



quarter notes

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF CONCORDIA CONSERVATORY

WINTER 2014-15

Concordia Conservatory Mission Statement

The Conservatory's mission is to inspire, instruct, and enrich lives through music offering excellence in education and performance.

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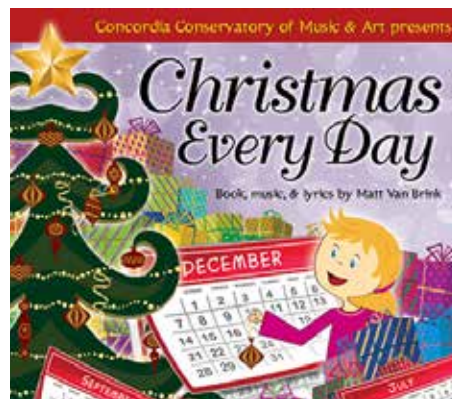
171 White Plains Road
Bronxville, NY 10708
914/395-4507
www.concordiaconservatory.org



Happy New Year!
May peace, love, laughter and music fill your season.

*Wishing you all the best,
Kathleen Suss, Mary Beth Stewart and Abdul Amini
and the Conservatory faculty*

CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY Holiday Treasure for 15 years



Concordia Conservatory's 15th annual holiday community musical production, CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY, with book, music, and lyrics by Matt Van Brink was performed 6 shows to audiences of 1,200 on December 5, 6 & 7th. CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY is based on a book by William Deans Howell.

With double cast roles and a backstage crew hard at work, the production truly showcased the tremendous amount of talent of the students of our immediate and surrounding communities. The annual holiday musical is a beloved tradition, and as a tuition-free community outreach program funded by private donations from donors. It exemplifies the Conservatory's vision to enrich the lives of the people in our community through music and make it accessible to all.

The cast and crew includes *Gabrielle Adams*,



Sarah Angevine, Audrey Bader, William Bornmann, Amelia Bornmann, Ally Bruno, Grace Burkee, Markus Calero, Elizabeth Caminiti, Abby Carter, Jack Clough, George Cooney, Caryn Cummings, Kaden Cummings, Elina Cummings, Olivia Damasco, Ella Davis, Colleen DeGennaro, Ava Delaney, Melissa Donaghy, Michelle Donaghy, Savannah Donahue, Claire Elliott, Maya Engenheiro, Paul Evangelista, Anthony Evangelista, Jenna Ginsburg, Anthony Gjelij, James Gjelij, Jacoby Goodson, Jazmyyn Gyapong, Rose Hanish, Jimmy Hennessy, Jake Holmes, Samantha Ingram, Ingrid Krawiec, Nicholas Lombardi, Maya Madhavan, Courtney McAloon, Caleigh McCrink, Audrey McElhatton, Hannah McMahan, Maizie Montoya, Emily Murray, Henry Podoll, Nora Podoll, Matthew Pytosh, Jessica Rampersaud, Maria Rentel, Arielle Rothman, Emma Sanchez, Kayla Sandolo, Lyndsie Schultz, Max Shearon, Zac Shearon, Katie Sidari, Maddy Smith, Grace Smyth, Katie Suss, Jack Szczepanski, Anabelle Thurston, Renz Toledo, Myreen Toledo, Samantha Torres, Nicole Torres, Anna Torres, Cassidy Turner, Katharine Ungvary, Holly Ungvary, Jenna Velez, Justine Watkins and Kellie Williams.

The production team includes *Greg Suss* (stage director), *Ari Rossen* (music director), *Alex Amirov* (choreographer), *Eric Zoback* (set designer), *John Flanagan* (lighting designer), *Marcy Damasco* and *Sharon Shearon* (producers).

News from Around the Conservatory Studios

Saar Ahuvia

Craig Murray was a top award winner in the Westchester Musicians Guild Young Artist Audition in November.

Brooke Collins

Sam Arcano has been accepted into NYU's Recorded Music Summer High School Program.

Sun Young Chang

Ally Bruno, Natalia Morato, and Sofia Ricciarini are recipients of the 2014 Tri-State Certificate of Excellence for Voice for The Royal Conservatory Music Development Program. As awardees, they have been invited to perform on the 2014 Tri-State Recital and Awards Ceremony at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York City on March 1.

Thomas Flippin

Nicholas Lombardi received the highest score in The Royal Conservatory Music Development Program for Guitar in Level 3. He has been invited to perform on the 2014 Tri-State Recital and Awards Ceremony at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York City on March 1.

Sheri Hammerstrom

Samantha Mastroianni appeared in the musical, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, at the Sandbox Theatre in Mamoreneck in November.

Stephanie Ho

Will Cioffi participated in the Westchester Musicians Guild Young Artist Audition in November.

Yousif Sheronick

Michael Landy participated in area all-state orchestra at SUNY-Purchase in early November and was 1st oboist for the orchestra.

Clare Hoffman

Laney Bagwell and Sophie Cummings both received Certificates of Excellence for their spring 2014 Royal Conservatory Music Development Program Assessments. Laney Bagwell is giving up one of her gifts this Christmas and raising money for International Justice Mission to aid and rescue girls who are forced into child slavery.

Rami Vamos

Buck Coquillet started recorder this year at Bronxville Elementary School. He is delighted to now be able to play this instrument in addition to the guitar.

Matt Van Brink

William Giegerich composed his first piano piece, called "Friday Afternoon."

Jerry Connolly just started learning the notation software Sibelius in order to notate a new composition of his.

Nick Politi finished several new pieces of chamber music.

JP Redmond composed a three-movement piano sonata and he has been named a 2015 National Young Arts Foundation Merit winner in music instrumental/composition Category.

Evelyn Wadkins

Lydia Burkee was accepted into the All County orchestra! This is her second year of cello lessons.

"ONE OF A KIND" Celebration on January 31

Once again, Concordia Conservatory, is bringing together a group of world class artists to perform at the Conservatory Gala Concert on Saturday, January 31 at 6:30pm. This year's concert is entitled *(One of a Kind)* and it is also part of the Hoch Chamber Music Series. The concert is immediately followed by a dinner/dance at Bronxville Field Club.

One of a Kind is a special evening of music with an amazing array of chamber music from classical to world music to cabaret with artistic collaborators Lawrence Dutton, Elizabeth Lim-Dutton, Jon Kliftonoff, Evelyn Wadkins, Ethos Percussion Group and Sylvia McNair with Jeremy Allen and .

Two-time Grammy Award winner, Sylvia McNair, lays claim to a three-decade, stellar career in the musical realms of opera, oratorio, cabaret and musical theatre. Her journey has taken her from the Metropolitan Opera to the Salzburg Festival, from the New York Philharmonic to the Rainbow Room, from the Ravinia Festival to The Plaza, from the pages of *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* to *The London Times* and the cover of *Cabaret Scenes*. She has appeared as a soloist multiple times with nearly every major Opera Company and symphony orchestra in the world.

"Spellbinding," "astonishing" and "immaculate" are all words that critics have used to describe the Ethos Percussion Group.



Ethos is equally at home with contemporary classical repertoire or in collaborations with master musicians from non-Western traditions. Their unique performances seamlessly transport global influences into Western chamber music to create a visually compelling experience.

Concert Tickets:

\$32 adults

\$16 children under 12 and seniors

Gala Tickets:

\$180 per person

To Purchase Tickets:

Call: 914.395.4507

Online: www.concordiaconservatory.org

CONCORDIA CONSERVATORY PRESENTS
as part of the
HOCH CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

One of a Kind

Saturday, January 31 | 6:30pm
Sommer Center, Concordia College

The Scarsdale Inquirer

Founded in 1901

VOLUME 92, NUMBER 47

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2014

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Nicholas Politi scores national honor for original composition

By VALERIE ABRAHAMS

Scarsdale High School junior Nicholas Politi received national recognition Oct. 29 for his original score "Thoughts on a Rhapsody," winning a National Association for Music Education's All-National composition award in Nashville, Tenn. He was one of 12 winning composers selected out of a pool of 120 participants representing the top high school musicians in the country.

Previously, he received statewide recognition as a budding composer, winning the NYSSMA All-State Call for Compositions Award in both 2012 and 2013. This spring, Politi was a finalist in the Morton Gould ASCAP competition and a recipient of the Concordia Conservatory, "Hear it Live" award for his one-movement string quartet, "Ballade."

In addition to musical composition, Politi has been playing cello since he was 4 years old. His musical journey began when his parents, John and Ellen Politi, encouraged him to watch "Tackling the Monster," a "cool" instructional video with Wynton Marsalis and Yo-Yo Ma performing and discussing ways to practice. He has performed as a cellist since age 7, and is a four-time NYSSMA All-County/Area All-State orchestra delegate. His extracurricular activities include the Model U.N. team and Signifer honor society, which can make time management a challenge, he said, "but I always will make time for practicing" and working on his musical scores. "I probably couldn't sleep if I didn't do music!" he said.

Politi studies at Concordia Conservatory with Dr. Matt Van Brink in composition and theory, and Dr. Annette Espada in cello performance. "Nick has a drive that serves him well," Van Brink told the Inquirer. "It's been exciting to watch his musical interest and compositional voice evolve. He comes in as an open book, ready to be guided and amplified. He is interested in everything, and that is a good problem to have."

Politi began composing music in 2009,



ELLEN POLITI PHOTO

SHS junior Nicholas Politi recently won the National Association for Music Education's All-National award for his contemporary classical composition.

when he was 11. "I write music mainly to express emotions that I can't express in words," he said. "That's the beauty of composing; being unlimited, not having to abide by rules and regulations, and laboring over something that you can call your own. I always seek to explore the capabilities of the instruments I work with and to create rich harmonic textures."

Politi participated in the Boston University Tanglewood Institute's Young Artists Composition Program, a nationally recognized summer training ground for gifted young musicians, which was "like running a marathon all summer," he said. "I had to write a piece each week for six weeks ... It made my music a lot more raw. I had to feel confident because it was gonna get played." It was challenging, he said, but also fun. "I was happy all the time. It made me realize I want a career in music."

Inspiration for Politi's compositions comes from his personal experiences and his observations of the world around him.

"I want to create colors," he said. "I like to get an idea on to paper and create an emotional relationship with the audience. Music can be a conduit for that." It was a thrill, he said, to have "world-class, nearly virtuosic" instrumental students "flawlessly" perform his orchestral piece at Tanglewood.

Politi was overjoyed when he heard that he won the national competition at Nashville. "Nothing beats the feeling of getting a positive yield from hard work," he said. "The best part about receiving the award was the opportunity to be in Nashville, which is so closely affiliated with the music industry."

Aside from his studies at Concordia, Politi participates in the New York Youth Symphony Composition program, and hopes to attend a college-level music program in composition. Beyond that, he said, "My career goals are a balance of composing, playing and teaching music. I can't see myself doing anything else."

Dates to Remember

DECEMBER

20- Conservatory Closed
Jan 4 Christmas Break

JANUARY

5 Conservatory Reopens
5 High School Advisement Meeting
Senior performances and photos
6:30pm
Yeager Room
19 Conservatory Closed
Martin Luther King Day
24 Adult Performance Class
7:00pm
Sommer Center
31 One of a Kind
Hoch Chamber Music Series
Gala Concert
6:30pm
Sommer Center

FEBRUARY

7 The Magical Music Mystery
Musical Adventures Family Series
11:00am
Schoenfeld Campus Center
7-8 Youth Program Honors Recitals
Sommer Center
15-22 Conservatory Closed
Winter Break

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Music Appreciation Class for Adults

A fun and informative class where adult students will learn, hear, experience and understand different musical styles and composers.

- The class includes live performances attending the Hoch Chamber Music Series concerts and also listening to pieces in class.
- Gain a greater understanding and enjoyment of the inner workings of classical music, forms, creation, performing, and interpretation.
- Discover new facts about your favorite composers.

All are welcome to attend, novice and experienced concertgoer alike.

Faculty: Keith Kreindler

Two class offerings

Thursday 10:30am-12noon
Thursday 7:30-9:00pm

8 sessions \$205 (concert tickets included)

Starting January 8
To register, call 914.395.4507



Yousif Sheronick

Position at the Conservatory: Percussion Teacher

Birthplace: Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Current Residence: Tuckahoe

Where did you go to school?

University of Iowa for undergraduate & Yale University for graduate degree.

At What age did you begin playing your instrument and why?

Age 10—There was an outreach performance at my school where they demonstrated Stings, Winds, Brass and Percussion. They told us that we could take lessons on any of these instruments. I chose drums!

Where do you perform when you are not teaching at the Conservatory?

Most around the United States but I have also played throughout South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. Recent performances include the Philip Glass/Steve Reich concerts at BAM (I played with Philip Glass), a two week festival this past summer in Australia with duoJalal and, most recently, a tour of the states with the Lark Quartet.

What do you find most challenging about your job?

Getting students to break out of their shells.

What do you think makes the Conservatory so unique?

I would have to say the support of the local community. Over the years I have gotten to know and become friends with many Concordia families. Their interest in the Conservatory does not fade after their kids graduate. There is a lot to be said for this.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Hang out with the family. Most enjoyable is "Family Day" when we all have the day off and get to do something fun together.

What is your favorite type of music to listen to?

Rock and World Music

Who is your favorite composer?

Frank Zappa

What is one interesting fact that everyone should know about you?

Many people assume that I grew up with Arab music in the house, which is why I have become a world percussion specialist. In fact, I did not know anything about world percussion until I moved to the East Coast for grad school. I grew up very "American" playing in school bands and rock groups.



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