



# *connections*

FALL 2013 • SPECIAL REPORT



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# a message from the president and board chair

## Dear Friends

At The Music School of Delaware, we foster connections that change people's lives through music. We connect:

- Eager learners with expert instructors
- Music students of all ages and levels through ensembles and classes
- Outstanding performers with engaged audiences
- Music lovers with arts supporters throughout the region through live performances ranging from rock to classical
- Business communities and artistic communities through partnerships

These connections spring from our commitment to deliver "more music, for more people, in more places." In this report, we share an overview of the school's impact over the past year for people in four states, through our network of two branches, five satellites, and twelve outreach locations throughout Delaware.

Last year alone, the school logged 14,850 hours of private instruction, in 30 instruments and voice, delivered by over 90 of the finest music instructors. We presented nearly 100 public performances in locations around the region, most free of charge. Generous donors helped the school reach record-high annual giving with donations totaling over \$232,500.

Many individual, business, corporate, foundation and government funders helped the Music School fulfill its mission to deliver "music excellence for everyone." In the year ahead, we plan to increase communications with our friends. It is important that families, patrons, and supporters know about the school's goals, programs and financial structure. We hope that this inspires them and others to make considered decisions to become part of the Music School's legacy in serving this region—now, and well into the future.

Please join us throughout the year to celebrate life through music. We are grateful for our many loyal families and supporters, and look forward to a future of increased connections through music.

Sincerely,

Kate M. Ransom

  
president & CEO

Marie M. Stewart

  
board chair



*our mission is music excellence for everyone*

*It is the mission of The Music School of Delaware to provide excellence in music education, training and experiences for people of all ages and levels of ability.*



The Early Childhood Department hosted a Family Drum Circle February 2013, in Wilmington, bringing together music school families, community members and music school faculty. Enjoying the event were **John, Karen, Julian and Justin Johnson**.



Violin instructor **Michelle Peters** offers a violin lesson during the Milford Holiday Stroll December 2012. During the event, visitors could enjoy an instrument petting zoo.



The Music School partnered with the Mispillion Art League to offer Sight & Sound Camp in August 2012. Students enjoyed daily lessons in painting and drawing, violin and piano. Here, campers **Jacob Smith** and **Dev Patel** practice in the piano studio.

*connecting expert faculty and eager learners*



**Steve Pepper** and **Paul McGhee** jam together at **JAM IT! - Bluegrass & Old Time Acoustic Sessions**. These monthly drop in jam sessions brought together people of all ages and levels with a range of instruments from guitars to stand up bass, banjos and fiddles.



Throughout the year, members of the **Delaware Youth Symphony Orchestra**, directed by **Simeone Tartaglione**, received instruction and mentoring from the best professionals in the country. In March 2013, the violin sectional was led by Music School alumna **Barbara Govatos**, a first violinist in the Philadelphia Orchestra and artistic director of the Delaware Chamber Music Festival.



The Cello Choir (**Rachel Rice, Alexander Tam, Isaac Gaston, Grace Mason, Daniel Park and Sandra Chen**), directed by **Jennifer Crowell Stomberg**, took over World Cafe Live in Wilmington in June 2013.



**Genevieve Hahn**, piccolo, **Caroline Shaffer**, flute, and **Courtney Swafford**, oboe, rehearse with the Delaware Youth Symphony Orchestra, directed by **Simeone Tartaglione**.



The school's **Brandywine Fiddlers** won First Prize, Junior Division Group & Grand Prize Overall at the American String Teacher's Association Eclectic String Festival 2013 in Providence, RI. Violinists **Sarah Gano** and **Saakshi Naville** are pictured here, performing in December 2012. The group is directed by **Shelley Beard Schleigh**.

throughout the state and the region



Violin and viola instructor **Patti McCallum** guides campers through a violin lesson during the 2012 Sight & Sound Camp held in August in partnership with the Mispillion Art League in Milford.



The Milford Branch's Wild Rumpus in September 2012 let participants like **Seth Wilcox** take up instruments and "let the wild rumpus roar!", based on the popular children's book *Where the Wild Things Are*.



Members of the **First State Youth Orchestra**, directed by **Eliezer Gutman**, rehearse Mondays at Christ Episcopal Church in Dover, one of the school's five satellite locations.



Suzuki Academy violin student **Ramya Muthukrishnan** enjoyed a Chinese painting workshop at the Cultural Crossroads program "Music & Culture of Eastern Asia" in April 2013.



**Mike O'Rangers** performed with other students of The Studio: Rock, Jazz & Folk program on the Upstairs Live stage at World Cafe Live in Wilmington in June 2013.

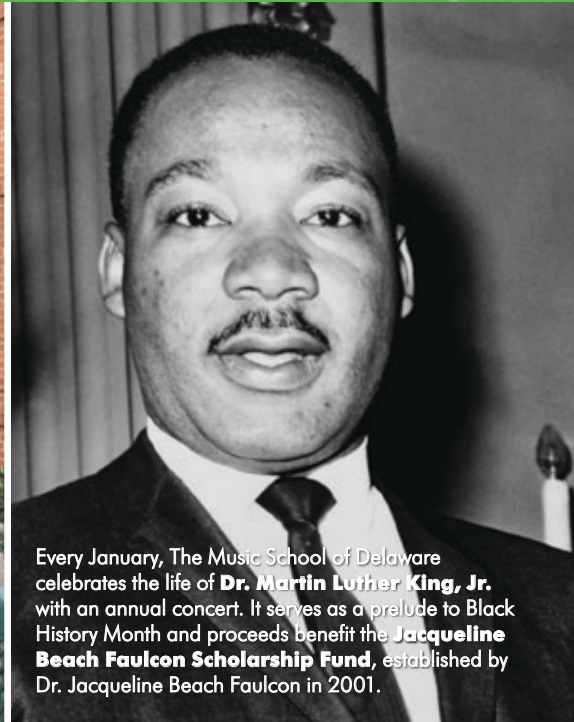


Students from the **Hua Xia Chinese School Cherry Hill Branch** performed as part of the Cultural Crossroads program "Music & Culture of Eastern Asia" April 2013.

*celebrating the diversity of our communities*



The monthly **JAM IT! – Bluegrass & Old Time Acoustic Sessions** brought together all abilities, instruments and ages to perform together at each drop in jam. This jam took place September 2012 in the Wilmington Branch courtyard.



Every January, The Music School of Delaware celebrates the life of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** with an annual concert. It serves as a prelude to Black History Month and proceeds benefit the **Jacqueline Beach Falcon Scholarship Fund**, established by Dr. Jacqueline Beach Falcon in 2001.



The Cultural Crossroads "Sounds of the '60s" program in February 2013 featured a jazz quintet with saxophone instructor **Vince Lardear** styled as a tribute to Brazilian musician Antonio Carlos Jobim, a founder of bossa nova style.



The **Delaware Women's Chorus**, directed by **Joanne Ward**, and the **University of Delaware Women's Choir**, directed by **Duane Cottrell**, performed a joint concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington in April 2013.



**David Kim**, violinist and concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra, provides instruction to **Chris Dahlke**, a student of **Shelley Beard Schleigh**, during a Master Class April 2013.

*and increasing our impact through strong partnerships*



Members of the **Delaware Youth Symphony Orchestra**, conducted by **Simeone Tartaglione**, played at St. Anthony's Italian Festival in Wilmington in June 2013.



Music Therapist **Joseph Reilly** sings with the **Wise Guys** at the 35th annual Hand-in-Hand Festival at St. Joseph's University Hagan Arena in Philadelphia. The music therapy program works to assist those with physical, mental and developmental disabilities, including Alzheimer's and autism.



The Alumni Concert Series in April 2013 featured Shining Stars—students who recently graduated from the Music School, including **Jesse Newby**, tenor and former student of **Dr. Michael Larkin**. Jesse is now at the University of Delaware.



President & CEO Kate Ransom is pictured at the Shining Stars concert with young alumni **Maria Scott**, piano, **Jennifer Campbell**, piano, and **Rachel Maclary**, flute. Ms. Scott is a former student of **Liliya Maslov**. Ms. Campbell is a former student of **David Brown** and Ms. Maclary is a former student of **Dr. Lynne Cooksey**.

# showcasing the talents of our students, alumni' and faculty



Alumnus **Wilson Somers**, piano, and company performed the music of Ellington and Brubeck in addition to original pieces during the February 2013 alumni concert.



Two of the Music School's highly-respected faculty artists, **Lotus Cheng**, piano, and **Dr. Lynne Cooksey**, flute, celebrated 30 years of teaching at the Music School with a special performance in April 2013, surrounded by their students, former students, colleagues and the Music School community.



The Alumni Concert Series debuted with alumnus **Brian Sowards**, guitar, voice, violin. He was joined by Michael Rondstadt for their Wilmington Indie Artist EP Release Party following their concert.





In May 2013, the Milford branch hosted Music Masters: Faculty & Friends, which included faculty members **Christopher Braddock**, guitar, and **Melinda Bowman**, flute.



On June 1, 2013, The Music School of Delaware held *Reaching for the Stars* at The Grand Opera House in Wilmington. A concert on the main stage featured the winners of the school's Delaware Concerto Competition for Young Musicians. Backed by the school's **Festival Orchestra**, under the direction of **Simeone Tartaglione**, were soloists (left to right) **Marius Sander**, saxophone and student of **Terry Stewart**; **Gray Scott**, piano and a student of **Dr. Oleg Maslov**; and **David Clarke**, violin and a student of **Shelley Beard Schleigh**.

*on stages big and small throughout the state*



Suzuki Academy Cello students performed at the Delaware Shakespeare Festival in July. Pictured are: (front row, left to right) **Daniel Lee**, **Meera Ratnagiri**, **Joseph Skidmore**; (back row) **Daniel Park**, **Maxine Chou** and **Erica Clarke**.



**Nathan Ames** (faculty), guitar; **Layne Thompson-Payne** (director), vocals and piano; **Erik Jackson** (guest), guitar; **Randy McClure** (guest), guitar; **Aaron Taylor** (student), guitar; **Jack Kelly** (student), flute; and **Marius Sander** (student), violin, performed a seasonal selection at Avenue UMC in Milford for a concert titled 'Tis a Winter's Evening.



**Igor Resnianski**, guest pianist and Steinway artist performed select pieces on our Steinway D grand piano, acquired with the generosity of the Flint family.

## A Celebration of Past Board Members

June 1, 2013, The Music School of Delaware celebrated the legacy of leadership of more than 100 former board members at The Grand Opera House in Wilmington. Hosted by our current board members, the event featured a performance in the baby grand by Igor Resnianski, guest pianist and Steinway artist. He played select pieces on the school's new Steinway D grand piano, acquired with the generosity of the Flint family.

The evening continued with a concert on The Grand Opera House's main stage and featured the talents of this year's Delaware Concerto Competition for Young Musicians. Soloists with our Festival Orchestra, conducted by Simeone Tartaglione, included David Clarke, *violin*, Gray Scott, *piano* and Marius Sander, *saxophone*.

*standing on the shoulders of our predecessors*



**Johanne Strahan**, a former board chair, joins **Leslie Taylor** and **Rudolph A. Carboni**, a former board member.



**Susan Booker**, a former board chair, and **Pete Booker**, president of Delmarva Broadcasting Company, are also parents of music school alumni.



**Michele Rossi**, former board chair with **Patrick Cornwall**.



**Dr. Jacqueline Beach Faulcon**, faculty member and **Dr. Clarence Faulcon**.



Current board members **Veronica M. Eid** and **Chris Johnson**, with wife **Sarah**.



**Stephen Mazur**, current board member, and **Eric Benson** of **Jacobs Music Company**, a series sponsor.

## Music School Board Members—Current and Former

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*we can reach for the stars!*

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Mr. Samuel Cannon	1925	Mrs. Veronica M. Eid	2010	Dr. Edward G. Jefferson	1969	Mr. William Prickett	1929
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*Year given is the year the individual joined the Board of Directors. We regret any error or omission and welcome your corrections at (302) 762-1132 x11.*

## building on a rich history of delivering music excellence



Founded in 1924, The Music School of Delaware is the oldest, largest, and only nationally-accredited community music school in Delaware. It provides music training and education to a multi-cultural, economically diverse enrollment of 2,500 through two main branches, five satellites and twelve outreach sites.

The school is home to the region's only Suzuki Academy, as well as the Delaware Youth Symphony Orchestra, Wilmington Community Orchestra, Delaware Children's Chorus and Delaware Women's Chorus.

The Music School received the 2010 Governor's Award for the Arts.

Open to all, the school administers a financial assistance program to ensure music excellence is available for everyone.

## We Honor our Generous Supporters

The greatest recognition of your support lies in the accomplishments of our wonderful students. Our sincere thanks go to the individuals listed on the following pages. Donors and sponsors listed are recognized here for their total contribution level in 2012-2013 (through June 30, 2013). We have made every effort to be as accurate as possible in this report. If an error comes to your attention, please contact our Development Office at (302) 762-1132 x11.

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*thanks to the generosity of our contributors*

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In May 2013, the Milford branch hosted Music Masters, Faculty & Friends which included a performance by **Stefan Xhori**, violin, accompanied by **Donna Beech** and **Liliya Maslov**, piano.

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President & CEO **Kate Ransom**, joined by dean **Cheri Astolfi** and board chair **Marie Stewart**, stands with the 2013 Merit Scholarship Winners in May 2013. The winners were: (left to right) **Chloe Braynen**, **David Clarke**, **Gray Scott**, **Chris Dahlke**, **Nathan Lowman**, **Victor Li** and **Sophie Xue**.

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Suzuki Academy violin students, (left to right) **Emma Dax, Raphael Lopez, Lily Tran, Julianna Castillo, Caleb Cavazos, Abby Rzcuidlo, Nicolette Sullivan and Karina Stomberg** perform at World Cafe Live in Wilmington in June 2013.

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*Filmmaker Chris Stout (violin alumnus) with wife Elizabeth and daughter Aria.*

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