

Notes

Celebration of Strings



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the WKU Pre-College Strings Program newsletter for spring/summer 2016! It's always my pleasure to share with you news about our program and activities, give you updates on the accomplishments, honors, and performances of our students, and celebrate the wonderful work of everyone involved in the program.

First and foremost, hearty congratulations to our students, for the high level of their performances. I particularly enjoyed the different concert venues that they performed in: their partnership with Mary Jane's Chocolate in Bowling Green and visits to the Bowling Green Retirement Village. What a treat to hear them do so well!

Along with other members of the string faculty I played in a number of faculty concerts, reviewed here. I love being able to participate in these concerts, because of the friendly musical give-and-take with my colleagues, the beauty of the repertoire we play, and the chance to share our music with the students.

We have several reports on the Suzuki Cello Book One training, led by the inspiring Dr. Melissa Kraut. I always learn a great deal from observing the training. I marvel that so much of what she talks about technically is applicable to all stringed instruments, not just the cello, and any teacher would envy her ability to pinpoint the nature of a student's difficulty and come up with a perfect solution.

This newsletter has several articles about the trip to Africa, how much effort my fellow teachers put into it, and how rewarding it was for us all. My heart was full

seeing how meaningful our work was to the children in Tanzania. I was amazed and delighted at the impact the trip had on the WKU and the University of Tennessee graduate students. Training our future

teachers in such an unconventional setting was such a special experience. We are already looking forward to our return to Tanzania next year!

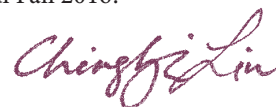
I was overjoyed to read the articles by two parents of students in our program. It is both gratifying and humbling for me to know that our efforts can make such a difference in the lives of our students and their parents.

Congratulations to Sarah Berry for our biggest-yet Summer String Institute, formerly known as String Explosion. Over fifty beginning violin

students came to WKU for the Twinklers session alone! I truly enjoyed working with the faculty, and we could not have achieved such great success without the help of our student assistants. Thank you so much to them for a wonderful summer program!

Mark your calendars for our exciting Fall events: Viola Day on October 1st and Violin Fest on November 11th and 12th. We will be bringing in two professors from Vanderbilt University. Keep track of our events on Facebook and Twitter, or email me at strings@wku.edu for more information about our program.

Have a wonderful Fall 2016!



Ching-Yi Lin



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Ching-Yi Lin

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Zoe Hu's Book Two Recital

Student Performances

2016 PRISM Concert March 3

“Western Violins performed Kreisler’s *Praeludium and Allegro* at the annual PRISM concert this year, with Dr. Zachary Lopes joining us on piano. It was my first time leading this group and playing on the Van Meter stage—a big day for me. I found many differences between playing by myself and leading a group. If I play by myself, I just need to think of myself keeping a steady tempo, making dynamic changes, and doing the appropriate bowings. But when I lead the group, I have to help *them* do all these things: showing them what I want, fixing mistakes, and “conducting” with my bow and body. I had a good time and learned a lot about leading.”

– Xinyu Liu

Suzuki Book One Recital March 19

“I was nervous when I started performing my Suzuki Book 1 Recital, then it turned out to be really fun! I am glad God blessed me with this opportunity to learn to play the violin. I am extremely happy to be part of the WKU Pre-College Strings Program. Thank you, Mrs. Alyna, Mr. Andy, and Dr. Ching-Yi. I am so pleased that I graduated from Suzuki Book 1. Now it is exciting to start Suzuki Book 2 pieces.”

– Chloe Hawkins

Suzuki Book One Recital March 19

“I was super nervous about performing all the pieces from Suzuki Book 1, but after I started I felt relieved

and excited. I also got to perform “Amazing Grace” with my sister and “Happy Birthday” for Dr. Ching-Yi Lin. I was very happy to play for my family and friends. I am grateful to Mrs. Alyna, Mr. Andy, and Dr. Ching-Yi for teaching and helping me make it through my first year of learning to play the violin in the WKU Pre-College Strings program. I am also very thankful that God gave me the ability and opportunity to learn to play the violin.”

– Hannah Hawkins

Xinyu Liu Junior Recital March 19

Congratulations to Xinyu Liu for giving a beautiful Junior Recital. He performed works by Bach, Bruch, and Kreisler, with pianist Bernadette Lo from The University of the South.

**Zoe Hu's Suzuki
Book Two Recital
March 26**

“Performing my Suzuki Book 2 recital was a lot of fun. At first, when my teacher Mr. Braddock was trying to schedule a date for my recital, I did not want to do it at all. I was nervous about making mistakes and afraid I would forget the music. However, Mr. Braddock told me that smart practicing brings confidence and he was right. I had a sense of accomplishment after the recital and I am so glad I did it!

I want to thank Dr. Ching-Yi Lin for encouraging and rehearsing with me. And I also want to thank all my friends who came to the recital. Last but not least, I want to thank Mr. Braddock for persuading me to do the recital. I could not have done it without all the support from my friends and teachers.

P.S. And thank you to my parents and brother, who had to listen to me practice a lot!”

– Zoe Hu



Garret and his grasshopper

**Garrett and Grasshopper
March 31**

Garrett played *Twinkle* “grasshopper” rhythm while portraying a grasshopper in his first-grade production of *Aesop's Fables* at Foundation Christian Academy.



Liu's Junior Recital

**Violin & Chocolate!
April 23**

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, students from the WKU Pre-College Strings Program performed a benefit concert hosted by Mary Jane's Chocolates. We would like to thank Mary Jane's Chocolates for their generosity: ten percent of the day's proceeds went to help send Emily Vaughn to Moshi, Tanzania to teach violin to children. Mary Jane's Chocolates featured rare single-origin Tanzania and violin-shaped chocolates for this special event. Violinists in the Program filled the square with two hours of solo and group music! We even received two television shout-outs from WBKO and two news articles in the *Daily News*.

**Cello Dance
April 24**

Congratulations to students of Sarah Berry for a beautiful performance at the Cello Dance Recital!

**Sarah Hathaway's Suzuki
Book Two Recital
May 1**

“My Suzuki Book 2 recital was just GRAND! I felt very, very happy while I was playing. I surely think Dr. Ching-Yi did a great job on the piano. I tried to pick a favorite song, but I loved them all! I know Suzuki Book 3 will be even better because it has harder songs, and I finally get to play *Humoresque*!”

– Sarah Hathaway

**Sheryl Sun's Suzuki
Book Two Recital
May 1**

“When I was at backstage before my Suzuki Book 1 recital, I was a little nervous. I was surprised to see a lot of friends coming and watching me playing. Once I started I was excited



Western Violins Benefit Concert

performed by members of the Western Violins to help support Emily Vaughn's trip to Tanzania. The Western Violins performed works by Bach, Bartók, Bruch, Kreisler, Shostakovich, and Wieniawski.

Viola Recital

May 8

Congratulations for a joint recital performed by three of our viola students! Landon Case, Emily Vaughn, and Katie Woosley performed concertos by Hoffmeister and Stamitz, and Rebecca Clarke's Sonata for Viola and Piano.

to find myself playing well. At the end I felt glad because I was all done with all my songs and got to go eat and play outside. Thank you, Mr. Andy, for teaching me how to play the violin all the way from 'Ant Song' to 'The Happy Farmer.'"

– Sheryl Sun

A Day of Solo Recitals

May 7

This jam-packed Saturday featured solo performances by violin and viola students in the program. All of these performances showcased the work and artistry of our students. Throughout the three recitals this day, works by Bach, Beethoven, Kuchler, Vivaldi, and many more were performed. We are proud of everyone's hard work this year, and we are already looking forward to Fall 2016!

Western Violins: A Benefit Concert at the Christ Episcopal Church May 7

The Western Violins and Bernadette Lo, piano, filled the Christ Episcopal Church with beautiful group and solo violin music. This benefit concert was



Landon Case, viola recital



Violin & Chocolate fundraising event hosted by Mary Jane's Chocolates

Spring Group Recital May 14

Our year-ending Spring Group Recital filled the Recital Hall with a bounty of musical riches. From the Beginners group to the Western Violins, every group in the program performed their ensemble music with passion and precision. Group III offered a rousing version of the fiddle tune *Soldier's Joy* featuring tempo changes and solo phrases. Group II performed a choreographically impressive rendition of *Perpetual Motion*, which included staging changes, call-and-response versions, and even an "incorrect" version of the classic Suzuki piece. The Beginners' skills astounded all in the audience—it's so impressive how much they can progress in a single year! The performance, which filled Recital Hall to capacity with families and friends, concluded with Bartók's

spirited *Romanian Dances*, excellently performed by the Western Violins.

Leah Chen Suzuki Book One Recital May 15

"I loved playing my Suzuki Book One recital! I enjoyed sharing my music with my friends and family! At first I was a bit nervous at backstage, but when I started playing I had more fun than I thought I would have. My recital made me very happy. I can't wait for my next recital!

P.S. My favorite part was the photos at the end of my recital!"

– Leah Chen

David Wiles Senior Recital May 15

Congratulations to David for a great recital, featuring works by Bach, Cassado, and Saint-Saëns.

James Han Violin Solo Recital May 21

"Practicing and working hard, preparing for the big day was really fun. Little did I know that the real fun would begin on stage. On that special day, I got to experience playing for my own concert. I played four marvelous songs: Concertino, Gavotte, Paganini Variations, and Air Varié no. 1. Playing as a group on Christmas Concerts or playing at a Spring Solo Recital might be great, but every violinist should have the privilege of playing at a self concert. I got to learn even more about entering the stage and had a great time working with my piano accompanist, Alesia Speer. A reception was held after and I got to talk to my friends. At the end of the day, I enjoyed playing and experiencing my very own concert."

– James Han

Faculty Performances

Kentucky Music Educators Association February 24

Ching-Yi Lin performed Sarasate's *Zigeunerweisen* with the Bowling Green High School Orchestra under the leadership of director Patrick O'Rourke at the 2016 Kentucky Music Educators Association Conference.

Andrew Braddock Viola Recital with Bernadette Lo February 27

By Elizabeth Hook

I attended Andrew Braddock and Bernadette Lo's viola and piano recital on Saturday, February 27th in the

Recital Hall of the Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center. They performed three pieces by the disparate composers Paul Hindemith, J. S. Bach, and Henri Vieuxtemps. Hindemith's Sonata, Op. 11, No. 4, composed in 1919, contained three movements: *Fantasia*, *Thema mit Variationen*, and *Finale mit Variationen*. It was an extremely varied piece, showcasing many different moods and styles, though often sounding ethereal and haunting. The Suite in G major by Bach was composed around 1720. It was a lively and bouncy piece that kept the audience engaged and attentive. In the final Sonata in B-flat

major by Vieuxtemps, composed in 1863, Professor Braddock played with an open, rich sound, and the many different moods made the piece stimulating and unique. Overall, it was a phenomenal concert!

This recital was also performed at the University of Kentucky on February 28th.

An Evening of Chamber Music for Strings March 23

By Vanessa Brown

Gregory Lee, Associate Professor of Violin at the University of Oklahoma, and Ching-Yi Lin and Andrew



Dr. Gregory Lee and Andy Braddock with Big Red

Braddock, Violin and Viola Professors at WKU, gave us a lovely evening of string music on March 23rd. Lee and Lin performed the Sonata for Two Violins, Op. 3, No. 5, by the French Baroque composer Jean-Marie Leclair with playfulness, unity, and energy. Braddock joined the violinists on stage for the remainder of the recital. In the Terzetto, Op. 74, by the Czech Romantic composer Antonín Dvořák, the three musicians displayed spot-on intonation and good balance in the Introduzione, and captivating dynamic contrast in the following Larghetto. The Scherzo & Trio featured enthusiastic pizzicato and well-conceived phrasing. The trio concluded with the breathtaking Serenade for Two Violins and Viola, Op. 12, by the modern Hungarian composer and educator Zoltán Kodály. The opening Allegramente reminded us of the beauty of the viola, an underappreciated instrument. The splendid unanimity of the pizzicato seemed to mesh the trio into a single instrument. In the Lento, *ma non troppo*, the second violin whispered under the conversation between the first violin and viola, and the first violin solo sounded dreamlike. The final Vivo included some exciting syncopations, apparently derived from the composer's intense study of Hungarian folk music. This amazing recital showed the variety of music that exists in the classical music world and what strong emotion such music can convey.

This recital was also performed at the University of Oklahoma on March 28th.

2016 International String Festival March 29 to April 1

The Kansas Wesleyan University (KWU) held its 2016 International String Festival from March 29 to April 1. Participants enjoyed three days of masterclasses by guest artists from six different countries, as well as performances by the KWU string and piano faculty members and the KWU String Orchestra. Ching-Yi Lin was one of the guest artists invited to perform and participate in this festival.



Zigeunerweisen with the Bowling Green High School Orchestra

Splendor Before the Storm: WKU Music Faculty Voice and Viola Recital April 8

This recital, featuring WKU faculty members Liza Kelly and Andrew Braddock and guest artist Bernadette Lo, highlighted the diversity of musical styles found in the first decade of the twentieth century. The works on the program were the French impressionist composer Maurice Ravel's song cycle *Shéhérazade*, a movement from Arnold Schoenberg's expressionist melodrama *Pierrot Lunaire*, and two works by the English pastoral composer Frank

Bridge: Three Songs for Viola, Voice and Piano and Two Pieces for Viola and Piano.

This recital was also performed at Sewanee: The University of the South, on April 10th.

An Afternoon of Brahms April 10

By Carly Shoulders

On Sunday, April 10, 2016, the faculty of the music department played an intriguing recital of music by Johannes Brahms. In FAC's Recital

Hall, professors Ching-Yi Lin, Donald Speer, and Sarah Berry ably performed pieces written by Brahms between 1854 and 1879. This recital began with the Sonata for Violin and Piano played by professors Lin and Speer. This work started with a sweet and intimate first movement, climaxed in the second movement, and resolved in the third. The second and final piece they played, the Trio for Piano, Violin, and Cello, No. 1, Op. 8, was

preceded by Professor Speer explaining to the audience that Brahms was only twenty-one years old when he composed it. Brahms returned to the piece about twenty years later to edit it. When the piece began with just the piano and cello playing softly, it was immediately apparent that Brahms set himself apart from his contemporary composers by challenging the form of nineteenth-century trios. Although the violin soon joined in, throughout the four movements of this piece, Brahms used the idea of having one of the three performers resting in order to highlight the theme of that movement.



From left to right: Andrea Dawson, Matt Wilkinson, Hillary Herndon, Ching-Yi Lin, and Sidney King

2016 Kentucky Music Educators Association February

By Andrew Braddock

As many of you probably have figured out by now, I am obsessed with the martelé bow stroke. I could write for pages about it here, but I'll save you the burden of reading! Given my obsession, I decided to give a presentation at the Kentucky Music Educators' Association Conference in Louisville entitled "Martelé Magic: The Secret to a Great String Sound." My presentation, directed towards public school educators and music education students, detailed how the martelé stroke can be used to elevate and improve students' sound and resonance. Using examples from Suzuki repertoire, etudes, and advanced pieces, I offered practice techniques and exercises designed to refine and improve sound production through the use of the martelé stroke. Over 60 people attended, and I was overjoyed about the positive response. I think I was even able to convert a few acolytes to the Gospel of the Martelé!

Summer Performances at Indiana University and University of North Texas

In June, Ching-Yi performed the selections from Smetana's First String Quartet and Glazunov's String Quintet at the UNT Summer Music Institute with fellow faculty members. While teaching at the Indiana University Summer String Academy, Ching-Yi performed David Dzubay's *Delicious Silence* for solo violin, and Aaron Traver's string quartet *The Eclat Cycle* with cellist Warren Hagerty of the Verona Quartet, violist Rebecca Henry from the Peabody Conservatory, and violinist Daniel Stein of the Cuarteto Tanguero.

2016 Tennessee Music Educators Association April 15

Ching-Yi Lin, along with her colleagues Hillary Herndon (University of Tennessee), Andrea Dawson (Middle Tennessee State University), Sidney King (University of Louisville), and Matt Wilkinson (Director of the Maryville High School Orchestra), presented at the 2016 Tennessee Music Education Association Professional Development Conference at Nashville's Opryland Resort. Their presentation was entitled "Music Degrees—Everything String Students Need to Know, from Application to Graduation."

The idea behind this presentation germinated when Hillary Herndon noticed that the same questions were coming up over and over about the process of getting into college during Q&A sessions at large music events. She compiled a questionnaire about this process, sent it out to a group of string teachers, and put the results into a three-part article for *American String Teacher*. The first part was published in the November 2015 issue. In the presentation at TMEA, we all shared our advice and experiences in guiding students throughout the entire college process, from tips on how to successfully apply and audition to survival strategies for the rigors of undergraduate study.

GUEST ARTISTS

Gregory Lee Violin Masterclass

March 21

By Anna Darling

On March 21, 2016, Dr. Gregory Lee, Associate Professor of Violin at the University of Oklahoma and the Concertmaster of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, came to WKU. He gave a wonderful concert with violin professor Dr. Ching-Yi Lin and viola professor Andrew Braddock and also taught a masterclass for violin music majors at WKU and students in the Pre-College Strings program.

First to perform at this masterclass was Abby Johns, a pre-college student, playing *Perpetual Motion* by Suzuki. Dr. Lee was quick to commend her for her great bow distribution and her performance stance. He challenged Abby to practice slowly and take time to tune every note.

The next performer was another pre-college student, Zoe Hu. She played *Gavotte* by Lully. Dr. Lee taught Zoe how to play a beautiful martelé with her bow. Dr. Lee also focused on finding the “sweet spot,” or the best contact point for the bow, in order to produce the best tone quality.



Paul Nelson

could improve his vibrato by relaxing his smaller finger joints, opening up his thumb, and lessening the contact between his lower index finger and the violin neck in order to make a bigger motion. Dr. Lee also talked about being intentional about bow speed and contact point.

The final performer was Grace Kim, who performed all four movements of Bach’s D minor Partita. Dr. Lee wanted Grace to portray more of the dance-like character of the piece and expand her dynamic contrast.

Not only did the students participating in the masterclass benefit from their lessons with Dr. Lee, but the audience, myself included, learned valuable techniques that could be applied to our own practice.

The first college student to play was Xinyu Liu, braving Bruch’s Violin Concerto in G minor. Dr. Lee suggested that Xinyu

Cello Masterclass

May 5

The cellos enjoyed a fun class with Paul Nelson: improvisations, jazz, blues, and more on the cello!

The Dalton–Primrose

Collaboration

May 6

One of the preeminent historians of the viola, WKU Professor of Music Emeritus Dr. Dwight Pounds, gave a multimedia presentation about the fruitful collaboration between William Primrose, perhaps the greatest violist of all time, and the author and viola professor David Dalton. Dalton published *Playing the Viola: Conversations with William Primrose* (1988), helping to pass on Primrose’s legacy.



Professor Heard and James Han

Connie Heard Violin Masterclass

May 7

We enjoyed Professor Connie Heard’s masterclass. She worked with Anna Darling on making a beautiful sound when playing chords. James Han performed the *Airs* by Dancla, and Sarah Hathaway performed *Gavotte* by Lully. Professor Heard is the Chair of the Strings Department and Professor of Violin at the Vanderbilt Blair School of Music.



The Dalton-Primrose Collaboration Lecture by Dr. Pounds

Suzuki Cello Book One Training with Dr. Melissa Kraut

By Sarah Berry, Cello Professor at WKU

**“When love is deep, much
can be accomplished.”
— Dr. Suzuki**

Perhaps no other quote from Dr. Suzuki can sum up the experience of the ten cellists who had the privilege of completing Suzuki cello teacher training with Dr. Melissa Kraut this year at WKU. Guided by Dr. Kraut’s love for music, for the cello, for children, and for helping people, we

accomplished much in our pursuit of growth as teachers, cellists, and human beings.

Together with cellists from as far away as Georgia, the teacher-training participants explored every aspect of beginning to teach a new cello student. As part of the Suzuki teacher-training program, the Suzuki Association of the Americas requires 15 hours of teaching observations, which I found to be one of the most inspiring aspects of the course.

You have only to do a quick Google search to find out that Dr. Kraut is one of the leading cello pedagogues in the nation and that her studio at the Cleveland Institute of Music is highly competitive. Aspiring cellists from all over the world put in countless hours to audition for a chance to study with her! We lucky ones got to spend 10 days soaking in her expertise—observing her work with our own WKU Pre-College cellists and watching wonderful videos of her own students. The reasons



why she is so highly regarded are obvious: she possesses a joyous passion for teaching and an uncanny ability to find the exact solution, words, and expression that a student needs.



**“Knowledge is not skill.
Knowledge plus ten
thousand times is skill.”**
— Dr. Suzuki

If you’ve been around our string studios at WKU this semester, it’s likely that you’ve noticed the many 100s charts proudly displayed on studio doors and walls. You can thank Dr. Kraut for those! One of the most practical additions to our teaching that was influenced by this training is the opportunity for our students to complete 100s ... of everything! In the cello studio, we started the semester with not just a 100s chart, but a 500s chart for beautiful bow holds. The results are crystal clear—Suzuki was correct. Repetition that is fun, creative, and careful leads to expertise, confidence, beauty, and skill.

When our vision is larger than just a skill or a song, our inspiration in teaching and working with young children is endless. The time spent in the intense Suzuki Teacher-Training workshop was unforgettable. We all left reinvigorated, not simply to help each child create beautiful sounds, but instead to teach the whole child and foster the growth of beautiful hearts.

Suzuki Training by Shelly Burgess

Suzuki Training was a memorable and successful experience for me. From Dr. Kraut, I learned some key points to help my beginning students improve and even fixed problems in my own playing, allowing me to grow as a musician. One of my favorite new teaching tools is “Bicycle Body,” which has helped my students and me to sit correctly with our cellos. Bicycle Body means sitting straight and tall on the edge of your chair, similar to the position you would on a bike (at least, one with straight handlebars). Most musicians, and even music teachers, tend to slouch and lean back in their chairs because the chairs are uncomfortable. Our backs begin to hurt, and we ultimately adjust our positions ineffectively. Asking students to assume their “Bicycle Body” puts them into a positive position with a fun spin—no pun intended!

Suzuki Training by Josh Propst

Suzuki Book 1 Training has been an incredible experience for me! I learned so much, far and away exceeding my expectations. On top of becoming better teachers, we learned ways to improve our own playing by strengthening our core, sense of balance, confidence, practice routine, and basic technique. Our Teacher-Trainer, Dr. Melissa Kraut of the Cleveland Institute of Music, was phenomenal. Everything she covered in our training made an indelible impact on me, my teaching style, and my playing.

The piece of advice from Dr. Kraut that has stuck with me the most is to emphasize positivity in teaching. I am very picky about my playing and practicing, so I thought I would approach teaching by being equally picky, and in this way, kids would be able to directly identify their problem areas and address them. However, I had not considered the psychology behind teaching: that a constantly positive demeanor paired with positive feedback can increase children’s motivation to improve, encourage them to perform to the best of their ability, and release them to have fun making music. I am extremely grateful to have learned this advice now, at the beginning of my teaching career.

“Teaching music is not my main purpose. I want to make good citizens. If children hear fine music from the day of their birth and learn to play it, they develop sensitivity, discipline, and endurance. They get a beautiful heart.”

— Dr. Suzuki

Daraja Music Initiative: Bridging Music and Conservation

By Katherine Palmer, Executive Director of DMI



Second-Year String Student at Korongoni Secondary School

Each summer the Daraja Music Initiative (DMI) provides Tanzanian students with a unique interdisciplinary educational program that fuses music and conservation. This non-profit organization from the United States started in 2010 as Clarinets for Conservation, teaching a single class of twelve clarinet students. Now five years old, the organization has expanded to include additional educational services for the Kilimanjaro community including coaching for the national Police Academy Band, general music and band classes for rural primary school students and a brand new string program called Daraja Strings.

By employing place-based education and community music approaches, the Daraja Music Initiative aims to utilize the transformative power of music education to encourage creativity and the protection of natural resources.

Why Conservation in Tanzania?

Many instruments are constructed entirely or partly from the African blackwood tree (also known as grenadilla, *mpingo*, and Mozambique ebony). While these instruments – including clarinets, oboes, piccolos, and some string fingerboards – are popularly recognized in many cultures, the instruments are virtually unheard

of in their birthplace, East Africa. The *mpingo* tree is the national tree of Tanzania, but many Tanzanians are unaware of its important musical significance. Furthermore, this tree is being harvested at an unsustainable rate and is commercially endangered. By showcasing instruments made from *mpingo*, the Daraja Music Initiative educates the local community about the tree's value, musical importance, and environmental benefits. By partnering conservation education with music education, DMI also gives local students an opportunity to participate in an active-learning, hands-on classroom environment.

The Mission

The heart of the Daraja Music Initiative is to utilize music education for positive social change, engaging students and local communities with the power of music, teaching students to play instruments and empower them by providing a healthy, creative outlet that improves problem-solving skills and facilitates self-sufficiency. DMI provides an interdisciplinary approach to sustainability through music education, helping Tanzanians to better understand their environment and the issues that plague it. The Daraja Music Initiative fosters creative community collaborations with local

organizations and provides non-traditional performance opportunities to build diverse audiences, emphasizing that music is for everyone regardless of socioeconomic status.

Executive Director Katherine Palmer is currently the Museum Educator at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, Arizona where she is in charge of developing and teaching educational programs. Katherine earned a Doctorate of Musical Arts (clarinet) and a Master of Arts (ethnomusicology) from Arizona State University. Her master's thesis focused on the Venezuelan music education program (El Sistema), identity formation, and nationalism; her doctoral research was centered on the Peruvian composer, Armando Guevara Ochoa, and his works for wind instruments.



Emily Vaughn at Majengo Primary School



Teachers: Shelley Armer, Joseph Falconer, Emily Vaughn and Roselyn Hobbs with the students of Korongoni Secondary School



Emily Vaughn (WKU Graduate Assistant), Ching-Yi Lin, and Shelley Armer (UT Graduate Assistant)

Our journey to Moshi, Tanzania was unforgettable. We had the privilege of working alongside so many passionate teachers from across the country. Dr. Lin, Shelley Armer, and I (Emily Vaughn) dedicated our time to starting a string music education program at the Majengo Primary School. Primary schools are equivalent to elementary schools in the United States, and classes are taught in the native language, Swahili. The language barrier encouraged creative teaching activities for us and succinct verbal communication, as students do not begin learning English until they are in secondary school.

In Tanzania we learned a little Swahili directed towards daily life. Through working at Manjengo we also developed a specialized vocabulary for teaching. The first two words we needed were left and right. Dr. Lin wrote *kushoto* (left) and *kulia* (right) on the appropriate arm, so that both students and teachers would understand. Next we learned *angalia* (watch) and *sikia* (listen), and when it came time to use bows we learned *juu* (up) and *chini* (down).

While we worked on our Swahili, the students also picked up some English. They now understand and can say the words that accompany the set-up routine. We also taught them to take a bow

NOTES FROM SHELLEY ARMER & EMILY VAUGHN

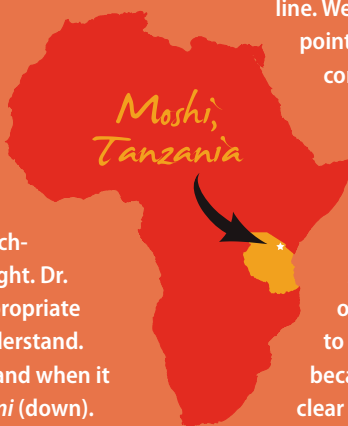
after they play and say “I love to play the violin.” This ensures that they bow together and for the same length of time. They learned the names of the strings, which was particularly challenging because E, D, and G have the same vowel sound. We played a game to teach the string names, where we split the class into two lines and held a violin in front of each

line. We would say a string name and each student would point to the corresponding string. When students were correct, they would move to the back of the line.

By the end of this activity, the entire class could name all of the strings correctly.

In general, we taught by rote. The Majengo students were so focused and needed very little correction when we demonstrated clearly. When students didn’t grasp a particular technique, one of us would physically help them. Through having to use limited and succinct verbal instructions, we became better instructors. We needed to be crystal clear so that the students could maintain their focus and handle the instruction. The Swahili–English

language barrier developed my own teaching skills in a way that we never anticipated.



A Summer with the Daraja Music Initiative

By Jessica Schue

The Daraja Music Initiative in Tanzania is an organization entirely run by volunteers. Altogether, about forty volunteers every year help make the DMI possible. This year, I was one of twenty-five who spent a portion of their summer in Tanzania. Several others came before us in January and others will come after we leave. As a part of the organization's mission, we partnered with Tanzanian schools to plant trees, serve the community, and teach music to the children at the Korongoni Secondary School in Moshi.

Currently, clarinet, violin, viola, cello, and general music are being taught to these students. This summer, a new beginning violin class was started at the Majengo Primary School in Moshi under the leadership of Dr. Ching-Yi Lin. Dr. Lin, Emily Vaughn, and I spent the first two weeks of the class with these children, during which I learned many new teaching strategies, games, and ways to teach children.

The students at Majengo Primary School are so eager to learn, despite the language differences. Introducing them to a musical instrument in both their own language (Swahili) and English was definitely a challenge for us. We learned a few Swahili phrases, but needed an interpreter to get the big topics across, such as their homework assignments. They took our broken Swahili in their stride, correcting us sometimes, and the older students tried to clarify anything the younger ones



Jessica Schue

did not understand. Playing a variety of games also helped students make connections with the material.

In the few short weeks I taught there, our students developed very quickly. They can play using their bow as well as pizzicato, they know the names of their strings, they can perform all of the pre-Twinkle pieces, they have gained physical awareness of elbow height for both their right and left arms, and they even know a few phrases in English about playing the violin. They have also learned how to hold their instruments correctly, play

games that develop the finger strength in both hands, use a 100s chart, and understand the expectations of them in each class.

It was amazing how much these students absorbed and retained in each class, thanks largely to Dr. Lin's enthusiasm and repetition, which tied everything together. If the students didn't understand anything or struggled, we went back to something that they were comfortable with and tried again. Dr. Lin was patient yet still managed to move in a rapid manner that was understood by the students, so they progressed by leaps and bounds.

As the two weeks came to a close, I started teaching at the secondary school, so I could prepare to take on a leadership role in my own class. My time spent at Korongoni Secondary School was also a challenge in different ways. I worked with the second-year students on both violin and viola simultaneously. They also were extremely eager to learn and absorbed everything rapidly. Most of these students had a general understanding of English and some of them spoke almost fluently. The students were welcoming of changes in curriculum and material I introduced to make a well-rounded lesson program.

All in all, my experiences at both Majengo Primary and Korongoni Secondary Schools were exhilarating. I learned so much from the teachers who worked beside me, the students in my care, and the culture of Tanzania as a whole. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity that my family, the Knoxville community, the many donors, and DMI made possible.

Jessica Schue is a violist and a freelance writer. She has presented at several prestigious academic conferences; studied, volunteered, and taught abroad; and worked as a sound technician and teaching assistant for the past three years. She is currently working towards a Master's Degree in Arts Management at George Mason University.

A Parent's Reminiscences

By Noah T. Ashley, WKU Assistant Professor of Biology

You could say that I come from a “musical family,” although all families are influenced by music in different and unique ways. At an early age, my siblings and I were encouraged to learn an instrument, go to concerts, and listen to music. My parents wanted us to be exposed to a diversity of musical genres and styles, and they understood how helpful music is in developing young minds.

Playing the violin was a great place to start. I think one of my parents’ wisest choices was signing up my older brother and me for Suzuki violin lessons.

Learning music by ear, a core philosophy of the Suzuki method, enabled us to appreciate music through improvisation and experimentation. My brother started playing the violin at age 4, me, when I was 6. I have fond memories of lessons, colored tape on the neck of my violin, and watching my brother play at recitals. I don’t remember “pinky houses,” though.

One of the funniest moments I can recall—and I still give my brother a hard time about this—is when he was playing at a recital and in the middle of his piece, he made a mistake. He completely stopped, put his violin at



Sabine Ashley



Asa Ashley

his side, huffed and puffed, and then bellowed out in complete frustration “Oh!” For two seconds, there was dead silence; the piano had stopped playing, too. Everyone in the audience was suspense. And then, as if nothing had ever happened, he took a deep breath, raised his violin to playing position, and resumed his piece.

I cannot give my brother too much grief because he’s the one of us who

became the professional violinist. He just celebrated his 44th birthday, which means that he has been playing for 40 years (which I can hardly get my mind around). He’s taught numerous students and plays in a number of orchestras. He has traveled around the world because of the violin. He can play any musical piece by ear. As for me, I never made it past Twinkle. I knew that I wasn’t as good as my brother at the violin and decided to switch to the piano, which I still play. I am more than happy to accompany my brother (or at least try to).

My musical experience is why I am so happy that there is such a top-notch program at WKU to teach my oldest

son Asa, who is 8, and my daughter Sabine, who is 7, how to play and practice violin. The instructors are inspiring, patient, and talented. I love their concept of music immersion, where individual lessons are reinforced with group lessons every week. The idea of learning from other students in addition to

teachers is a powerful technique that clearly works well for learning music.

I want my kids to be exposed to the same experiences, knowledge, and passion for music that I was able to receive as a child. To encourage Asa and Sabine, I always remind them that they made it further than I did, and if they stick with it maybe they can play in an orchestra someday like their uncle.

Both my daughters, Hannah and Chloe, are enrolled in the WKU Pre-College Strings Program. They revealed early on that God had blessed them with a passion for music. Both girls had been taking piano lessons, but after they met Dr. Ching-Yi at a demonstration, their interest in the violin began to grow.

As a parent, it touches my heart to see the teachers and student helpers genuinely care about each child in the program. From the first moment my girls attended group class, their needs were addressed with such a sincere and caring manner that it quickly got my attention.

Each member of the faculty is so gifted musically, yet just as important, they are very skilled educators. This is exciting and fun to watch! I have always been encouraged to attend my child's lessons, and I find this very comforting. I see the patient and supportive guidance that each instructor displays, and it amazes me each time. I cannot express how much joy it gives me to see the instructors take the ability they have and share it so affectionately with each child.

Family and friends have the opportunity to attend student recitals throughout the semester. It is so enjoyable to witness the progress that each student has made. The program also provides many opportunities for the children to uplift others in the community by sharing their music. A favorite of my girls is the chance to visit local nursing homes. The positive reaction of the residents is always an experience to remember and cherish.

We have enjoyed attending Master Classes this past year. It is motivating to be able to receive such valuable instruction, not only from resident faculty members but also from accomplished guest artists, that can be a wonderful addition to your child's practice time.



Hawkins at their solo violin recitals

Our Family Harmony with WKU Pre-College Strings

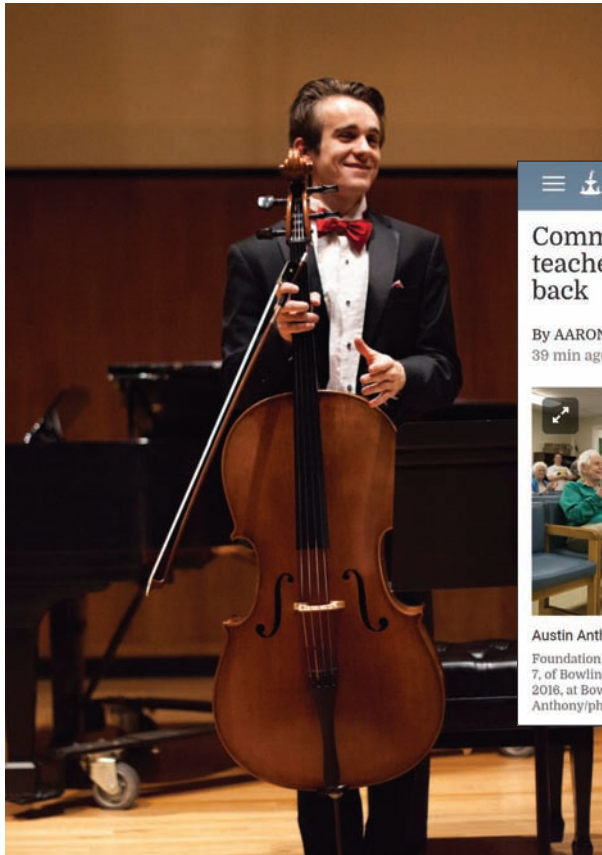
By Marcia Hawkins



Hawkins with their teacher, Alyna Bloecher

I am so thrilled with what my girls have learned musically and with the positive attitude that the program conveys to them. I look forward to many more years of caring instruction and musical growth with the WKU Pre-College Strings Program. Perhaps someday they will be able to pass on their experience and knowledge to others in the same caring manner that they have been shown.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



David Wiles Senior Recital



Garrett Barr performing at the Bowling Green Retirement Village

WKU ASTA Student Chapter at National Conference

March 3

Congratulations to our ASTA Student Chapter for receiving the award for *Most Improved Student Chapter of the Year*. Here is a photo of them accepting the award at the 2016 National Conference in Tampa, Florida.

Giving Back to Our Community

Our student, Garrett Barr, was featured in the newspaper for his performance at the Bowling Green Retirement Village. Keep up the good work, Garrett!

Graduating Senior: David Wiles

I have to confess that I chose the cello mostly because I could sit down while I play. But after nine years of playing, I am in love with everything about the instrument! I began playing the cello in fourth grade in the strings program, with Mrs. Sarah Berry as my conductor. In middle school, I began taking private lessons with Mrs. Berry, who inspired me to focus on playing the instrument to the best of my ability. I have attended summer camps and played in ensembles such as the Steven Foster Camp, the CCM Young Artists Chamber Music Camp, the Kentucky All-State Symphony and Commonwealth Orchestra, and the Symphony at WKU, which taught me how to play in different situations. I want to pass on a love of music to others, and I already teach a few students of my own. I plan on minoring in music at Western and playing in the Symphony next year, then to continue playing the cello for the rest of life!

– David Wiles



WKU ASTA Student Chapter in Tampa, Florida



WKU Summer String Institute Finale Concert: Twinklers

WKU Summer String Institute 2016



The WKU Summer String Institute is a concentrated week of study for violin, viola, cello, and bass students. This year, enrolled students participated in masterclasses, group instructions, orchestral study, concerts, and musical enrichment on the campus of WKU. The Institute features two courses of study: *Twinklers*: a half-day session for young beginners and a full-day session for elementary through high school age students. The teaching faculty of the Summer String Institute included WKU music faculty members and guest artist teachers.

WKU SSI Assistants

Shelley Armer, University of Tennessee Viola Performance Major

Shelly Burgess, WKU Music Education Major

Josh Propst, WKU Music Education Major

David Wiles, Bowling Green High School

Xinyu Liu, WKU Violin Performance Major

Anna Darling, WKU Violin Performance Major

Natalee Thomas, Fort Hays State University, Kansas, Violin Performance Major

Mia Lin, National Junior College of Performing Arts, Taiwan

Morgan Thomas, WKU Cello Performance Major

Joy Fan, WKU Gatton Academy Student

Elizabeth Hathaway, Parent of the WKU Pre-College Strings Program

Faculty

Sarah Berry, WKU Cello Professor, Camp Director

Dr. Brian St. John, WKU Baker Professor of Music, Orchestra Director

Patrick O'Rourke, Bowling Green City School Orchestra Director

Emily Vaughn, WKU Pre-College Strings Program Faculty

Mary Boronow, Bowling Green City School Orchestra Teacher

Dr. Ching-Yi Lin, WKU Violin Professor

Andy Braddock, WKU Viola Professor

FALL UPCOMING EVENTS

Faculty Recital with Alesia Speer, Scott Harris, and Patrick O'Rourke

August 26, 2016, 7:30 pm

Claude Bolling, Suite for Violin and Jazz Piano

Western Kentucky University
Fine Arts Center Recital Hall,
Bowling Green, KY

Arts on Main Summer Concert Series Ching-Yi Lin & Friends: An Evening of String Music

August 26, 2016, 7:00 pm

Britten, String Quartet No. 2
in C major, Op. 36

Mozart, String Quartet No. 15
in D minor, K. 421

Allen County–Scottsville Arts Council,
Scottsville, KY

www.acsarts.org

Early Music Concert

September 12, 2016, 7:30 pm

Western Kentucky University
Fine Arts Center Recital Hall,
Bowling Green, KY

Transcriptions for Viola and Piano with Andrew Braddock and Bernadette Lo

September 21, 2016, 7:30 pm

Fine Arts Center Recital Hall,
Bowling Green, KY

Music from the Heavens

September 23, 2016, 7:30 pm

Brian St. John, Conductor

Come hear the world's most heavenly music! The Symphony at WKU brings you music inspired by the ethereal and dreamy. Some of the most famous melodies and pieces ever written!

Western Kentucky University
Van Meter Auditorium

Tickets: General admission \$10
WKU Students and Faculty \$5



Trinity Rose at Cello Day

Viola Day

October 1, 2016, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Western Kentucky University
Music Rehearsal Hall,
Bowling Green, KY

Halloween Recital

October 29, 2016, 3:00 pm

Western Kentucky University
Fine Arts Center Recital Hall,
Bowling Green, KY

Violin Fest 2016

Faculty Recital

November 11, 2016, 7:30 pm

Prokofiev Sonata for Two Violins
Kodály String Trio
Schumann Piano Quintet

Violin Fest participant Recital

November 12, 2016, 5:00 pm

Western Kentucky University
Fine Arts Center Recital Hall,
Bowling Green, KY

Vanderbilt University: Guest Artist Recital

December 4, 2016, 4:00 pm

Prokofiev Sonata for Two Violins
Kodály String Trio
Schumann Piano Quintet
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall,
Nashville, TN

December Solo Recital Marathon! Featuring students of the WKU Pre-College Strings Program

December 3, 2016

Cello Recital: 11:00 am
Studio of Andy Braddock: 1:00 pm
Studio of Ching-Yi Lin: 2:00 pm
Studio of Emily Vaughn: 3:00 pm
Western Kentucky University
Music Rehearsal Hall,
Bowling Green, KY

Christmas Recital

December 10, 2016, 5:00 pm

Western Kentucky University
Fine Arts Center Recital Hall,
Bowling Green, KY

This summer I had the privilege of teaching string music in Moshi, thanks to generous donations from numerous contributors. I am ecstatic that I had the opportunity to travel to Tanzania and provide string music education to the students of the Korongoni Secondary School. In Tanzania, Dr. Ching-Yi Lin (WKU violin professor and director of the WKU Pre-College Strings Program) and I initiated a program of beginner group violin lessons. I also had the opportunity to work with older students in an orchestral setting and gave performances during community concerts and outreach engagements. Because of the donations so generously given, I had the opportunity to give the joy of music to children in Tanzania.

Thank you to Marie and Mary Jane, proud owners of Mary Jane's Chocolates, for hosting and advertising the fundraising event *Violin & Chocolate*. The WKU Pre-College Strings Program performed beautiful music in celebration of Mary Jane's grand re-opening. For this special occasion Mary Jane's made Tanzania and violin-shaped chocolates, donating a portion of the proceeds to the cost of my travel, and also helped to collect donations. Thank you to parents and students of the Pre-College Strings Program for coming out to Mary Jane's and performing, and thank you to the teachers, Andy Braddock, Dr. Ching-Yi Lin, and Alyna Bloecher, for leading the students. The event *Violin & Chocolate* was promoted on WBKO and also featured in Bowling Green's *Daily News*.

A big thank you to WKU ASTA (American String Teachers Association) Chapter and Chapter President Landon Case for holding two fundraising events. The first event was a strawberry-banana smoothie stand, selling freshly made fruit smoothies, perfect for WKU students on a hot spring morning. The second event took place at Buffalo Wild Wings, where students could win a gas gift card, and Pre-College Parents could win half off the tuition at the WKU Summer String Institute. A portion of the proceeds for every meal purchased that evening went towards both the ASTA Chapter and music education

FOREVER THANKS FOR GIVING MUSIC EDUCATION TO TANZANIA

By Emily Vaughn

in Tanzania. It is truly a blessing to receive assistance from WKU ASTA members and to work with such inspiring future educators.

Thank you to Western Violins for performing a beautiful Benefit Concert at Christ Episcopal Church, featuring works by Bach, Bartók, Bruch, Kreisler, Beethoven, and others. I appreciate you supporting my journey to teach music to children in Tanzania. I also want to thank John Thompson of *Farm-Out! Records* for recording, mixing, and mastering A Benefit CD for Tanzania String Education, featuring performances by Dr. Lin.

Two pedagogues introduced me to this amazing project and have selflessly shared their time in helping me prepare for this trip. Thank you to Dr. Ching-Yi Lin for letting me become part of the Pre-College Strings Program, and giving me the opportunity to teach and work with these amazing students and faculty. Dr. Lin joined and aided my journey to Moshi, Tanzania, to work alongside the team of the Daraja Music Initiative Program. She also helped me by setting up various fundraising events and venues. I would also like to thank Hillary Herndon, who was my professor at The University of Tennessee. She traveled to Tanzania last year and set up a path so that other teachers could attend this amazing program. The two of them also collected and packed over 60 instruments that were donated from all over the country.

Thank you all for the donations, every donation, every fundraiser. All the help that was given to me brought me one step closer to getting the opportunity to teach music in Tanzania. My hope was to provide the joy of string music to the children of Moshi, to collaborate with fellow teachers, and to make a difference in this African community. This trip would not have been possible without everyone's help. I am so grateful and excited to have been able to give the power of music, stimulating the children of Tanzania to achieve higher levels of education.

I would like to thank Katie Palmer, executive director of Daraja Music Initiatives, for organizing this trip, working out logistics, and always being available to answer my many questions prior to leaving for Africa. Much love to Hillary Herndon for inviting me help her start a beginner violin program in Majengo Primary School.

This trip would not have been possible without the generous donations of instruments from William Harris Lee (Chicago, IL), Baroque Violins (Cincinnati, OH), Old Town Violins (Lexington, KY), and individuals throughout the country. Emily Vaughn and I are also very grateful to Trace Die Cast, John Thompson of Scottsville, and the Bowling Green Community for their support at various fundraising events that gave Emily the opportunity to go to Africa this year.

— CHING-YI LIN



Pre-College Strings Program
Department of Music
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11029
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1029

FACULTY RECITAL

**FRIDAY, 7:30PM
NOVEMBER 11
FAC RECITAL HALL**

Featuring
Carolyn Huebl, *violin*
Ching-Yi Lin, *violin*
Andrew Braddock, *viola*
Sarah Berry, *cello*
Bernadette Lo, *piano*

GUEST FACULTY



Carolyn Huebl (Violin)
Vanderbilt University
Professor of Violin

WKU *Violin* FEST

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY
NOVEMBER
11-12, 2016**

**Join us for a weekend of
performances, masterclasses,
string-technique sessions,
helpful practicing tips, and
group performances!**

VIOLIN FEST RECITAL

**SATURDAY, 5:00PM
NOVEMBER 12
FAC RECITAL HALL**

Featuring participants
and students of WKU



For more information
contact Dr. Ching-Yi Lin
at strings@wku.edu
or (270) 745-5939.
Visit our website at
wku.edu/strings/violinfest.php