



Newsletter

The Monthly Newsletter of *Hunterdon Academy of the Arts*

June 2017

What is your WHY?

One of my favorite books is “Start With Why”, by Simon Sinek. I like it so much that I shared it with my staff. If you haven’t read it, I highly recommend it.

Mr. Sinek says that as people, we don’t care as much about what somebody does, we care about WHY they do it. On the surface, that may sound wrong or counter-intuitive, but when you think about it a bit more, it actually makes a lot of sense.

As an educator, I’ve always been fascinated by the human mind. The brain is such a powerful part of who we are as individuals, what we achieve, and why we are drawn to certain activities more than others. Now that we are approaching the summer months, the idea of relaxing may appear more appealing to us than practicing music. This is a good time to reconnect with WHY you got into music in the first place.

- WHY do I want my child to play an instrument? How can I help him continue to develop this important skill?
- WHY do I like this kind of music (pop, rock, classical, etc.)? Where can I listen to it more, and how can I learn to play songs in my favorite style of music?
- WHY do I believe music and arts are important to me and my family?
- WHY is taking a break this summer more tempting than getting really good at playing my instrument?

What’s the reason I am even considering a break from taking lessons? To be sure, in anything we do, it’s not always easy to be dedicated and disciplined enough to reach our maximum potential. Some students take off over the summer, then come back in the fall, surprised to have to re-learn most things they learned back in spring. Yes, “summer learning loss” is very real in music, too! And on top of that, it’s costly because you end up paying twice for essentially the same lessons. If your WHY is to just have some fun in music lessons and acquire basic skills, that is fine! However, if you would like to make progress, challenge yourself, and spend the next school year taking your skills to a new level, your WHY is quite different. In that case, quitting over the summer is probably not a viable option for you.

Since reading Mr. Sinek’s book, I look for my own WHY in everything I do. It’s a really good exercise. Give it a try, and you may see things in yourself you were not aware of before.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Valentina Jovic'.

Highlights

Shout Outs! (2)

June Student Birthdays (2)

Student Achievements (2)

Pet of the Month: Ben Kelleher (2)

New Faces at HAA (3)

Spring Referral Contest: Beneduce Winery (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 **Berardi Family, THANK YOU!!!**

June Student Birthdays

Julia Lombardo, Brendan Calv, Charlotte Davis, Gavin Hovde, Kenneth Schlesier, Ryann Smith, CJ Braido, Gianni Coppeto, Bridgette Espey, Kerry Glacken, Chloe Sahulka, Isabella Sahulka, Kyle Bochenek, Zikar Dawood, Maya Haig, Jocelyn Pollack, Anagha Mangrekar, Maya Patel, Matthew Molineux, Maanasi Vendra, Thatcher Wright, Emma Albright, Joy Papazian, Liliana Sa, Andrew Steidle, Max Gutierrez, Sebastian Raimondi, David Andreas, Matthew Mcpherson, Owen Suddeath-Almendinger, Brielle Esporin, Jianna Marina, Gia Criscitiello, Carter Tuxhorn, Brian Zhou, Caroline Coey, Grace Griesler, David Adenuga, Ryan Maurer, Noliqwa Moyo, William Washington, Jane Boni, Lucas Gregg, Julianna Bruton, Dave Hilfiker, Parker Lido, Madison Millward, Lydia George, Shannon Warren, Phoebe Morgan, Eliana Contos, Riley Boyce, Lexi Zubek, Antonia Buza, Morgan Owen, Emily Rush.

Save the Date!

Friday 6/2, Jam Session
7:15-8:15pm

Friday 6/9 Acting Out!
7:15-8:15pm

Saturday 6/10 Recitals
and True Voice Project Concert

Saturday 6/17 Recitals,
Show Kids Choir Concert,
and True Voice Project Concert



Student Achievements

Dinah Betsker will be Susie Mouse in the Skit International performance on June 10th at the Little Theater. She wowed in her audition and is really proud to have the part (usually only the big kids get roles). Congratulations, Dinah!

Pet of the Month: Ben Kelleher

Congrats to Ben for winning the June Pet of the Month Award! Ben is 4 years old and his dad Kiernan tells us, "I love Ben so much because he loves to play. Ben will play fetch, like a dog. He loves to bat at socks and shoelaces, like a little boxer. He is also the fastest cat on the history of planet Earth. He can run super fast and can even outrun me and my friends!"

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

New Faces at HAA

As we have grown over the past year thanks to all of you wonderful students and families, we've had to bring a few new instructors on board. If you are lucky enough to be one of their students, or simply see them in the halls, be sure to make them feel welcome. We're happy to have them on board and look forward to growing our performing arts community even more over the summer!

Ben B. - Guitar, Bass: Ben began playing piano in 1984 and guitar in 1993. He studied composition and guitar at Berklee College of Music. Additionally, Ben has earned a degree in physics from Boston College. Since 2005, he has been teaching private and group guitar lessons to students of all ages and in all musical styles. Though Ben considers technical training to be an essential part of good musicianship, his teaching places great emphasis on the wholehearted enjoyment of music.



Sarah E. - Voice, Piano: Sarah England is a lyric soprano and received her Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. Currently, she is pursuing her Doctorate in Musicology at the University of Maryland College Park. Her research focuses on American popular music from the early twentieth century, in particular musical theater, and intersections of race, gender, class, and national identity. Her dissertation explores the music of Harold Arlen, the famed songwriter of The Wizard of Oz.



Zack G. - Guitar, Bass, Ukulele, Banjo: Zack is a professional guitarist/vocalist, with over 13 years of teaching experience. He has playing guitar for 23 years, singing for 17. His foundation in music is rooted in over 5 years of private music theory, which he directly incorporates into his teaching style. Stylistically, Zack is skilled at progressive rock, metal, classical, blues, country, pop, and R&B, and is currently studying jazz in Berklee College of Music's online degree program, from which he will be graduating with a Bachelor of Professional Studies in Guitar before the end of 2019. Additional studies include one year of classical guitar training.



Mariah K. - Voice, Piano, Ukulele: Mariah holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Voice from Indiana University, where she also majored in psychology. In the 2010, she performed with the American High School Honors Series at Carnegie Hall. Since then, she has spent summers at The Manhattan School of Music, has held a Music Education Internship at Boston Conservatory, and performed a leading role in Offenbach's Un mari a la porte in Perigueux, France with the Franco-American Vocal Academy. In her vocal teaching, she draws not only on her musical experience but also her psychology training to enhance her students' musical expression.



Andrew K. - Guitar, Bass, Ukulele, Rock+: Andrew is a bassist, guitarist, singer, and songwriter. While still in high school, he earned a name for himself as a bassist amongst the Jersey shore circuit of musicians. Andrew later earned a degree in Professional Music from Berklee College of Music in 2012. From 2010 to 2013, Andrew toured as the bassist for Lisa Bouchelle & The Bleu; the opener for national acts including Meat Loaf, Ted Nugent, John Popper, and America. His musical influences include Rush, Jim Croce, and Chris Stapleton.



James O. - Saxophone, Clarinet: James is currently a freelance musician and teacher in the New York/New Jersey Area. He received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music in Jazz Studies (Saxophone Performance) from Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts in New Brunswick, NJ, and William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ. James has performed at venues such as Blue Note in NYC, Chris' Jazz Café in Philadelphia, PA, Symphony Space in NYC, Dizzy Club Coca Cola at Lincoln Center in NYC, The Allen Room at Lincoln Center in NYC, The Garage Restaurant and Café in NYC, and many more.





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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.



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