



# Newsletter

The Monthly Newsletter of *Hunterdon Academy of the Arts*

**March 2017**

## 10 Years, and Still Learning

As most of you are aware, 2016 was HAA's 35th Anniversary. We celebrated the occasion with many fun parties, activities and events, including an official Ribbon Cutting and Grand Re-Opening. This year - 2017 - my husband Antonius and I are celebrating yet another anniversary: 10 years of owning and developing HAA! 10 years! Now, we won't have another Grand Reopening this year, but you are welcome to send us gifts. ;-)

For those of you who are new to our school, here's a quick history: the school (originally named Cooper Music Studio) was started in 1981 by Bob and Donna Cooper, who retired in 2007. We took over in March of that year, and it's been quite an amazing ride ever since.

**What have we learned in 10 years? Many important lessons. Here are just a few:**

We've learned that we are unique as individuals and our business has to reflect that. We also wanted our students, as well as faculty and staff to celebrate who THEY are as individuals. That's why Multiple Intelligences and its customized learning is our focus and our core philosophy. We've learned that we have to inspire and foster a passion for the Performing Arts. Everything we do is designed to wake up that feeling of joy in our students. We teach a journey of discovery. We've learned that everyone has a bad day - or a bad month, or a year! - from time to time. We are all human. Some new programs or policies we implemented were not great. And that's ok. We try our best to fix what we can and offer our students an environment they can grow in.

Last, but not least, we've learned the incredible value of your loyalty. Many of you have been with us for many years and words cannot express how grateful we are for your support. The following 12 families deserve special mention here, for having been continuously enrolled with us since 2007. They stood by us through all the ups and downs of the economy and the many changes we made at HAA over the past 10 years: The Babbert Family, The Corbin Family, The Hanson Family, The Houghton Family, The Lostumbo Family, The Lum-DeBono Family, The Milza Family, The Mortensen Family, The Pascale Family, The Rubinchik Family, The Snyder Family and The Vogel Family. THANK YOU!

In our second decade of managing the school, my husband and I look forward to taking beloved Hunterdon Academy of the Arts to its next level! The journey has begun already. Stay tuned!

## Highlights

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**Hunterdon**  
ACADEMY OF THE ARTS

*Flemington & Lebanon*

## 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 **Evan Kousoulas, Allison Levine, Jennifer Ju, Catalina Gregg, Alison Castellano, Sierra Squire, The Sahulka Family, Tatiana Botelho, THANK YOU!!!**

## Student and Faculty Achievements

Voice students of Lilla Heinrich-Szasz: **Abigail Thompson** auditioned for and successfully landed the lead role of Amneris in Elton John's *Aida* with the Inzane Acting Studio and was accepted into the Ensemble of her school's production of *Legally Blonde*.

**Mya Corby** successfully landed the lead role of Fiona in her school's production of *Shrek the Musical*.

**Abigail Klauz** successfully landed the secondary female role of Mrs. Brill in her school's production of *Merry Poppins*.

**Safwa Ozair** has landed the secondary female role of the Evil Step-Mother in her school's production of *Cinderella*.

**Mary Perez** has landed the supporting role of the Wardrobe in her school's production of *Beauty and the Beast*.

**Marlena Gnap** is starting her own YouTube channel with her guitarist father and will professionally record cover songs.

## Save the Date!

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

**Friday 3/10, Acting Out!**  
7:15-8:15pm

**Saturday 3/25**  
**True Voice Project**  
**at Flemington DIY**  
**6:00pm, Free Admission!**





## March Student Birthdays

Xander Braun, Madeline Atkinson, Caleb Bogroff, Brandon Cohen, Abigail Davidson, Gianna Garofolo, Myra Panthri, Allison Vandal, Sara Sukenik, Gabe DeCola, Julian DeCola, Jaeden Wintermut, Tanmay Tarigonda, Abigail Thompson, Matthew Scotto, Avery Liebman, Sam Souvenir, Emma Tappe, Tyler Ippolito, Jenna Wassel, Christina Toth, Harry Lewis, Brenna McCarthy, Stella Reid, Anthony DeSimone, Gerry Endersen, Spring Jones, Alana Brown, Karenna Gutierrez, Sam Weiss, Bennett Soares, Kristy Beck, Lauren Blanke, Emily Lin, Molly McDermott, Anna Claire St. John, Maria Bacino, Leah Dobbins, Lauren Johnson, Keshav Viradia, Julia Granato, Nathan Merrill, Hunter Trstensky

★HAPPY★  
BIRTHDAY!

## 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)**

## Celebrating our 700th Student

We're so excited to be experiencing unprecedented demand for our programs. When Joey Stevens signed up for Guitar Lessons in early February, he had no idea that he was in for a treat. As HAA's 700th student, he won a Free Month of Guitar Lessons with his teacher Rob George.

**Congratulations, Joey! Way to go!**



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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.*



## Celebrating Valentine's Day the HAA Way



We had so much fun at our annual Valentine's Event on February 11, "From: HAA, with Love." It was a wonderful morning of musical entertainment by Guitar Student Sydney Atkinson, face painting, and refreshments. Many of our families stopped by and entered their names into our Valentine's Raffle, in hopes to win the grand prize: a Giant Teddy Bear. Unfortunately, we had only ONE Teddy to give away, and he went to Annaleigh Mrozek.  
**Congratulations, Annaleigh!**

## It's a Girl! Meet Elina Zhezha



Long-standing and beloved HAA Instructors Naoko and Mialtin Zhezha are celebrating the birth of their first child. Elina was born on January 11 at 7:40 PM and has since introduced her parents to the many joys of parenthood. "She is posing with her more recent favorite position; I could almost fit a violin with it.", says proud Dad, Mialtin.  
**Hearty Congratulations!**