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SUMMER 2009

CONSERVATORY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC



COMING HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST 22

Free Lecture by Priscilla Pawlicki

A Preview of the 2009-10 Season of Camarata Pacifica, Coleman Chamber Concerts, Ensemble Green, Pacific Serenades and Southwest Chamber Music

AUGUST 29

Free Lecture by Carlos Rafael Rivera

Rhapsody in Blue: How Gershwin Made a Lady Out of Jazz

COVER PHOTO

Guitar Department Chairman Felix Bullock conducts the performance of the Youth Guitar Orchestra during the celebration of the Conservatory's 25th anniversary.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICK MEYER

DESIGN BY LESLIE BAKER GRAPHIC DESIGN

EDITOR BEVERLY LAFONTAINE



25 Years Promoting the Power of Music

Pasadena's Castle Green ballroom was packed to capacity on January 11 as the Conservatory launched its 25th anniversary year. The program featured impressive performances by the school's guitar and cello orchestras, along with young piano virtuosos and chamber music ensembles. In attendance were board members, parents, students and community members. Actress Jane Kaczmarek, herself a Conservatory student and a member of the advisory board, was the master of ceremonies for the evening. Mayor Bill Bogaard and Theresa Lamb Simpson of U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff's office presented commendations to Executive Director Stephen McCurry in recognition of the vital educational and cultural role the Conservatory plays in the Pasadena community. The success of the evening was due in large part to the efforts and creativity of the members of the 25th anniversary committee: Chair Gretl Mulder, Carol Bramhall, Marilyn Brumder, Julie Campoy, Linda Dickason, Jennifer Johnson, Jane Kaczmarek, Janelle Morton, Dorothy McCay Scully and Peggy Spear. 🎵

IMAGES FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:

Jane Kaczmarek with members of the cello orchestra

Parents of young performers: Lance and Carolyn Spangler (Missy), Wendy and Seth Mittleman (Cameron), Rob and Laurie Mansour (Alex and Veronica).

David Rodgers.

Missy Spanlger and Alex Mansour.



Music Mobile™ Takes the Sounds of the Symphony Orchestra TO SAN GABRIEL VALLEY SCHOOLS

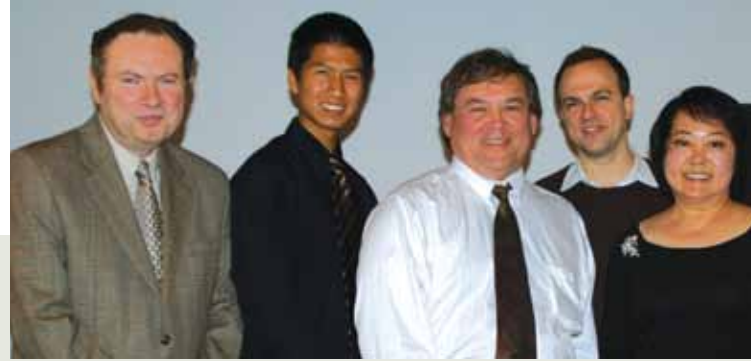


It's an exciting day for third grade students when the Music Mobile™ arrives at their school's doorstep. The white van full of instruments brings excitement and a whole lot of music into their lives. When the children are ushered into the school auditorium for the Music Mobile™ assembly they are met with an eye-catching array of musical instruments that range from violins to tubas, clarinets to cymbals. As the strains of Britten's *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* fill the air, students are in for an aural as well as a visual treat.

During the assembly the Conservatory instructor demonstrates how each instrument is played, and students hear for themselves the unique sound of each instrument. Next, to their boundless delight, students are given the opportunity to play the instruments. At the finale of the assembly they become an "orchestra" conducted by the teacher and play along with the recording of Britten's masterpiece. Much is accomplished in each 50 minute assembly. The smiles on the faces of the children in these photos say it all.

On a yearly basis the Music Mobile™ visits up to thirty schools in five San Gabriel Valley school districts, serving as many as 2800 students. In its sponsorship of the Music Mobile™ the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts has demonstrated its dedication to the betterment of the lives of children for more than 30 years. Just as importantly, the members of the Showcase House provide invaluable hands-on assistance at each assembly. The Pasadena Conservatory of Music has been a proud partner in this program for the past ten years, and looks forward to a new year of introducing young children to the sounds of the symphony orchestra. 🎵





student NEWS

The following students have completed the second year (Diatonic Harmony & Musicianship I) of the three-year theory program for students in 7th to 12th grades: **Olivia Bradley-Skill, Arthur Diep, Noah Kim, Laura Parker, and John "Curtis" Ulin.**

Christopher Chun, Connor Bezark, Jesse Jimenez, Ezra Sunshine, Simon Wang and Nisha Janyaprayot all completed Music Fundamentals, the first year course in PCM's three-year theory program that prepares students to take the AP theory exam.

STUDENTS SEEKING A MORE RIGOROUS COURSE

of study may enroll in the Conservatory's Performance Track. These students are required to perform at least three times during the school year and are subject to a more rigorous year-end jury, including sight-playing and self-taught repertoire. Congratulations to the following students who completed the requirements of their respective levels:

Piano Level III: Rhiannon Hughes-Boatman, Evan Kim, Misao McGregor, Claire Malhotra, Jonathan Vahala, Ryan Villena

Piano Level IV: Erica Lee

Piano Level V: Raina Choi, Nathan Kirchhoff, Eric Lifland, David Rodgers, Missy Spangler

Piano Level VI: Emily Candaux, Sean Lee, Brandon Schwartz, Katelyn Vahala

Piano Level VII: Richard Lo, Regina Zmuidzinas

Piano Level VIII: JiSu Shin

Guitar Level IX: Noah Kim

COMPETITONS Cello student **Eddie Pogossian** won First Place in the Los Angeles Violoncello Society (LAVS) competition. He is from the studio of Rick Mooney.

Noah Kim was one of two 13 year olds chosen to perform in the Parkening Young Guitarist Competition at Pepperdine University in May. The Young Guitarist competition identifies outstanding young guitarists from around the world.

David Rodgers, first place winner of the 2009 Glendale Piano Competition, also received Honorable Mention in the 2009 CAPMT Romantic/Impressionistic Festival. **Melissa Spangler** won first place in the Sonatina II Category of the 2009 CAPMT Sonata/Sonatina Competition. **JiSu Shin** won third place in the Sonata I Category. All study with Susan Svrček.

Evan Kim, who studies piano with Elizabeth Sawitzke, received honorable mention in the MTAC Pasadena Theme Festival.

Jack McHenry, violin, was accepted into the Chamber Music of the Rockies program at the Colorado Suzuki Institute for the 2nd time. **Marion Sato**, violin, will participate in the Southern California Suzuki Institute Chamber Music Workshop. Marion recently received a superior rating at the Junior Music Festival. **Kimberly Liu**, viola, will attend Bellis Music Camp as a counselor. All study with Cynthia Fogg.

Cameron Mittleman, who studies violin with Sharon Harman, will attend the Sphinx Performance Academy at Walnut Hill School. SPA is a two-week full scholarship intensive summer program with an emphasis on chamber music and solo performance. Four of Ms. Harman's students, **Alex Ford, Jeff Huang, Cameron Mittleman** and **Purnima Stanek**, have been accepted into the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra (PYSO).

Students of Leo Kitajima, violinists **Anya Kwan, Calvin Lin** and **Chris Lin** and a student of Simone Vitucci, cellist **Kevin Wei**, performed at the National Invitational Band and Orchestra Festival at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Alex and Veronica Mansour were recipients of scholarships for cello and piano from the Young Musicians Foundation.

Heather Millette's student **Isaak Momsen** participated in a workshop and recording session with the PYSO wind

ensemble at Disneyland in February. The group recorded music for a Disney cartoon, and then watched the film accompanied by their own music.

Piano trio *Corazón*, featuring pianist **Melissa Spangler**, violinist **Cameron Mittleman** and cellist **Veronica Mansour**, performed at The Orchestras of Pasadena Holiday Look-In last winter. The trio also presented the musical program for The California Art Club Associate Artist's art exhibition in December and performed from *Café Music* by Martin Yates for students of Priscilla Pawlicki's class, *The Intimate Art of Chamber Music*. The trio is coached by Dr. Susan Svrček. Pianist **Kristin Lo**, who also studies with Dr. Svrček, presented a senior piano recital on June 7 at PCM.

Trombonist **Tyler Devito** performed with the Pasadena City College Honor Band for the 2009 Rose Parade. He is also a member of the Pasadena High School orchestra, concert band and jazz band. He also participates in the Colburn School wind ensemble. **Alyssa Villeareal** is a member of the chorus at Temple City High School and plays tuba in the school's marching band and wind ensemble. **Thomas "Toby" Bradford** plays baritone horn in the Marshall Fundamental Secondary School band. Ninth grader **Louis Rabaso** plays baritone horn, tuba and trombone in jazz band and concert band at Taft High School in Woodland Hills. **Bryan Rose** plays baritone horn in the Salvation Army Pasadena Tabernacle Youth Band. **Louise Judge**, a 11th grade student at San Marino High School, plays the tuba in marching and concert bands. She is also a member of the Colburn School wind ensemble and concert band. Also student at San Marino High, **Kyle Hoffman** plays tuba in the school's marching and concert bands. All hail from the studio of Toby Holmes.

Guitarist **Noah Kim**, violinist **Cameron Mittleman**, cellists **Alex and Veronica Mansour** and violists **Kevin Hou, Sam Lin, Kimberly Liu** and **Leeann Mao** presented the musical program for the 50th anniversary celebration of the Hastings Ranch branch of the Pasadena Library. They hail from the studios of Felix Bullock, Sharon Harman, Julie Newton and Cynthia Fogg, respectively.

IMAGES FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Congratulations to the adult students who completed the one-year adult music theory program (Fundamentals of Music and Diatonic Harmony & Musicianship I and II) with instructor Priscilla Pawlicki. Pictured here are Wendy Moss, Judith Hally, Jane Dietrich, Alison Lifland, Sue Pratt, Marina Hsieh, Susan Cherney, Anna Bresnahan, instructor Priscilla Pawlicki and Jon Glazier.

Left to right: Instructor Enrique Gonzalez-Medina, students Daniel Gee and Kim Nakae, instructor Carlos Rafael Rivera and student Adele Lun at the Composers' Recital in June. These students' compositions were performed by PCM faculty members and other professional musicians in the year-end recital.

Lesly Galeana is the 2009 recipient of the Pasadena Arts Council's Young Artist Award in Music. The award carries a cash scholarship. She was nominated by the Pasadena Conservatory for exemplifying excellence in character and in music study. Currently a student in the studio of Rachel Fabulich, Lesly has studied violin at the Conservatory for five years. She is a sophomore at Pasadena High School.

Alex and Veronica Mansour were awarded the Essence Hair Salon Scholarship for Outstanding Contributions to the Conservatory by Erika Colon and Tatiana Young, co-owners of the salon. The salon donated all the proceeds from April's cut-a-thon to the scholarship. Excellent and dedicated musicians, Alex and Veronica have often answered the call to donate their time and efforts to special performances for the community on behalf of the Conservatory. Alex and Veronica are accompanied in this photo by their parents, Laurie and Rob. Our thanks to the many members of the Conservatory community who made the cut-a-thon such a success.

SENIORS OF 2009

“Susan Svrček is amazing!” —Pianist **Emily Candaux** has studied with Susan Svrček for three and a half years. Recipient of a Thornton Scholarship, she will attend USC Thornton School of Music in the fall.

“Excellent musical training throughout the years has given me many educational and career options.” —Pianist **Charlie Davidson** has studied in Elizabeth Babor’s studio for ten years. He plans to continue studying music and will be attending UC San Diego in the fall.

Pianist **Ilana Dreiman** has studied with Elizabeth Babor for twelve years. She previously studied violin in the studio of Cindy Fogg for six years. Ilana will attend New York University in the fall and though her major is undecided she will continue to study music.

“PCM has been a wonderful place for me the past 5 years. The community is close-knit and encouraging and the wide range of possibilities gave me a very broad, yet certainly thorough, music education; one that allows me to confidently make the choice of pursuing music further.” —Recipient of a full scholarship as a Monroe Scholar to Westmont College, **Daniel Gee** is a National Merit Scholar Finalist. He has studied cello in the studio of Jim Lee for four years as well as music composition with Enrique Gonzalez-Medina for three years. He has also studied chamber music with Cynthia Fogg. Daniel will study music composition at Westmont College in the fall.

Pianist **Lelabari Giwa-Guri** has been in Elizabeth Sawitzke’s studio for nine years. She also studied music theory with Priscilla Pawlicki. Lelabari will attend the Woodrow Wilson School of International Affairs at Princeton University and has received a National Achievement Scholarship. She plans to continue studying music in the future.



Lelabari Giwa-Guri, Noah Lau-Branson, Camila E. Ryder, Sierra Senzaki and Charlie Davidson.

“Music has been a huge part of my life and has really given me a place to meet people and express myself. The Conservatory is great. The teachers are awesome and they really work to help you grow into a mature and well rounded musician.” —**Noah Lau-Branson** is the recipient of a Pepperdine music award, Loyola Marymount University Arrupe Leadership Scholarship, Azusa Pacific University (APU) Men’s Choral award and multi-ethnic leadership scholarship. He will study Psychology and Church Music at APU in the fall. Noah has studied piano at the Pasadena Conservatory of music for 6 years in the studios of Andrew Norman and Elizabeth Sawitzke.

“I have been studying music for 11 years. Music has taught me a new way of looking at life from a creative, musical, and analytical perspective. PCM has provided me with a myriad of opportunities to expand my music studies and be exposed to different composers and forms of music. My teachers, Dr. Svrček and Ms. Meech, really provided me with invaluable and nurturing guidance that has allowed me to blossom into the musician I am today.” —Pianist **Kristin Lo** is an AP scholar with honors, a member of Quill and Scroll and an Honors Athlete on the tennis team at her high school. She is also the recipient of the Cultural Diversity Award, a president’s scholarship and a music scholarship at Westmont College. Kristin will either attend Westmont College or Northwestern University. Although she will major in communication studies, she will continue to play the piano and participate in chamber music ensembles.

continues on page 10

Student Recitals



faculty NEWS

Earlier this season, violist **Cynthia Fogg** and Tom Flaherty, cello, performed a recital as Duo Celliola, along with soprano Lucy Shelton and pianist Genevieve Lee at Bridges Hall of Music, Pomona College.

Rick Mooney just returned from a week in Melbourne, Australia. He was invited there to be one of the guest teachers at the 15th World Suzuki Convention. He also taught teacher development classes, student classes and Cello Orchestra.

As a member of ensembleGREEN, **Susan Svrček** performed eight concerts with the ensemble, including a performance of Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time* and six world premieres. The group had a residency at Chapman University during the school's spring semester. They also were participants in a concert in Glendale, commemorating the Armenian Genocide. Dr. Svrček played a recital with violinist Susan Jensen at Boston Court last November. Her annual Piano Spheres recital took place in Zipper Concert Hall at the Colburn School in February. The program included a United States premiere as well as a Los Angeles premiere. Three of the four living composers were in attendance, with Kzresimir Debski traveling the farthest, from Warsaw, Poland. As a champion of new Polish music, Dr. Svrček also performed in the 2009 Bacewicz Memorial Concert at Newman Recital Hall at USC, sponsored by the Polish Music Center. Additionally, in July she will travel to Japan, where she will teach private lessons and give master classes.

Pianist **Bobbie Ann Meech** joined forces with clarinetist **Heather Millette** on March 6th in a performance of works by PCM faculty members **Jo Duell** and **Enrique Gonzalez-Medina** which was sponsored by the Mexican Consulate of Los Angeles. Ms. Meech was also a guest performer in concert with the Los Angeles Camerata at Zipper Hall this past March, performing a work by California composer Perry Beach.

Clarinetist **Jim Sullivan** performed at the Territory Contemporary Arts Festival in Moscow, Russia, last fall with the Yorgos Adamis Ensemble, a quartet performing works by Adamis written for traditional instruments used in untraditional ways.

Composer **Carlos Rafael Rivera** had a song placed on this season's *Scrubs* (Episode 9, "My Absence"). The song is called *Last Salutation*—co-written with Randy Coleman—and plays over the last three minutes of the show. The following works in progress have been recently commissioned: *Adagio for Harp and Winds*, to be premiered in Cuba by the American Wind Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Robert Austin Boudreau; *Afro-Cuban Concerto*, written for trumpet icon Arturo Sandoval and the Miami Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Eduardo Marturet. It will be premiered in the 2010-11 season. The following are recently completed commissions: *Marian Ascende*, written for string orchestra was commissioned by the Jefferson Middle School Orchestra; *Tantra*, written for a large guitar ensemble, was commissioned by the New Mexico Guitar Festival; *Raven Dance/Vranjanski Cocek*, written for flute and guitar, was commissioned by the Cavatina Duo and will be released this fall on Cedille Records. 🎵



A Tour Through Time III: *East and West*

This past September the Conservatory's sojourn into the galleries of the Norton Simon Museum highlighted the museum's extraordinary Indian and Asian collections. The audience of devoted music lovers and Conservatory donors was treated to the sounds of traditional raga, raga-jazz fusion and the work of western composers inspired by the East. Narration connecting the worlds of art and music was presented by the museum's Asian Art Curator, Christine Knoke, and the Conservatory's special guest artist, Paul Livingstone, an Indian and world music specialist. *A Tour Through Time* was made possible by the generous sponsorship of Patricia Ketchum. 🎵



TOP IMAGE: In Asian Gallery I the Calcutta to California Jugalbandi Ensemble, Paul Livingstone, sitar; Partho Sarathy, sarod; Abhijit Banerjee, tabla; and Leticia Meza, tanpura, performed *Raga Madhubanti*, an evening raga of North India that reflects the mood of longing and melancholy.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

In the Gallery of the 20th Century the Arohi Ensemble offered a selection of raga-jazz chamber music. Performers were Paul Livingstone, sitar; Pedro Eustache, flute; Partho Sarathy, sarod; Peter Jacobson, cello; Abhijit Banerjee, tabla; Somnath Roy, ghatam; Dave Lewis, drums and Leticia Meza, tanpura.

Kelsey Hall, Dorothy Scully, Danzey Treanor, Patricia Ketchum and PCM Board Chair Linda Dickason. Gloria and Ed Smith with performer Leticia Meza



Mansions & Music: Journeys

For the fifteenth season of Mansions & Music, the Conservatory embarked on a journey through time and place, with references to our traditional roots while exploring music from beyond western classical borders.

The Conservatory gratefully acknowledges BNY Mellon Wealth Management for sponsoring the 2008-2009 series. We also thank the 118 donors whose generous gifts to the Patron Drive raised more than \$53,000 in critical funding for our entire roster of presentations, including nine masterclasses and free community concerts. We express our sincere appreciation to Georgina and Peter Whitford, Pashgian Brothers Fine Oriental Rugs and Jane Kaczmarek for graciously opening their doors to Mansions & Music performances this year. We are profoundly grateful to all the Conservatory's donors and audience members for their enduring support of this signature series. 🎵

IMAGES:

1. The home of Georgina and Peter Whitford evoked an old-world elegance ideal for a concert that celebrated the inspired artistry of Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Balakirev and Moussorgsky. Soprano Mariné Ter-Kazaryan, accompanied by Rene Gilormini, and pianist Vatche Mankerian performed.

2. Amidst the Moroccan interior of an oriental rug emporium, The Tahkt, a middle eastern ensemble, wafted the audience away for an afternoon in the "Casbah." Performing were James Sullivan, G clarinet; Wael Kakish, oud; Mousa Nasser, qanun; T.J. Troy, darabukkah and riqq and Jamie Papish, darabukkah.

3. Mousa Nasser speaks of the qanun to curious audience members Syd Tyler, Marilyn Brumder, Peggy Spear and Eva Malhotra.

4. The Mediterranean gardens and gracious rooms of Jane Kaczmarek's Italian Revival home was the setting for Son Cinco, a quintet specializing in son, a style of popular Cuban dance music that is the foundation of modern salsa. Performing were Bruno Coon on guitar and tres, Justo Almario on flute, David Goodwin on bass, Alberto Lopez on percussion and vocalist Perico Hernandez. PCM faculty member Carlos Rafael Rivera provided narration that highlighted the historical significance of the music.



"It's amazing how studying music can connect me with the piece on many levels. It isn't just about listening to music, it's also understanding it and immersing one's self in the music. I've had wonderful relationships with both my teachers."

—The recipient of the Cabrini Literary Guild Creative Writing Non-Fiction Award, pianist **Camila E. Ryder** will be attending Swathmore College as an English major this fall. She is a 2008-09 National Hispanic Recognition Scholar, a Holy Child Merit Scholar and a member of the National Honor Society. She originally studied with Enrique Gonzalez-Medina for nine years and transferred to Bobbie Meech's studio for two years.

"Even though my interests lie elsewhere, studying music at PCM has been very important in helping me learn how to discipline myself and how to express myself. Plus, it's kind of cool to be able to say you can play Beethoven." —Pianist **Sierra Senszaki** was a student of Enrique Gonzalez-Medina for eleven years. She also received chamber music instruction from Rosemary Krovoza. Sierra is the recipient of the College Book Award, AP Scholar with Distinction, and the Pasadena Educational Foundation Scholarship. She is also a National Merit Scholar. Sierra plans to attend UC Berkeley in the fall, where she will major in English.

Recipient of the La Canada Rotary Award for painting and the Jeanne Ward Foundation Award for art, **Kathleen Terry** will be attending Humboldt State University in the fall. She will major in studio art and hopes to continue her music study for her own pleasure. She has studied with Bobbie Meech for 10 years. 🎵

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