



Center Stage

From the President:



When I look at this issue of Center Stage, I'm amazed and deeply gratified by the many people who make South Shore Conservatory such an exciting, welcoming and creative organization.

Our dedicated donors provide the means to sustain our commitment to quality education, financial assistance and community outreach. Our summer programs would not be possible without the generosity of hundreds of sponsors and volunteers whose contributions come wrapped in exuberant enthusiasm for these wonderful events. The school year brings exciting new classes and programs that are the brainchildren of our talented and creative faculty, whose passion for music and the arts is equaled by their dedication to our students. And our students and their families bring unbridled talent, joy and creative energy into our lives every day.

I want to thank all of you for making the Conservatory a wonderfully diverse and vibrant community, and I look forward to welcoming you for another exciting year of discovery and celebration.

Kathy O. Czerny, President

Save the Date

*Annual Meeting for
 Overseers and Trustees*

*Wednesday, October 19th, 6:30 pm
 South Shore Conservatory
 Ellison Center for the Arts, Duxbury*

PERFORMATHON 2012 ARTWORK CONTEST!

This year, the Conservatory proudly announces the Performathon 2012 Artwork Contest! Students of any age are invited to create an image based on Performathon's "Kids Helping Kids Through Music" motto. Crayons, digital media, markers, colored pencils...go for it! Think bright and musical!

Students of all ages and abilities participate, with their performances sponsored by friends, family, neighbors and classmates.
 Good luck and have fun!

Pick up materials in the office at either campus. Artwork should be submitted to Amy Schomp by October 31, 2011. Drop off your artwork for Amy with the registrars at the Hingham or Duxbury campus office with the student's full name, age, instrument and teacher. The winning artwork will be displayed permanently at both campuses and used in all Performathon 2012 materials including the poster, program and website. Any questions, please contact Amy Schomp at 781-749-7565 or a.schomp@sscmusic.org. Performathon is the Conservatory's annual "Kids Helping Kids through Music" performance marathon to benefit financial aid and scholarship at the Conservatory.



LINDA BURNS JONES SCHOLARSHIP



The Linda Burns Jones Scholarship has been established to provide opportunities for adult students who require financial assistance to pursue a music education at the Conservatory. This endowed scholarship was established by Linda's husband Gerald and her godmother Dorothy O'Connor to honor Linda and recognize her achievements as a flute student of Donald Zook. Linda performs regularly at Performathon, in recitals, and in an ensemble with fellow adult students. She is an enthusiastic advocate for adult music education, as well as a generous volunteer and patron of the Conservatory. Check out the many opportunities for adult students and musicians at www.sscmusic.org and, if you're interested in information about the Linda Burns Jones Scholarship, please call Mary O'Connor at 781-749-7565 ext. 27.

EVENINGS UNDER THE STARS 2011

A huge thank you to our amazing volunteers, SSC staff and of course our performers, sponsors and audience for making EUS 2011 a summer to remember. Planning is already in the work for summer 2012 at the Jane Cheever Carr Amphitheater, stay tuned and see you all there!



1) Julia Esterlin performing in our new Friday Nite Lights series. 2) Lorna Jane Norris and Randy McGee sing in *Memories* – a tribute to 40 years of Broadway. 3) Conductor Nicholas Palmer kicks off *Evenings Under the Stars*' 15th season. 4) Conservatory students, Giselle Hart and Aisling Sheahan volunteer as ushers. 5) Dave Bryan, guest conductor at the *Evenings Under the Stars* Opening Concert. Photos by Jon Durant, Denise Maccaferri and Paul Hoffman.

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THANK YOU to our generous sponsors and donors for making *Evenings Under the Stars* possible!

SUMMER WIND ENSEMBLE ALUMNI CONCERT

Over 40 Summer Wind Ensemble alumni from the 1970s through 2010 joined the 2011 Summer Music Festival to perform three pieces in the final concert on July 15th. Rehearsals were held under the baton of Malcolm "Bill" Rowell, and many hours were spent laughing and reliving musical summer memories.

The 2011 Malcolm W. Rowell, Jr. Scholarship was presented to Kathleen Sharpe, a SMF student for three years. In her essay, Kathleen emphasized the importance of risk taking for a musician to develop confidence and

the ability to lead. The Malcolm W. Rowell, Jr. Scholarship was created to continue the legacy of excellence in music education in the tradition of Bill Rowell. It is awarded annually to a deserving SMF student continuing on in music education or performance in college. Donations to this fund may be sent to The Malcolm W. Rowell, Jr. Scholarship, South Shore Conservatory, One Conservatory Drive, Hingham, MA 02043.



Kathleen Sharpe receives her scholarship from Bill Rowell at the SMF final concert in July.

DUXBURY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2011



Duxbury Music Festival Director Stephen Deitz and Co-Chairs Pam Smith and Marcy Bravo join South Shore Conservatory in thanking the hundreds of people and businesses who made this 6th Anniversary year of the Festival fabulous! The community support for the Festival continues to be amazing from the sponsors and donors and our volunteer army and every growing audience. Thank you and see you next summer!



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Please join us in thanking these donors whose vision and generosity have made the Duxbury Music Festival possible!

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1. DMF Co-chairs Marcy Bravo and Pam Smith are all smiles at the Opening Concert. 2. Our fabulous DMF students take a break to have fun and enjoy each other. 3. Marcy Bravo and head foodies, Marilyn Kaszynski and Wendy Spiziri enjoy an evening of music. 4. A DMF flash mob at Opening of the Bay. 5. Sean Larkin, Mariana Cutwright, Caroline Chien and Deanna Badizadegan close the Winners Concert superbly. Photos by Kathy Dixon.

TRIBUTE TO ERIC ODDLEIFSON

by Michael J. Puzo



In the forty years since its founding, South Shore Conservatory has been blessed by the talents of many - teachers, students, parents, trustees, overseers, staff and

community supporters - all the people who have helped SSC grow from humble beginnings to its place today as New England's largest community school for the arts. Still, as with any institution, there are a very few people who leave a special mark, who make a contribution that only he or she could have made. Eric Oddleifson was such a person.

Eric passed away all too suddenly and all too soon, just about three months ago. While the Conservatory's loss pales beside that of Eric's wife, Janna, and their family, SSC's loss is real and palpable, as Eric brought an energy and a passion to the Conservatory and the arts that was unique to him.

An innovative and successful businessman and investor, Eric Oddleifson was a gifted musician and clarinetist, but that was not the hallmark of his contribution to the Conservatory. No, it was Eric's insatiable curiosity as to why music and the arts have the effect on us that they do, coupled with his

commitment to seeing the arts play their rightful role in human development and basic education.

In 1989, Eric played an essential role in convening a symposium that explored the value and impact of arts education and formed a critical component of the founding of our Duxbury campus, The Ellison Center for the Arts. This was not mere talk or an interesting afternoon; it was passion with a purpose. Eric did not only talk about arts education, he did something about it. At South Shore Conservatory. At Walnut Hill School. In his founding of the National Arts & Learning Collaborative. In his clarinet playing with the Hingham Civic Orchestra and later with Cohasset's Rusty Skippers and the Hingham Woodwind Quintet.

As vocal as Eric was in his commitment to the Conservatory and arts education, he was just as quiet in his financial support of SSC. His gifts were profoundly generous, with leadership gifts to each of our critical capital projects, as well as ongoing support. Yet, Eric's gifts were typically a tribute to another and not to himself. Just this year, when the Conservatory needed a "friend" to underwrite long overdue acoustical improvements to Cox Hall on our Hingham campus, it was Eric Oddleifson who stepped up and offered to be that friend.

Eric was not just a dreamer; he was a doer. At the time of his death, Eric was engaged in an extraordinary undertaking. Believing in the value of the amateur musician, of the person who plays for the love of it, Eric conjured up the concept of a community concert, something free for families to enjoy together. Outdoors and under the cover of the Jane Carr Amphitheatre in Hingham, the concert would draw together almost 100 amateur performers including the Rusty Skippers, the Hingham Woodwind Quintet, the Unicorn Singers and SSC's Adult Jazz/Rock Ensemble. The concert, the food, the beverages and the ice cream were all a gift from Eric, a gift given of a loving and generous spirit and a "let's get it done" attitude.

Eric died on Sunday, June 19th. The concert went forward the next Saturday, as scheduled. Amidst the sense of sadness, there was an air of gratitude and of joy for the most precious gift that Eric had given to the Conservatory and the arts. The gift of himself. His talent and his persistence. His good humor and his unflagging enthusiasm for life, for music and for the sense of transcendence that music can engender. That lives on and for that we are most thankful.

Michael Puzo is a member of the Board of Trustees at South Shore Conservatory. A memorial service honoring Eric Oddleifson took place on Saturday, September 17th, at the Conservatory's Hingham campus.

PURE TREBLE PROGRAM ADDS SECOND CHORUS



The new children's chorus, Pure Treble, concluded its first year with a lively performance in June at the South Shore Arts Festival on the Cohasset Town Green. Due to the great success of Pure Treble, and interest

expressed by older students, Director Kathy McMinn has established a second chorus for students in grades 6 through 8, *Pure Harmony*. Both choruses are directed by Ms. McMinn, and

held their first rehearsals on September 12, at the Ellison Center in Duxbury. Ms. McMinn, a graduate of the Hartt School of Music, is also Music Education Coordinator for the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra where she is responsible for developing the Music Immersion Program, the Federal Furnace Treble Choir and the Plymouth Children's Chorus, three collaborative programs between the Plymouth Public Schools and the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra. In June, she received the 2011 Yale University Distinguished Music Educator Award. She is assisted at SSC by accompanist, Judith Ponte, and Program Manager Candace Kniffen. *Pure Treble* and *Pure Harmony* will present three free concerts at the Ellison Center this year, with the first on November 28, at 7:00 pm.

Conservatory Concert Series

2011-2012 Season

Piano Bash with Strings Attached

October 23, 2011



Hingham, 4 pm

Join Piano Chair Mark Goodman and Strings Chair Phil Rush for an afternoon of amazing repertoire with members of the piano and string faculty.

A Quartet of Trios

November 6, 2011



Duxbury, 4 pm

This SSC interdepartmental recital features chamber music like you've never heard it before. Performers include George Little, Gita Brown, Chris Rathbun, MaeLynn Arnold, Megan Riccio, Rob Reustle and Emily Browder Melville.

Songs of the Season

December 4, 2011



Hingham, 4 pm

Voice, harp and flute showcase the songs that put us in that festive holiday mood. Performers include Donald Zook, Chaerin Kim, Emily Browder Melville and Lorna Jane Norris.

Vanessa Trien

February 5, 2012



Hingham, 4 pm

CCS welcomes back family entertainer Vanessa Trien (no Jumping Monkeys this time), who has become a rock star among the young and young at heart.

Tickets: \$15 adults \$5 children

SSC Jazz/Rock/Pop Faculty Jam

March 4, 2012



Hingham, 4 pm

The Jazz/Rock/Pop faculty is back by popular demand, with their unique blend of traditional, original and newly arranged tunes.

The Sherwoods of Cornell

April 20 & 21, 2012



April 20 - Duxbury, 7 pm

April 21 - Hingham, 7 pm

CCS is proud to welcome back special guests the Sherwoods of Cornell, an cappella group with unusual harmonies and passionate dynamics.

Tickets: \$15 adults \$5 children



South Shore Conservatory
Creating Community Through the Arts

One Conservatory Drive, Hingham, MA 02043 and Ellison Center for the Arts, 64 St. George Street, Duxbury, MA 02331

www.sscmusic.org

New Programs For The Fall

In addition to offering its usual continuum of arts programs, the Conservatory proudly introduced a number of new programs this fall. Check out www.sscmusic.org for a complete listing of our programs.

Festival Audition Workshop

Festival Audition Workshop, October 16, 1:30 in Hingham, helps prepare students for auditioning for District, All State and SEMSBA festivals.

American Songbook

American Songbook provides a supportive environment for adults looking to work on popular music they'd like to feel more comfortable performing.

Yoga for Young Performers

In Yoga for Young Performers, students ages 12 and up explore the mind/body connection, and learn techniques for better breathing and focus.

Jimmy C's Acoustic Jam

All instruments and voice welcome at Jimmy C's Acoustic Jam where performers have fun learning great pop/rock tunes, and try their hand at singing with accompaniment.

Rock Band

In Rock Band members of the Jazz/Rock/Pop Department offer coaching sessions for pre-formed groups or individuals looking for a group.

Girl Song

Riding on the heels of Woman Song success, Jennie Mulqueen offers the same a cappella opportunity for girls 13 and up with Girl Song.



BAYS WELCOMES NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR



BaYS began its fifth season on September 14, welcoming new Music Director and Symphony Conductor, Jonathan Lam. Jonathan, who grew up in Newton, MA, is also Music Director for the Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Nashoba Youth Orchestra. He is a graduate of Tufts University and Southern Illinois University, and studied at the Pierre Monteux School for

Conductors. He has played violin and viola professionally, and was a member of the Greater Boston Youth Symphony as a high school student. In January 2011, Mr. Lam conducted the Western Massachusetts Senior District Orchestra. He has selected Mozart's *Overture to Don Giovanni*, and Bizet's *Petit Suite* for the first BaYS concert on November 9, at the Duxbury Performing Arts Center. Sinfonia Conductor, Nick Tatarka, and Dolce Strings Conductor, Theresa Fritz, as well as Managing Director Candace Kniffen are looking forward to another musically rewarding and fun year for BaYS students and staff.

SUGAR PLUM TEA PARTY: NOVEMBER 26

Young ladies are invited to put on their party dress and join Clara and her Nutcracker friends in the magical Land of Sweets! In partnership with José Mateo Ballet Theatre, the Conservatory hosts a Sugar Plum Tea Party on Saturday, November 26 at the Ellison Center for the Arts. The event is held before the performance of José Mateo Ballet Theatre's production of *The Nutcracker*. The production runs from November 25 through 27 at the Duxbury Performing Arts Center. Call Anne Smith at 781-934-2731, ext. 11 for tickets.



ERIC LAPRADE NAMED SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL MUSIC DIRECTOR



contemporary twists to keep the students musically current.

“What we pride ourselves on is offering students a nurturing environment where they can grow and become creative artists. That will stay the same,” explains Eric. “We will offer expanded program offerings such as composition, theory and leadership, to help develop the complete musician.”

A graduate of Bellingham High School, Eric receive his degree from Eastman School of Music. He is music director of Randolph Community Band, which is open to all musicians on the South Shore.

Eric acknowledges that SMF students have different needs, and that not every young SMF musician is heading to college to study music. He believes that as a program, SMF can respond to individual student needs so that each student gets the most they can out of the experience.

“This program changed my life and had a profound effect on me as a musician and how I work through challenges,” says Eric proudly. “It’s empowering. It’s an emotional, passionate, intense experience. There is nothing else like this program.”

The Conservatory is pleased to announce that Eric LaPrade has been named Summer Music Festival (SMF) Music Director. He will take the place of long time SMF Music Director Malcolm W. Rowell, Jr. who stepped down recently. Eric, a low brass specialist, has been a part of SMF for many years, four years as a student, three years as a coach and three years as the FWE conductor.

Newly named as the Randolph Public School Music Department Chair, Eric is a dynamic and inspirational educator. Among other things, he believes in advancing the musical art form through exploration and performance of both traditional and contemporary music for wind, jazz and chamber ensemble. Eric’s plans for Summer Music Festival are to maintain those components of SMF that have added to its success, plus add a few

JOSÉ MATEO BALLET THEATER AWARDED BEST OF BOSTON BY BOSTON MAGAZINE



Boston magazine recently awarded José Mateo Ballet Theatre (JMBT) Boston’s Best Dance Performance Company. We are very excited to be a satellite location for JMBT as they reach this new level of innovation and artistic excellence. This outstanding dance company is starting their 15th year of offering JMBT Young Dancers Program at our Ellison Center location. Congratulations to José Mateo, his staff and his wonderful dancers!



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE JAM

One of the programs that evolved from our popular Teen Open Mic program was Monster Jam, where teens come together with their individual instruments and are coached to perfect their part of the same rock tune. At the end of the event, all musicians perform together to create a Monster Jam. Tunes featured in past Jams include *Mustang Sally*, *Hey Soul Sister* and *Don't Stop Believing*. The next Monster Jam, called a Jingle Jam, is in Hingham on December 16.



Teens perform *Hey Soul Sister* at Monster Jam in Hingham on August 26.

OPEN MIC



The Conservatory offers musical teens a fun Friday night venue for showcasing their talents. Open Mic nights in Duxbury are November 18, January 20, March 16, and May 18. Open Mic nights in Hingham are October 21, February 10 and April 13.

Save the Date

MARCH 30 AND 31 FOR PERFORMATHON 2012





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Development Associate **Eileen Puzo** shone with the rest of the stars in the Carr Amphitheater this summer. Eileen delighted the July 30 *Evenings Under the Stars* audience, singing Otis Redding's *(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay* with the concert headliner Soul Kitchen. The opportunity to "sing with the band" was a hot item at last year's *Chase Away the Winter Blues* silent auction and Eileen proved herself well worthy of the spotlight!

Save the Date

CHASE AWAY THE WINTER BLUES

Black, White and Blues - January 28th

Please join us for the sixth annual Chase Away the Winter Blues on Saturday, January 28th, in Hingham. Enjoy one of the best winter parties on the South Shore. As the Conservatory's major fund-raising event of the year, Chase Away the Winter Blues provides much-needed funding for Conservatory programs, financial assistance and community partnerships. Interested in joining the Blues committee or making a donation?

Please contact Amy Schomp at 781-749-7565 x 19 or a.schomp@sscmusic.org.

**Chase Away
the Winter
Blues!**