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SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

216 Central Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606
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LOTS OF LOVE AT THIS YEAR'S GOLF & TENNIS CLASSIC!

Event to honor Darlene Love, Chazz & Gianna Palminteri,
and Our Own Laurence Keiser

On June 26, the Music Conservatory of Westchester will hold a star-studded awards ceremony in which it will honor a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame legend and an Oscar-nominated star of screen and stage. It will also award a longtime member of our board of trustees for his leadership. The 16th Annual Golf & Tennis Classic, which will be held at Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, will present Darlene Love with a Lifetime Achievement Award and name a vocal scholarship in her honor.

Chazz and Gianna Palminteri will receive the Arts Achievement and Community Leadership Award for their extensive charitable work, arts advocacy, and, of course, credits in film and theatre. Conservatory Trustee Laurence Keiser, who joined the board in 2000 and is a partner at the White Plains law firm of Stern Keiser & Panken LLP, will be honored with the Distinguished Leadership Award. The awards will be handed out at a celebratory dinner following a day on the greens and courts.

Following the presentation, a cabaret performance of Tony Award - celebrated artists will light up the night. Two-time Tony nominee Constantine Maroulis will emcee and perform along with Tony nominee Robert Cuccioli, Tony nominee Mary Bridget Davies, and Tony winner Adriane Lenox.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Conservatory's Scholarship Program for low-income students, its Music Therapy Institute which provides music programs for students with special needs, and its Healing Our Heroes program which provides music therapy for returning military veterans. For more information on this event, please visit our website or contact laura@musicced.org.

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The Dean's Desk Spring 2017



This is an exciting time for new programs at the Music Conservatory of Westchester. We are spreading the word about an innovative approach to teaching music lessons, in partnership with the public schools and their music teachers. Band, orchestra, and chorus students, who have not previously been able to take private lessons, will receive weekly shared lessons at the Conservatory.

Groups of either two or three students will be matched by their public school ensemble teacher and recommended for the program, giving students access to high quality instruction in an affordable format. This strengthens both the school music program and the important bond between the Conservatory and music education through Westchester County and beyond.

This summer, we are piloting two new programs: A Suzuki Spectacular, where both new and returning Suzuki violin, cello, and guitar students can be immersed in a week of instruction based on this internationally-recognized teaching philosophy. This summer program is a logical outgrowth of our rapidly-growing Suzuki program at the Conservatory. Also, based on the strength and popularity of the Broadway musical Hamilton, we are introducing instruction in the composition of Hip-Hop music, initially in a week-long summer workshop for students in grades 8-12, then extending into our fall semester with regular classes offered in this growing and increasingly creative musical genre.

We at the Music Conservatory of Westchester are committed to teaching the entire spectrum of music, from traditional classical to the newest contemporary sounds. Join us and see what the excitement is all about!

Douglas Bish

Conservatory Student Composes for the New York Philharmonic

Earlier this winter, Benjamin Araujo, a 14-year-old piano student of Mikhail Zeiger, was a winner in the New York Philharmonic's *Very Young Composer's* competition, and had his original piece "A Postcard from New York City" performed by members of the Philharmonic at David Geffen Hall. The performance was part of the *Composer's Bridge* program which enables students from diverse backgrounds to compose music to be performed by Philharmonic musicians.



The Conservatory takes pride in Benjamin's accomplishments and congratulates him on this outstanding achievement! View the performance of Benjamin's piece on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/user/musicconservatory).

Faculty in Focus: Dario Chiazzolino

Dario Chiazzolino, who joined our faculty in September, has gained an international reputation as a jazz guitarist, composer and arranger. A native of Italy, he has performed in jazz festivals across Europe, and appeared with top European and American jazz artists and played at many festivals around the world. A Gibson Guitar artist, Dario has recorded 20 albums.



He earned a bachelor degree from Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Turin, and a master's from Università della Musica in Rome. As an educator, he has taught extensively at music schools and summer programs in Turin, Vercelli, Aosta, and Collegno, Italy.

"Dario is internationally heralded as one of the best jazz guitarists of his generation," Doug Bish, dean of students and faculty, said. "With the expansion and renewed focus on our Jazz/Rock/Pop program, we are thrilled to have Dario join our faculty."

Trumpet Student Receives the James Ranti Scholarship



Andrew Paucar stands under a picture of James Ranti.

Trumpet teacher James Ranti was a fixture at the Conservatory from September 2002 until his passing this past December. At a memorial service held in January, many former students recounted the dedication and inspiration he gave to countless students over a lifetime of teaching.

To celebrate this legacy, we have named a scholarship in his honor, and young trumpet student Andrew Paucar has been named the recipient.

Andrew is studying with faculty member David Hurd, who stepped in to take over Mr. Ranti's studio. Andrew, a fifth grader, also takes Elementary Theory, and plays in the Latin Jazz band with his older brother Pablo, a saxophone student. Andrew and his brother are among more than 80 dedicated students who receive tuition assistance through the Conservatory's Scholarship Program.



Juliet Gopoian and husband, James Ranti, pose at a Conservatory event.

"We're delighted and so very happy," Juliet Gopoian, Ranti's wife of 22 years said. "This was Jim's love, he spent his whole life teaching."

2017 MASTER CLASSES



This winter, talented Conservatory students participated in master classes with internationally acclaimed artists. On Feb 11, Paul Ostrovsky, Professor of Piano at Purchase College Conservatory of Music, coached students on the interpretation of

classical repertoire on modern piano. On March 18, Audrey Axinn, faculty member at The Juilliard School, introduced students to performing on the fortepiano, bringing to the Conservatory her replica of a late 18th century Viennese instrument.



On March 11, jazz legend Jon Faddis, Professor of Trumpet at Purchase Conservatory, presented a master class for jazz students on "What It Takes to Become A Great Musician." Support for these master classes was provided by the Westchester Community Foundations' Rudyard & Emanuella Reimss Fund, and the SUNY Purchase Partner School Program.

What's New at MTI?

Thanks to a grant from Arts Westchester, the Conservatory's Music Therapy Institute is now partnering with the Marion and George Ames Early Childhood Learning Center in Yonkers, providing weekly music therapy for preschool children in both inclusion and self-contained classrooms. The Ames Center joins the roster of 30 partner organizations where MTI provides outreach programs, serving over 2,000 children and adults.



We are especially pleased to announce that MTI recently received a generous donation in memory of Alan Cesnavicius to support stress relieving music therapy and music instruction programs for young adults. Additionally, a first-time grant from the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism will enable MTI to offer a new one-week summer band program for teens on the autism spectrum, taking place from June 26 to 30.

Why I Donate to the Conservatory

"Every year, I donate to the Music Conservatory of Westchester for one basic reason: music is an inclusive unifier of all people."



Regardless of one's background, music creates a connected community, brought together by beautiful sights and sounds. As I near 10 years in my relationship with MCW, I know my donation will always be used to progress the MCW mission and to share the joy of music with all."

Catherine Spencer

Conservatory Parent