



Newsletter

The Monthly Newsletter of *Hunterdon Academy of the Arts*

April 2017

The HAA Thunder

It was almost 4pm on Saturday, February 25, when our excited *Rock+* students completed their sound check at the *Long Valley Brewery and Pub*. Their much-anticipated concert was about to start, the place was packed and people were lining up on the stairs by the bar to get a good view of the show. "There's a tornado warning," said our Operations Manager Ruthie Boyce, showing me the alert that just popped up on her phone. "Oh no! Not now," I responded in shock. Well, the show must go on, I thought to myself. "We are in a stone building, so we should be fine," Jacob Hughes, our Location Manager, assured us.

We were so relieved that the "tornado" turned out to be not bad at all. To be sure, there was a lot of rain, but the real STORM and THUNDER occurred inside the building we were in. Our *Rock+* students were absolutely amazing and the crowd was cheering them on throughout their 60-minute performance. While the students were playing their hearts out, the General Manager of *Long Valley Pub* walked around with her iphone, trying to capture as many good shots and videos of our performance as she could. She even told us that the show was better than the professional bands she pays to play at the venue...shhh, don't tell them. Let that be our little secret. :-)

The 2/25 *Rock+* performance was just the beginning of what promises to be an amazing Spring and Summer Season. The "HAA Thunder" is starting to reverberate throughout Hunterdon and we could not be happier about it! Here are some of the upcoming performances and community events we have lined up for you:

March 25: The *True Voice Project (TVP)* performs at *Flemington DIY*

April 8: Our *Musikgarten* program is represented at the *Baby Fair of the Hunterdon Medical Center*

May 5 (rain date 5/26): *Rock+* and *TVP* join forces for a performance at *Beneduce Vineyards* in Pittstown

May 12: Open Acting Class at the *Flemington Historic Courthouse* (by our Acting 101, 201 and 301 students)

June 3: Hunterdon Community Day at the *Flemington Fairgrounds*

June 9: *Show Kids Choir* Performance

June 10 and 17: Student Recitals

Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for additional summer events. Join us as we share the joys of the performing arts with an ever expanding number of Hunterdon families!

Highlights

April Student Birthdays (2)

HAA Community Collaborations (2)

Pet of the Month: Newlyn Bennington (3)

Spring Referral Contest: Beneduce Winery (3)

Student of the Month: Kevin Zhang (4)



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 **Woodward Family, Coppetto Family, Berardi Family, Balodis Family, Sahulka Family, and Lesica Family, THANK YOU!!!**

April Student Birthdays

Annabelle Balodis, Safwa Ozair, Elizabeth Miller, Jerald Korn, Justice Korn, Anjola Olawoye, Mihika Singh, Erin McGowan, Hannah Varughese, Austin Leiwant, Michael Lenert, Reid Becker, Emily Gouse, Patrick Palma, Caden Messinger, Ava Seamans, William Coey, Shubhranshu Dutta, Nina Jiwnani, Joey Lostumbo, Lila Seamans, Charlotte Byrne, Rohan Mehta, Mary Perez, Jonathan Tenerovich, Anthony Dempsey, Lila Nourbakhsh, Benjamin Daus, Shreeya Panchal, Raegan Conk, Mya Corby, Jim Cush, Lidia Guerrero, Avery Klus, Chloe Nind, James Betti, Evan Giannini, Zoey Perdue, Rachel Strub, Glenn Wasserman, Emily Ippolito, Olivia Keelen, Anna Lopena, Alejandro Findikli, Tanish Gautam, Alexander Croft, Katie Croft, Landon Lampariello, Andrew Loewenstein, Gabriel Meyer, Mike Patuto, MacKenzie Schneider, Oliver Wong. Also, a special shout-out to Sarah Creel who had a birthday in March!



Save the Date!

Friday 4/7, Jam Session
7:15-8:15pm

Saturday 4/8, HAA at the Baby, Tot, and Kid Fair of the Hunterdon Medical Center
8:30am-1:00pm

4/10-4/15, Spring Break

Tuesday 4/11, Snow Day
Make Up from 3/13

Thursday 4/13, Snow Day
Make Up from 2/9

Saturday 4/15, Snow Day
Make Up from 12/16

Friday 4/21, Acting Out!
7:15-8:15pm

HAA Community Collaborations

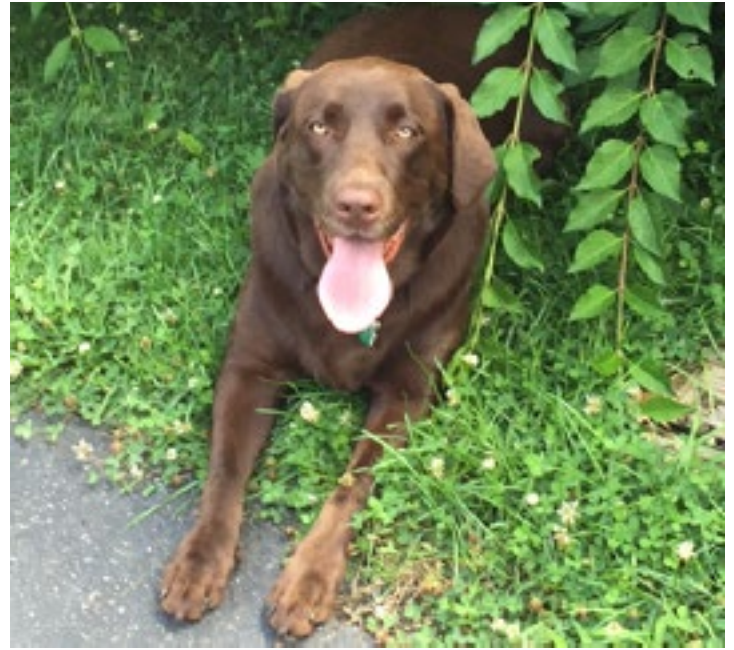
You may be wondering why we would have a local winery featured in our Newsletter (see p. 3). The answer is simple: we are teaming up with successful local businesses that have not only earned the recognition and support of the Hunterdon community, but were happy to open their doors to HAA students and provide a welcoming environment for our young performers to shine. In our front page article we told you about the fabulous time our *Rock+* students and families had while playing a full-hour set at the *Long Valley Pub* on 2/25. We are now asking you to please **SAVE THE DATE** - May 5 (rain date May 26) - for what promises to be an amazing evening of music by HAA's *True Voice Project* AND *Rock+* students at *Beneduce Vineyards* (1 Jeremiah Ln, Pittstown, NJ 08867).

Both *Beneduce Vineyards* and *Long Valley Pub* offer live music events regularly - which is rare in our county - so please support them and help us build a stronger music community! If you know of any other cool local venues interested in featuring HAA students, please let us know!



Pet of the Month: Newlyn Bennington

Congrats to Newlyn for winning the April Pet of the Month Award! Newlyn is a 2 year old Chocolate Lab and her mom Anna tells us, "My dog loves playing with me, no matter what I am doing. Newlyn follows me around everywhere! She is my alarm clock. (She waits by my door every morning and wakes me up by jumping on my bed and nudges me.) She also waits by the window every afternoon for me to get off the school bus. She loves to play in the snow, chase our cat, go for walks, and even dance!"



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 Date Night Basket by Beneduce Vineyards!

- Mixed Case of Beneduce Vineyards Wine (12 bottles. Retail around \$250)
- Private Tour and Barrel Tasting by Winemaker/Sommelier Mike Beneduce
- Two Group Therapy Vouchers (live music every Saturday evening from 6-9pm)
- Two Etched Logo Glasses

(Winner MUST be 21 to claim prize)

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

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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.



Student of the Month: Kevin Zhang, Violin

(by Mialtin Zhezha, Kevin's HAA Instructor)

Kevin has been playing the violin for well over 3 years now. Inspired by his older sister Selina, it was only natural for him to play the violin. From his very first violin lesson, you could see Kevin was determined to play well and work hard at home. With all the practicing and enthusiasm for the instrument, it is no coincidence that Kevin received four prestigious prizes this year: two State Certificates of Excellence and two Center Certificates of Excellence from the Royal Conservatory Music Development Program. In recognition of these awards, Kevin was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall on February 18, 2017. He is lucky to have supportive parents. His Mom observes each of his lessons and makes sure he has the help he needs when practicing at home. Being part of the HAA family, as well, provides invaluable resources for Kevin's violin adventures.

Last year, while sitting in the audience at Carnegie Hall, an audience member, after noticing Kevin dressed in a suit, asked if he was going to play that evening. Kevin quickly replied, "Not tonight. I will play in next year's winner's recital." Sure enough, his prediction and honest wish came true, not least because of his dedication to the violin and focused work. I am proud of Kevin. He has come so far in such a short period of time; just three years ago he was still so young that 15-minute lessons was all he could handle. And look at him now! He was just honored to play in one of the most prestigious concert halls in the world. **Congratulations, Kevin!!**



Kevin has been taking violin lessons at Hunterdon Academy of the Arts with Mr. Zhezha since 2013.