



quarter notes

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF CONCORDIA CONSERVATORY

DECEMBER 2015

Concordia Conservatory Vision Statement

Our vision is to enrich the lives of the people in our community through music.

2015–16 Advisory Board

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171 White Plains Road
Bronxville, NY 10708
914/395-4507

www.concordiaconservatory.org



PAGEANT!

16th Annual Holiday Musical Come & Enjoy!

Concordia Conservatory will present its 16th annual holiday community musical, PAGEANT! with shows on December 11, 12 & 13 with a cast & crew from ages 8–18 from throughout Westchester County.



Zac Shearon & Katie Suss rehearsing

“Pageant!,” with book and lyrics by Greg Suss, is a musical about how a traditional Christmas pageant changes and brings the community together. The story centers around the parish of St. Genesius. They are falling on hard times and are trying to get more parishioners attending services. The answer is to produce a new and exciting Christmas Pageant! Everyone takes sides between holding onto tradition and taking a more modern approach—but does new and modern necessarily mean good? See how the adults, kids and the whole community come together in this one-act musical comedy.

The production team consists of Greg Suss (stage director) Jon Kliftonoff (music director), Audry Hamilton (choreographer) and Sharon Shearon (producer). The band for PAGEANT! comprises of Bob Gingery, Lee Metcalf, Yousif Sheronick and Matt Van Brink.

The cast includes Gabrielle Adams, Renee Ai, Sarah Angevine, Joanne Arana, Renee Arana, Audrey Bader, Lily Bonnem, Amelia Bornmann, Ally Bruno, Catie Burnell, Elizabeth Burnell, Elizabeth Caminiti, Julia Caminiti, George Cooney, Kaden Cummings, Caryn Cummings, Elina Cummings, Olivia Damasco, Colleen DeGennaro, Maya Engenheiro, Anthony Evangelista, Paul Evangelista, Jenna Ginsburg, Anthony Gjelaj, Joshua Gleason, Rose Hanish, Linnea Hentschel, Paul Modulik, Samantha Ingram, Ingrid Krawiec, Ally Lavallo, Maya Madhavan, Caleigh McCrink, Tara McIntosh, Emily Murray, Julia Ognibene, Kaitlyn O’Shea, Alexis Pinto, Nora Podoll, Natalia Potenza, Maria Potenza, Jessica Rampersaud, Caroline Richardson, Arielle Rothman, Emma Sanchez, Lyndsie Schultz, Max Shearon, Zac Shearon, Hailey Sidari, Trevor Smith, Kyle Smith, Maddy Smith, Katie Suss, Jack Szczepanski, Carina Tarazi, Anabelle Thurston, Renz Toledo, Justine Watkins, and Zarine Yaghoobi.

The backstage crew includes Sofia Adams, Melissa Donaghy, Michelle Donaghy, Emily Fioriello, James Gjelaj, Timothy Gjelaj, Zachary Gleason, Jazmyn Gyapong, Kyle O’Keeffe, Michael McMahon and Henry Podoll.

Since 1999, Concordia Conservatory has produced an annual holiday musical as a tuition-free community outreach program funded by private contributions from donors. The production receives 100% volunteer participation from the parents of the cast.

Concert Tickets:

\$22 adults
\$11 children under 12 & seniors

To Purchase Tickets:

Call: 914-395-4507

Online: www.concordiaconservatory.org



CONCORDIA CONSERVATORY PRESENTS

Pageant!

by Greg Suss

Friday
December 11
4:30pm
7pm

Saturday
December 12
11am
1:30pm

Sunday
December 13
1pm
3:30pm

GERSHWIN & FRIENDS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23
6:30PM



MONTEGO GLOVER



JOHN PATITUCCI

We are pleased to announce our first-ever Junior Committee of the 2016 Concordia Conservatory Benefit Gala on Saturday, January 23, *Gershwin & Friends*, featuring Broadway actress and vocalist Montego Glover with Elizabeth-Lim-Dutton & John Patitucci and friends. This elegant evening will include a concert at the Sommer Center followed by a dinner/dance at the Bronxville Field Club.

Our first-ever junior committee will provide leadership and support alongside our benefit committee for this event. It is also an opportunity to provide community service hours plus enjoy a great Conservatory celebration of music and friendship.

Concert Tickets:

\$35 adults
\$18 children under 12 & seniors

Gala Tickets:

\$190 per person

To Purchase Tickets:

914-395-4507
www.concordiaconservatory.org



ELIZABETH LIM-DUTTON

CHAIRS

Linda Cioffi
Mauricio Morato
Allison Roesser

BENEFIT COMMITTEE

Wendy Sigurdson
Ana Dimas
Julia Bornmann
Lia Gravier
Cathy Hasselt
Stella Guarneri
Marie Jensen
Kathi Mastroianni
Maria Ognibene
Jessica Rieder
Marisol Sanchez
Christine Tormey

JUNIOR COMMITTEE

Caroline Beit	Olivia Damasco	Emily Murray	Lauryn Silver
Sarah Bonnem	Deah Dushyanth	Craig Murray	Grace Smyth
Ally Bruno	Daisy Flores	Jack Ognibene	Cassandra Sperry
Catie Burnell	Geraldine Goodman	Alexis Pinto	Katie Suss
Michael Caruso	Olivia Gravier,	Nick Politi	Jack Szczepanski
Sophie Cummings	Gabrielle Hasselt	J.P. Redmond	Branden Vazquez
Ian Cummings	Samantha Ingram	Kara Regan	Holly Wemple
Will Cioffi	Lorena Maggiore	Sofia Ricciarini	Kellie Williams
Harry Colvin	Samantha Mastroianni	Emma Sanchez	SaRai Wright
Jasper Cox	Gabriel Morato	Zac Shearon	

What's The Ideal Age to Take Up An Instrument? 18, 40 or 80?

What inspires adult students to return to an instrument, or take up a new one?

For years, you vowed that you would learn but never felt that you had the time. When you retired at age 68, you found a teacher you loved, and all the pieces fell into place. Like many musicians at Concordia Conservatory, you played an instrument as a child and gave it up in your 20s, but never lost your passion for music.

Conservatory adult students are a very diverse group. Ranging in age from 18 to 90+, they include musicians and singers at all skill levels, from absolute beginners to adults who studied an instrument seriously

as children or teens, took a break, and then returned to music. Other great options for beginners include group classes, which add a fun social element to starting an instrument.

The demands of careers and families can push music and the performing arts onto the back burner, but many Conservatory students return to music as adults because it's so valuable to them as an outlet for creative expression and a way of connecting with others. In many cases, parents take lessons along with their children or grandchildren.

Call Executive Director Kathleen Suss to discuss your possibilities.



“Don't wait for the perfect moment, take the moment and make it perfect.” –Zoey Sayward

Conservatory Students Graduate from Suzuki Books 1 & 2

From the studio of the Conservatory faculty Emily Kalish, half a dozen students graduated after successfully completing Suzuki Books 1 & 2 lessons. The graduates included **Ava Toolan** and **Rihanna Samson**, **Nicolo Tortorella**, **Clara Stevanovic** and **Tara McIntosh**. The students had their graduation recital on Sunday, November 1 for an audience of over 40 family and friends at the Conservator's Stein Hall.

Concordia Conservatory offers Suzuki instruction in guitar, violin, and cello for children as young as age three. As in the traditional method of instruction, students are given weekly private lessons with a faculty, and attend weekly group classes to further develop their musical skills.

The Suzuki method of music education is now a well-established pedagogical technique. Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, a western-trained professional violinist, developed the system to give musical instruction to the children of postwar Japan.

The Music Development Royal Conservatory Awards of Excellence

Five Conservatory students receive the Awards of Excellence from The Royal Conservatory program.

Students of Sun Young Chang, voice

Aryas Safaie
Alexandra Bruno
Sofia Ricciarini

Student of Clare Hoffman, flute

Sophie Cummings

Student of Thomas Flippin, guitar

Nicholas Lombardi

Each year, The Royal Conservatory Music Development Program awards Certificates of Excellence and National Gold Medals to recognize the outstanding achievements of top-scoring students. Every student who participates in the Music Development Program examinations is eligible to win these awards. Excellence in both practical and theory examinations is recognized at the Center, State, and National levels.



Sophie Cummings, flute

These awards are an exceptional distinction. They are the result of hard work, dedication, and commitment. They also represent a national standard of musical achievement upheld by the invaluable support and inspiration you provide to your students. Congratulations and thank you for participating in The Royal Conservatory Music Development Program.



Conservatory Eagle Scouts 2015

On Monday, November 9, two Concordia Conservatory students of Bronxville's Boy Scout Troop 5 advanced to Eagle Scout, the highest rank possible in Boy Scouts, Jason Cushman and Nick Politi. An Eagle Court of Honor ceremony was held at The Reformed Church of Bronxville to recognize the recipients.

Our Conservatory Scouts' Eagle Projects focused on facility and ground improvement projects at organizations that benefit children, the general public, seniors, and



Jason Cushman and Nick Politi

at-risk youth. Jason Cushman's project benefitted the Untermyer Park and Gardens in Yonkers; and Nick Politi's project benefitted Concordia Conservatory's Project Music Achievement at the Rosedale Center in the Bronx. Congrats to OUR Eagle Scouts!

Dates to Remember

DECEMBER

- 5 **Conservatory Carolers at Santa's Workshop on Pondfield Road with Brooke Collins & Greg Suss**
Bronxville Chamber of Commerce
12:00-2:00pm
- 5 **Holiday Music Outreach with Lee Metcalf and Bob Gingery**
1:00-3:00pm
Nieman Marcus, Westchester Mall
- 11 **PAGEANT!**
Holiday Community Musical
7:00pm
Schoenfeld Campus Center
- 12 **PAGEANT!**
Holiday Community Musical
11:30am & 1:30pm
Schoenfeld Campus Center
- 13 **PAGEANT!**
Holiday Community Musical
1:00am & 3:30pm
Schoenfeld Campus Center
- 19 **Conservatory Carolers with Sun Young Chang**
1:00-3:00pm
Nieman Marcus, Westchester Mall
- 23-
Jan 3 **Conservatory Closed**
Christmas Break

JANUARY

- 4 **High School Senior Meeting**
6:30pm
Yeager Room Library 2nd Floor
- 18 **Conservatory Closed**
Martin Luther King Day
- 23 **Gershwin & Friends**
Hoch Chamber Music Series
Gala Concert
6:30pm
Sommer Center
- 24 **Adult Performance Class**
7:00pm
Sommer Center
- 30-31 **Youth Program Honors Recitals**
Sommer Center

NEW! Junior & Senior Awards of Distinction Now Displayed in Stein Hall

The Junior & Senior Awards of Distinction sign is now on permanent display in the lobby of Stein Hall. Students selected have embodied Concordia Conservatory's mission to inspire, instruct, and enrich lives through music and excel in their musical pursuits.

The Awards of Distinction is an honors program created for Conservatory music students who stand out in their musical pursuits. The awards recognize students who have demonstrated an exemplary level of dedication, persistence, and community spirit.

FACULTY NEWS

Pianist **Vivian Choi** was invited to judge the Louisiana International Piano Competition. 20 pre-selected competitors aged 18-35 from 8 different countries competed for over \$10,000 in cash awards, performance at Carnegie Hall and CD recording. Vivian Choi was one of 5 judges invited to serve on the jury.

In early November, soprano **Brooke Collins** performed in Gilbert & Sullivan's "Iolanthe" at the Skirball Center for the Performing Arts in NYC. She has recently taken on a couple of new positions working with musical kids as Program Director for the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players Youth Productions, and she will be mounting three performances in February of "The Pirates of Penzance" with singers ages 11-18. Additionally, she is a youth choir director at Plymouth Church in Brooklyn.

On November 13, **Yousif Sheronick** premiered his new Concerto for World Percussion Ensemble with students from Queens College. The performance was part of PASIC (Percussive Arts Society's International Convention) in San Antonio, Texas. The Percussive Arts Society's International Convention session was sponsored by Cooperman Drums, Pearl/Adams, Sabian and Innovative Percussion.

Flute faculty member **Clare Hoffman** celebrated her 32nd season as co-founder and artistic director of the Grand Canyon Music Festival with concerts including the Catalyst and Sweet Plantain String Quartets, Brook and David Speltz, and Joe Deninson, and award-winning education programming including the Native American Composer Apprentice Project and Grand Canyon School of Rock.

On September 25, American Public Media's "Performance Today" featured the **Grand Canyon Music Festival** and the **Native American Composer Apprentice Project**, an award-winning immersion program in composition for Navajo, Hopi and Salt River students. Visit the APM website to view and listen to the program. www.yourclassical.org/programs/performance-today

STUDENT NEWS

Conservatory piano student, **Rory Christian**, was chosen to participate in the 2015 Stony Brook International Piano Festival, culminating in a performance at the Steinway Hall in NYC. She studies with Vivian Choi.

Conservatory students of Matt Van Brink, **Nick Politi** and **J.P. Redmond**, have been named 2016 National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) Merit Winners in Composition. Selected out of more than 12,000 applications—the largest number to date—Politi and Redmond have been recognized for their outstanding work and accomplishments and joins 819 young artists from 42 states across the literary, visual, design and performing arts who are being presented with this year's honor. Winners receive cash awards of up to \$10,000, validation by renowned mentors, opportunities to participate in YoungArts programs, a strong professional network, and guidance in taking important steps toward achieving their goals.

On October 14, Concordia Conservatory guitar students joined their teacher, John Chang, and his colleagues on stage for a very special concert that included a world premiere of Pulitzer Prize winning composer David Lang's 'Questionnaire' for 120 guitars. The concert was part of WNYC's New Sounds Live hosted by John Schaefer at the Winter Garden, Brookfield Place/World Financial Center.

Participating Concordia Conservatory students were **Sofia Amador-Mora, Kyelah Chang, Henry Haggenmiller, Aaliyah Hartenstein, Dylan Kelly, Emely Martinez, Jack Szczepanski, Branden Vazquez, and Jessica Waterloo.**

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