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ARTI-ST MUSIC CENTER BULLETIN

ARTISTIC REWARDS THROUGH IN-SPIRED TEACHING

Thumbnail picture above: Teacher Camille Petty demonstrating instruments at the Open House Petting Zoo.

Right-Top: Staff member Kayla Zuskin readies herself at the "instrument building" table.

Right-Bottom: Student Alex Green warms up in the community room before the concert.

Reisterstown Open House: Music & Fun!

On Saturday April 18th, ARTI-ST Music Center of Reisterstown hosted its first open house event, which featured activities, prizes, and performances. It was stormy and wet outside, but bright and cheerful inside as visitors tried out instruments at the petting zoo, performed in a kazoo ensemble, built egg shakers and tambourines, enjoyed refreshments, and were treated to student performances. Performances took place in ARTI-ST's newly completed community room, which seats approximately 35 and features a Hailun 5' 3" grand piano. Alex Green; Lillian Wong; Alan Zhang; and

Hannah, Emily, Nick, and Thomas Potts were among the student performers. The event was covered favorably by a reporter from the Reisterstown Patch (<http://reisterstown.patch.com/articles/helping-rescued-pets-recital-at-music-store-weekend-in-review>) in an article that features ARTI-ST Music's work with autistic students.

Information on ARTI-ST's summer programs was also featured at the event. Prize winners included Hannay Mackey, who won a ukulele! Many thanks to everyone who made this event possible!



FEATURED INSTRUCTOR

Rodney Allen, a conductor and instructor of violin, piano, and trumpet, recently joined ARTI-ST Music. With bachelors and masters degrees in music from Indiana State and West Chester Universities, 20 years of performance experience as a trumpeter in the 287th Army Band (Delaware National Guard), and 10 years of experience as an orchestra conductor with the Baltimore Suzuki Music School, Rodney brings a range of strengths to his position at ARTI-ST Music. In addition to being available for private lessons on trumpet, violin, and piano, Rodney will be directing this summer's orchestra and band ensembles at ARTI-ST Music of Reisterstown. The ensembles are appropriate for all ages and levels. Information is available by phone (410-833-1895) and on our website (www.artistmusic.org).



Thumbnail previous page: Jena Vivirito performs a guitar solo.

Above: Performance by scholarship recipient Felicia Ladra, accompanied by teacher Yoshie Kubota. Felicia will be a senior at Perry Hall High School this fall. After graduation, she would like to major in performance at the Berklee College of Music.

ARTI-ST Music Centers' Spring Concerts

On May 1st, ARTI-ST Music of Perry Hall held its 10th annual spring concert at CCBC Essex. ARTI-ST's first recital took place in the year 2000 at Oren Music, a local piano store that has since ceased operations, and recitals soon

moved to CCBC Essex, with the first Spring Concert taking place in 2002. This May, around 100 students performed both solo

and accompanied pieces in 11am, 1pm, and 3pm concerts.

A number of awards were passed out at the conclusion of each recital, including trophies for "Gold Cup" participants.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make this year's concert a success!

ARTI-ST Music of Reisterstown held its first annual spring concert on at 5pm on May 7th at CCBC Catonsville. Despite initial problems with a locked piano, students played and sung magnificently and received a

number of awards at the conclusion of the recital. The Reisterstown concert concluded with performances by Felicia Ladra, who is the first recipient of

ARTI-ST Music's Thomas F. Hulbert Memorial Scholarship. Felicia is planning a career in music—the scholarship pays for six months of piano lessons in support of her goals, and she will perform a composition by the late Thomas F. Hulbert in December.

"Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."

—PLATO

Summer Classes & Activities

NEW!

Free Classes for Registered Students

Registered students are invited to attend 1 or more of **6** classes to be offered this summer. Students who attend **3** or more will receive an award at the December recital. Space is limited and registration must be made in advance by calling 410-833-1895.

Free Class Schedule



<i>Date & Time</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Class</i>
Monday, July 18th @ 5:30pm	Perry Hall	Shanna Babbidge	Intro to Musical Theater
Saturday, July 23rd @ 4:00pm	Reisterstown	Jarl Hulbert, Ph.D.	Intro to the Life and Music of Mozart
Tuesday, Aug. 2nd @ 6:30pm	Reisterstown	Rodney Allen	Intro to Orchestra/Band
Friday, Aug. 12th @ 5:30pm	Perry Hall	Jeremy Lyons	Guitar Ensemble
Saturday, Aug. 13th @ 4pm	Perry Hall	Jarl Hulbert, Ph.D.	Intro to the Life and Music of Mozart
Monday, Aug. 15th @ 7pm	Reisterstown	Jarl Hulbert, Ph.D.	Intro to Writing the Blues

Practicing Piano: Maximum Progress, Minimum Time

There is a well-known joke about practicing that comes from a 60-year-old anecdote. As it goes, a pedestrian in Manhattan stops the famous violinist Jascha Heifetz and asks “Could you tell me how to get to Carnegie Hall?” “Yes,” says Heifetz, “Practice!”

Most people don’t need Heifetz telling them the obvious: practice *is* an important key to progress in music lessons. But practicing is not the whole story, and many don’t realize that the wrong type of practicing can actually damage progress. This fact has been known for a some time. In order to prevent

“mindless” practicing, composer/teachers like Frederic Chopin actually advised against practicing too much. And mindless practicing is not the only culprit . . . Well-intentioned but incorrect practicing can engrain bad habits that can become difficult to conquer. Experienced piano instructors have all had

cases in which a student who hasn’t practiced much for the week does better in a lesson than a student who has practiced a lot. This



happens when that well-practiced student has spent his/her time picking up and engraining bad habits.

Incorrect practicing can be difficult to avoid. Scores of students and professionals, both young and old, have picked up difficult-to-break habits at some point during their courses of study and/or careers. But the bottom line is that regular practicing is definitely better than sporadic

or no practice, and there are some simple ways to prevent some of the most common practice errors.

First, in order to develop basic piano technique, it is extremely important for students to practice on an acoustic piano or on a full-size (88-key) hammer-action/weighted-key digital piano. Sitting in front of the keys with proper posture and position is essential to the development of correct muscle memory and facility. Weighted keys are very important for the strengthening of fin-

gers and development of dexterity. In most cases, it is better for a new student not to practice then to practice on an unweighted keyboard. Practicing without weighted keys is something like practicing tennis with a badminton racket. That student may learn to hit the ball, but will not develop the strength needed to play tennis properly and will continue to be frustrated for an apparent inability to progress.



For those who have a proper instrument, slow, steady, and careful practice is essential. Students tend to want to play the parts of a piece that they already know, or they tend to start over from the beginning every time they make a mistake. To make real progress, they should practice the passages they don’t know. If mistakes are made, practice the part of the piece that needs it, not just the beginning.

—Jarl Hulbert, Ph.D.

ARTI-ST Music’s facilities are available free of charge to its students who need a piano to practice on. Ask a staff member for details.



ARTI-ST Music is now on Facebook! “Like” our page to subscribe and watch for announcements and specials!

GOLD CUP 2012!

ARTI-ST Music is proud to be a National Federation of Music Clubs member. Our membership allows our students to participate in the Federation’s annual “Gold Cup” festival which is held each February at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Participants in the festival perform for an independent judge who grades the student’s performance and provides useful comments on ways to improve. Available grades include Superior (5 points), Excellent (4 points), Good (3 points), Fair (2 points), and Needs Improvement (1 point). All ARTI-ST Music students who receive 3 points or more receive an ARTI-ST trophy at our spring recital. And participants who accumulate 15 points (usually over a period of 3 years or more) receive a “Gold Cup” trophy from the National Federation.

Names of student participants must be submitted to the Maryland state office by October, so be sure to let your teacher know if you are interested in participating in the 2012 Gold Cup.

