pub & Brewery, 4:00pm**

## Birthdays in February

Dominique Ryalls, Annaleigh Mrozek, Grace Yaros, Sydney Atkinson, Marcos Teixeira, Maxwell Maglowski, Nathaniel Tota, Melody Khan, Evan Angeles, Madeleine LaPointe, Clara Loenser, David Pisani, Alison Wardle, Katie Watkins, Penelope Wheeler, Hana Frattini, Adelaide Knight, Leo Ramos, Spencer Bellanca, Lindsay Chudy, Aditya Kumar, Kate Winseck, Margaret Andrin, Ayushi Ghan, Varenya Mishra, Matthew Whitesell, Josh Villa San-Pedro, Nickolas Burinsky, Micah Das, Benjamin Deremer, Julian Calv, Noah Gorski, Garrett Krygier, Veronica Murphy, Austin Ritter, Patrik Vogel, Joelle Dizon, Samantha Wilk, Elizabeth Blath, Aidan Harkins, Ryan Kerchner, Cullan Brophy, Zahra Davachi, Grace Chen, Layla Maravetz, Bennett Fog, Allison Berry, Daniel Decker

★HAPPY★  
BIRTHDAY!

## Pet of the Month: Darla Paulicelli

Congrats to Darla for winning the February Pet of the Month Award! Darla is a 6 year old Bichon-Poodle mix and her mom Grace tells us, “She’s my best friend, she’s the cuddliest little bear I know and she makes everybody happy. Her favorite activity is tricking my family into giving her treats!”

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](http://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](http://www.HunterdonAcademyOfTheArts.com/MyPet)

## Winter 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](http://www.HunterdonAcademyOfTheArts.com/Referrals)

## Faculty Showcase: June Asai, Voice and Piano

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

**You teach piano and voice at HAA. How old were you when you decided to make music your career and what (or who) inspired you to do it?** I started taking voice lessons in fifth grade while I was living in Japan. I studied with Prof. Saito Kotoko at Kobe College. I watched many of her performances. She was a great role model for me. She had great confidence and a wonderful stage presence. In 7th grade, I performed as the lead,



4 Minneakoning Road  
 Flemington, NJ 08822  
 (908) 782-4943  
 office@hunterdonacademyofthearts.com  
 www.HunterdonAcademyOfTheArts.com

*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)

Princess Pamina, in an opera by Mozart called, “The Magic Flute.” I was lucky to be able to perform with a full orchestra which was very exciting. That’s when I decided I wanted to make singing my career.

**As a YouTuber who releases covers and original song videos, what advice can you give young aspiring artists who wish to do the same? How DO you build a good following?** My best advice is to make sure a career in music is the right path for you. First, learn about yourself and try to become as well-rounded as possible. Then, if you honestly think you have the ability, drive, and the talent to make it, never give up. I think success with YouTube is based on consistency, good content, and timing.

I suggest developing a channel as soon as possible, that way you will have the time to develop your skills in social media, understand the programs and technology needed to make videos and work on feeling comfortable in front of the camera.

**You have a degree in vocal performance from Rutgers University. How do you balance your classical training with your strong interest in popular music?** I believe learning to sing classically is the best way to start for any young singer. Jumping into pop singing without the foundation of proper vocal technique leads to the development of bad habits that will be harder to break in the future. Once a singer can sing classically then vocal exploration is safe and can be very fun. There is nothing wrong with being versatile.

**What do you enjoy about being part of the Hunterdon Academy of the Arts community?** I love my kids! Every one of my students has their very own unique way of learning and seeing the world and I think that’s exciting. Being part of the process of creative growth is rewarding and fun. Also, the staff is friendly. HAA is a nice place to be.

