

*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.*



<http://hunterdon.happeningmag.com/happeninglist/2018-kids-music-instruction/>

## SPRING REFERRAL CONTEST:

### Win a \$300 Hotels.com Gift Card for a Weekend Getaway!

Drawing on June 30!

# A \$300 Value!



To enter the Spring 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 they enroll in our programs! Refer as many people as you'd like!

**HUNTERDONACADEMYOFTHEARTS.COM/REFERRALS**

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
COLUMBIA, SC  
PERMIT # 394

## THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HUNTERDON ACADEMY OF THE ARTS

### Music Brings Families Closer Together

When I was a little girl, my grandmother Lidia would sing to me and my brother all the time--and I mean ALL the time. She was a Hungarian lady with a Transylvanian ancestry and she knew over 1000 old ethnic Hungarian songs. Singing to us was her way of storytelling and she took great pride in being familiar with all the "olden songs" her blind mother passed on to her. We believe that grandma had perfect pitch--even though she had no formal music training. You could pretty much tune an instrument to her voice and she sang everything either in d-minor or D-Major. If you are a musician yourself, you may appreciate this rare skill.

My Mom's side of the family was very close. We all lived in the same neighborhood, and would see all our aunts, uncles and cousins almost daily. Most of us played an instrument or sang. We used to have family rehearsals and would go caroling together over Christmas. Grandma was at our house all the time and sometimes it was hard to focus on our "kid stuff" when she was singing. We would often ask her: "Can you please just stop for a little while?" and she would get upset with us. It was also not so cool to have your friends over and have grandma be the center of attention. She really enjoyed that, by the way. :-)

My brother and I did not fully appreciate Grandma Lidia's talent until she was in her 70's and a couple of university professors asked to meet with her, record her songs and catalogue them before all that cultural treasure is forgotten. We were shocked to discover that what we've been hearing daily is actually something so unique and valuable, but then

again, it's only human to sometimes take people for granted.

My grandma's passion for music influenced our entire family and I'm so very grateful to her. I have some wonderful memories of making music with my uncle, and I still tear up when I watch videos of his amazing clarinet performances. There are also these warm memories of me and my Mom singing in harmony, as well as Mom singing with her siblings. Sometimes, we did that on stage and sometimes while baking fresh rolls together. I think about those happy times often and with great fondness.

Now, my family is scattered all over the world and my uncle and grandma are long gone. We miss them terribly and I often wish I could hear grandma's songs in the kitchen. However, my aunt and cousins still call me from Australia, Sweden, Hungary or Serbia and sing "Silent Night" in harmony on Christmas Eve. We all cry and wish we could be together. Music is one of the important links we share and its power to bring back memories is just incredible. So, if one of your family members is always singing or playing, please make sure to pause and appreciate them every day. Ask them to keep singing and try to remember every moment. :-)

*Valentina Jotovic*

Valentina Jotovic, C.E.O.



## HIGHLIGHTS

April Referral Shoutouts (Pg. 2)

This Month at HAA (Pg. 2)

April Student Birthdays (Pg. 3)

Spring Referral Contest: \$300  
Hotels.com Gift Card (Pg. 4)



4 Minneakoning Road • Flemington, NJ 08822

148 Main Street • Lebanon, NJ 08833

908.782.4943



# 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 Andrea Doyle, Robin Berardi, Raffaella McAllister, and Pranav Patel!

THANK YOU!

## THIS MONTH AT HAA

4/2 MONDAY MAKE UP FOR JANUARY 8

4/3 TUESDAY CLOSED

4/4 WEDNESDAY MAKE UP FOR MARCH 7

4/5 THURSDAY MAKE UP FOR JANUARY 4

4/6 FRIDAY MAKE UP FOR MARCH 2

4/6 FRIDAY JAM SESSION 7:15-8:15PM

4/7 SATURDAY CLOSED

4/13 FRIDAY ACTING OUT 7:15-8:15PM

4/20 FRIDAY ROCK+ AT LONG VALLEY BREWERY

# WELCOME, CHARLOTTE NEJMAN!!!



We are so excited to let you know that our wonderful *ActinGarten* teacher, Ms. Jenn, and her husband Sean welcomed a beautiful baby girl into this world. Charlotte Marie Nejman was born at 6:27 on March 14th. She was 6 lbs, 11 oz and 20.5 inches long! Mom, baby, dad and pups are all settling in well at home! Congrats, Ms. Jenn! We miss you and can't wait to meet Charlotte. <3



ARE YOU TAKING  
MUSIC LESSONS  
AT HAA?

Enroll Another  
Family Member  
and **Get 50% Off**  
Their First Month!



CALL (908) 782-4943

Expires 5/15. Not applicable to Current or Previous Registrations.



Hunterdon  
ACADEMY OF THE ARTS

# APRIL STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

Arnold Graham  
Balodis Annabelle  
Ozair Safwa  
Miller Elizabeth  
Korn Jerald  
Korn Justice  
Olawaye Anjola  
Singh Mihika  
McGowan Erin  
Johnson Summer  
Varughese Hannah  
Lenert Michael  
Becker Reid  
Gouse Emily  
Palma Patrick  
Sutton Emily  
Coey William  
Dutta Shubhranshu  
Byne Charlotte  
Gonzales Jair  
Mehta Rohan

Dempsey Anthony  
Finelli Briana  
Terhune Lennon  
Kalappurakal Saharsh  
Peach Madeline  
Peach Sophie  
Meisner Grace  
Millward Lilly  
VanNote Shawnnessy  
Philip Mark  
Yerramilli Shane  
Corby Mya  
Cush Jim  
Guerrero Lidia  
Calabrese Vincent  
Angiuli Sloan  
Johnson Zachary  
Johnson Zoe  
Rajaram Chithira  
Swart Owen  
Bansal Sarah

Belan Ludko  
Giannini Evan  
Morra Madison  
Schultz Kyle  
Wasserman Glenn  
Boxter Nora  
Demetriou Avery  
Finelli Kayla  
Ford Ava  
Ippolito Emily  
Lopena Anna  
Repmann Darcy  
Benson Lauren  
Gautam Tanish  
Catedra Sara  
Croft Alexander  
Croft Katie  
Lampariello Landon  
Meyer Gabriel  
Patuto Mike  
Wong Oliver

