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SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

216 Central Avenue / White Plains, NY, 10606
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Conservatory to Honor Music Therapy Institute, Board President, and Broadway Star at June "Classic"

The Conservatory will honor its Music Therapy Institute (MTI) and its Board President Rodd Berro at the 15th Annual Golf & Tennis Classic on Monday, June 20 at Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, NY. Awards will be presented at a celebratory dinner following a day on the greens and courts. Tony Award winner Laura Benanti will also be honored.

MTI will receive the "Power of Healing" Award, in celebration of its 30th anniversary. Established in 1986, MTI today is the largest provider of community-based music therapy and adapted instruction in the greater Westchester region, serving 2,000 individuals with special needs each year. In 2013, MTI expanded to serve military veterans through the "Healing Our Heroes" program.



MTI celebrates 7th Annual Spring Music Sharing



216 Central Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606
www.musicconservatory.org

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Special thanks to our institutional supporters to date who have contributed \$10,000 or more for the 2015/2016 fiscal year.

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Rodd Berro

"As we celebrate this milestone, we want to thank the families and partnering agencies who continue to trust us to provide quality programs to those we serve," Co-Directors Lisa Sandagata and Tina Brescia said. "We are grateful for the support we receive from the board, executive director, staff and generous funders. The talented and caring music therapists on our team have been integral to our growth and success. We are very proud to be part of a program that has touched the lives of so many individuals."

Berro, who joined the board in 2008, will receive the "Distinguished Leadership" Award. He is president of Pegasus Asset Management, Inc. "Rodd is passionate about the Conservatory, dedicated, creative and generous with his time and resources," Jean Newton said. "I've been incredibly lucky, as Executive Director, to have the privilege of working with such a fabulous board president."

The evening will culminate with Broadway-centric performances by Tony Yazbeck, who received a Tony nomination for his role in *On the Town* last year, and Benanti, who is currently appearing on stage in *She Loves Me* and on screen in *Supergirl*. She will receive the "Achievement in the Arts" Award.



Laura Benanti

Funds raised will help support our Scholarship Program, enabling deserving students to make their musical dreams come true, and for special needs students and military veterans to receive music therapy or adapted instruction.

Notes from the Director...



The Conservatory is thrilled to announce a "Story Behind the Music" project for the 2016-2017 school year that will focus on the rise of the piano and its repertoire in 18th and 19th century Germany/Austria. Supported by a generous grant from the Westchester Community Foundation, through the Rudyard and Emanuella Reimss Fund, this exciting project

will look at the transition from harpsichord to fortepiano to modern piano, and will explore the inter-relationship between composers and piano makers.

"This is our fifth season of helping the Conservatory bring the joy of the world's greatest classical composers to our communities. We are so glad that the Reimss Fund allows us this unique opportunity," said Robin Melén, the foundation's program officer for the arts.

Did you know that Beethoven was famous for insisting that his favorite piano builder, Andreas Streicher of Vienna, create a bigger, stronger piano to accommodate the demands of his music? Did you know that although Bartolomeo Cristofori built the first known piano in Italy, it was Gottfried Silbermann of Freiberg who made the early piano a technical and commercial success? Did you know that J.S. Bach's sons Carl Philipp Emanuel, Wilhelm Friedeman, and Johann Christian first popularized music for the new instrument?



All of this and more will be explored in the year-long project that will include a series of free public concerts, workshops and master classes starting in Fall 2016. We'll be working with Steinway & Sons (which began as Steinweg Pianos in 19th century Germany), and our neighbor Faust Harrison Pianos which carries some of the premier German brands. Stay tuned for further announcements this summer!

Between A Rock and A Jazzy Place

Everyone has their own soundtrack when it comes to contemporary music. Coltrane. Jagger. McCartney. Marsalis. Madonna. Swift. Maybe you enjoy "mixtapes" as eclectic as David Bowie's wardrobe. Whatever you prefer - the Conservatory has you covered.



Jake Robinson

This fall, we're amping up our jazz, rock and pop program, with exciting new classes and playing opportunities. Assistant Dean and jazz drummer Jake Robinson is leading the charge, and you'll be coached along the way by our expert faculty.

Start by learning basic piano, guitar, or bass in a small-group class, or take private lessons on your favorite instrument. Join a big band, rock band or jazz combo. Learn jazz harmony, improvisation, songwriting and arranging. Whether you're a total beginner or an accomplished player, you'll find classes that are challenging, exciting and just right for you.

Not sure if you want to get behind the wheel? No worries. Start with our "Cover to Cover" class where you'll listen to and discuss a classic album each week in a fun, informal environment, no musical experience needed! And, who knows, along the way you may discover aspirations you never knew you had.

A Night to Celebrate

On Friday, March 18, the Conservatory celebrated its board leadership and supporters at a special cocktail reception and concert held at the historic Lotos Club in New York City. The evening's highlight was a masterful performance by pianist Jun Luke Foster, an alumnus of the Conservatory's Honors Program. Mr. Foster, who performed works by Bach, Mozart and Chopin, will receive his master of music degree from The Juilliard School this May, and completed his undergraduate degree at Yale University. Svetlana Gorokhovich, with whom Foster studied for nine years at our school, was among those attending the event. Also in attendance were former Conservatory board member Robert Gellert, a trustee of the Ernst C. Stiefel Foundation which supports our Scholarship Program, and his wife Rosa.



Fuku Foster, Board Chair Robert Heath, Svetlana Gorokhovich, Jun Luke Foster, Executive Director Jean Newton and Matthew Foster



Robert and Rosa Gellert



Board member Tony Smith and sons



"I support MCW's music scholarship program because it facilitates both the students' musical and personal skills, competence and self respect, and enhances the quality of their lives and ours!"

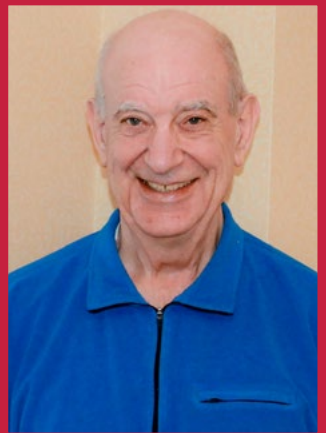
-Jennifer Weiss,
Board of Trustees

Why I Support the "Healing our Heroes" Program

"Helping affected veterans overcome their problems is why the Music Conservatory's Healing Our Heroes program is my number one charity. I've seen for myself the results music therapy achieves - providing a sense of accomplishment, learning new skills, comradery and the soothing quality of music itself.

When giving to a giant national charity, many contributors get lost in the crowd. Here with about 20 veterans in the program and growing, you can, if you wish, see the results of your support personally and gain the satisfaction which goes with knowing you have literally helped turn lives around.

Our veterans thank you, and your support will help us expand the program to even more needy military veterans. Share our excitement in saving lives and returning people to normality!"



-Robert Unger,
The Robert L. & Susan R. Unger Foundation

Conservatory Welcomes New Suzuki Violin Coordinator



"Every child can." This mantra of the Suzuki method describes Suzanne Wagor's teaching style. "I treat each student as an individual, and think of each one as a human being first, not as 'just a kid,'" she said.

Wagor, who recently came on board as the Conservatory's Suzuki Violin Coordinator, received her Suzuki training at the School for Strings under the tutelage of Louise Behrend, her master of music degree at The Juilliard School, and a Performance Diploma in Orchestral Training from the Guildhall School in London. She has served on the faculty of Northern Arizona University, Coe College, The School for Strings, the Special Music School (P.S. 859), The Lucy Moses School, and the New York Youth Symphony Chamber Music Program.

"Suzanne is a fabulous musician and teacher," Executive Director Jean Newton said. "We're thrilled to have her on our faculty."



Conservatory students were thrilled to meet internationally-renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman following his performance at the Westchester County Center on Jan. 30. Pictured behind Mr. Perlman (left to right): cello student Kaseme Leckie, viola student Cen Chen, Executive Director Jean Newton, and adult violin student Harry Bright. Photo/Kate Koenig

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