



Note From The Director

Dear Families,

Welcome to our WRSS 2020-2021 year of making music together! This year, we welcome Mr. Kellen Degnan to our WRSS Cello Faculty. Mr. Degnan is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music where he also completed his Suzuki Pedagogy training. Additionally, we welcome the return of Mrs. Bridget Jankowski who years ago was part of our school as both a Suzuki Piano Teacher and a wonderful Collaborative Accompanist. Mrs. Jankowski comes to us with loads of accompanying experience and we are delighted to welcome her back 'Home' with us!

As you know, Covid has forced us to change the way we think about lessons and group activities. Our number one priority is the safety and health of our students, families and faculty. To that end, everything we offer will be carried out with an abundance of caution. Our teaching facilities - Pilgrim Church in Cuyahoga Falls and Gloria Dei in Hudson - require us to follow strict guidelines of mandatory masks, sanitizing the space and frequent, hand washing. We ask that families limit the number of people that attend weekly lessons. All families, upon entering, must have a mask on and must either sanitize or wash hands with soap and water. If anyone in your family is ill, please do not come to your lesson. Your teacher will have a virtual option for you.

As far as community performances, these will require the most flexibility. This summer, we performed an outdoor concert for senior citizens at a Retirement Village and are planning another outdoor event Saturday, September 19 at the Retirement Community in Orville called OrrVilla Retirement Community. Details to follow. A Fall Semester Repertoire list is provided within this newsletter.

We wish everyone a very safe and happy start to the academic year. We are grateful to still be able to make music with our students and look forward to creatively sharing our music with family, friends and the community. Communication will be more important than ever and we look forward to being on this musical journey with each of you!

WRSS



Western Reserve
SUZUKI SCHOOL

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Music in the Age of Covid

Saturday, September 19*
OrrVilla Retirement
Community - 1:00 pm

Saturday, Nov 21 - recitals
at 11:30 am and 1:00
pm *Rehearsals: Saturday Nov
14 beginning at 8:30 am and
Friday Nov 20 beginning at 4
pm*

Sunday, November 29*
Tree Festival Perfor
mance John S Knight -
4 pm

Friday, December 18*
Fox 8 Morning Show
- 7 am

Saturday, Feb 27 - Recitals
at 11:30 am and 1:00
pm *Rehearsals: Saturday Feb
20 beginning at 8:30 am and
Friday Feb 26 beginning at 4
pm*

Saturday, April 24 - Recitals
at 11:30 am and 1:00
pm

*Rehearsals: Saturday Apr 17
beginning at 8:30 am and Fri-
day Apr 23 beginning at 4 pm*

*Rehearsals will occur on select
Saturday mornings prior to the
event. All pubic performances are
subject to cancellation due to virus



I can still remember dashing out of the house to get my kids to their weekly piano lesson. Only worried about traffic and if we remembered all of our materials, my cares were very different 5 years ago.

In March of 2020, all of our lives were changed. We had all heard about this virus spreading over seas but we had no idea what affect it would have on our lives for the next several months. I hon-

estly thought that mask wearing would be temporary, that we would still be able to carry on with life. I was very wrong.

Thankfully, we have all learned a lot in 6 months, and we continue to keep an open mind. I've lived through 9/11 and I was confident I could survive this virus, if I followed the rules. But what about our kids? This very well may be their "9/11", the event that may define who they are and how they react. Switching to online lessons was the first thing we had to deal with. I found out quickly that my equipment and internet speed were NOT sufficient. But that was easily solved with a small mic and a visit from Spectrum. Using zoom also had it's challenges, but I am grateful for all the help I was given by students (yes, students!) and colleagues. As summer drew near and it was becoming clear that kids would not be able to return to school, students and teachers began to worry about summer camps. So many of my students look forward to summer study, whether at a Suzuki institute or chamber camp. By June we know it was unlikely that it would be safe to attend any of those summer opportunities. As a performer this also meant no orchestra performances, no weddings, no chamber music, no holiday gigs. As a teacher it meant isolation from my students and colleagues. For the students I can only think it was the first time they've felt true loneliness.

At least now we've been given guidelines that offer us a chance to leave the house, attend a small outside gathering with family and friends and perhaps play music for few neighbors. But with school approaching, I again worry what will happen with those kids whose only bright moment of the day is band, orchestra or choir. As a mother of two children who were very involved in band and orchestra, I can easily see the draw to musical ensemble. The friends, the field trips, the awards, the camps, the applause....now on hold. In many cases these music students relied on school music programs to supply instruments, performance opportunities, ensemble playing, mentorship. What can replace that? And it doesn't help that many of these students' families are struggling to keep employment and now have less access to musical opportunities.

There is no replacement for being together and making music. But if there's one thing I've learned through all of this, it is that kids are resilient. They are tech savvy and will find a way through this fog to greet each other on the other side. Connecting musically and emotionally means EVERYTHING right now.

As parents and teachers, let's keep a connection. It may not always be about perfect intonation or great technique, but about keeping the connection between our kids, their teachers and the world.

Marian Goss





FALL 2020 REPERTOIRE LIST

Book 5

Bach Gavotte

Book 4

Vivaldi A minor, mvt 1

Seitz Concerto #5 in D Major, 1st mvt

Book 3

Bach Bourree

Humoresque (vln & cello)

Minuet by Bach (book 1&3)

Martini Gavotte

Bk 2

Boccherini Minuet

Lully Gavotte

Witches Dance

Long Long Ago

Hunters' Chorus (vln & cello)

Musette

Chorus

Bk 1

Happy Farmer

Minuet 3

Andantino

Allegro

May Song

O Come Little Children

Go Tell Aunt Rhody

Song of the Wind

Lightly Row

Twinkles

Congratulations to the following students for performing a book recital this past spring/summer:

Cole Krajewski—book 3 March

Ellie Rowan—book 2 May

Ella Harvey—book 2 July

Anderson Seredick—book 2 July

Cameron Bowen—book 3 August

Ryan Bowen—book 1 August

Henry Qin—book 1 August

Calvin Harvey book 2 Sept

Way to go!!!



LOOK AT OUR STUDENTS!



Above: HMS Chamber Music Intensive

Below: WRSS Students performing at Cardinal Village Retirement Community



Have news or photos to add? Send your news to Marian Goss at gossmarian@yahoo.com

WRSS Reopening Guidelines

WRSS is dedicated to the safe reopening of lessons, select classes, recitals and performances beginning with Face to Face Lessons in July for those who have expressed an interest in returning to our WRSS facilities this summer and fall. To make this as safe as possible, there will be numerous protocols in place in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. We will continue to observe Health Department, CDC and facility guidelines to be sure we are in compliance with all guidelines and protocols.

Basic Protocols:

- Masks worn at all times by faculty, students and families
- Limited number of people in lesson spaces
- Designated entrances and exists at each facility
- Mandatory washing or sanitizing of all hands upon entering facility
- Sanitize again upon entering lessons space
- No one who is ill is permitted to enter the facility
- Sanitizing lesson space between students
- Socially distant space between teacher, student and parent
- Faculty wipe down door handles, tables and other common spaces
- Come in at your lesson time - not before

Gloria Dei Specific Protocols: Mandatory masks for everyone. Enter through main doors at your lesson time - not before. Wash/sanitize hands upon entering. Sanitize upon entering lesson space. Observe socially distant space in hallways and lesson space. Limit the number of family members that attend lesson. After lesson, exit through side door near kitchen and be sure to secure the door (it sticks so pull securely as you leave. All spaces outside the studio space are off limits except the bathroom. Please limit the need to use bathroom by taking care of that before you arrive if possible. If anyone in the family is sick - stay home. You always have online option

Pilgrim Church Specific Protocols: Mandatory masks for everyone. Enter through Second Street doors (where doorbell is). Ring the doorbell at your lesson time - not before. Wash/sanitize hands upon entering. Sanitize upon entering lesson space. Observe socially distant space in hallways and lesson space. Limit the number of family members that attend lesson. After lesson, exit through the door adjacent to parking lot. All spaces outside the studio space are off limits except the bathroom. Please limit the need to use bathroom by taking care of that before you arrive if possible.

If anyone in the family is sick - stay home. You always have the option to have the lesson online