



Music Notes

a newsletter from the Cady School of Music

Vol. 14 January 2017



Featured Student Achievement: Sofia Fasullo

Congratulations to Sofia Fasullo! She was a member of the All-State Orchestra this year.

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### Upcoming Event at the Cady School:

#### **Winter Recital**

Sunday 1/29 at 2:00PM

Hubbard Interfaith Sanctuary

\*\*Sign up with your teacher by 1/15

\*\*Arrange to play with an accompanist (if applicable) as soon as possible.

*All events will be displayed on the calendar on our website*

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Snowy weather?

The Cady School is listed in the business section on the School Closings Network. Stay tuned to your favorite TV channel, radio station, or website for snow day information.



From the Director

Dear Families and Students,

Happy New Year!

I hope this finds you all well rested, and rejuvenated for all that 2017 has to bring... which will hopefully be lots of wonderful things for everyone.

Did you know that the Cady School of Music is on Facebook? If you have a profile, please like our page as we post fun music things, our closings, AND monthly promotions that can SAVE you money!

Thank you all for making 2016 a great year for the studio, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome in 2017 with all of you as well!

Bryan Cady
Director



Happy Birthday!

Molly O'Toole - 1/2 Chris Russell - 1/12
Amy Beaudin - 1/3 Sean O'Neil - 1/22
Ian Bellisario - 1/11

In the spotlight...

This area of the newsletter highlights an area of a special interest. In this issue, piano faculty member Irene Kim provides:

Tips for working with an accompanist

Your teacher has just told you that you'll be playing your solo with an accompanist. Congratulations! Accompaniment adds an extra dimension to your solo: You'll hear all the harmonic progressions, melodic lines, and counterpoint the composer intended to support your solo.

With accompaniment, you've suddenly gone from being a single musician to being part of a team. Your accompanist is your band, your orchestra, your rhythm section—a partner who provides you with emotional support and energy on the recital stage or at NYSSMA.

Any successful partnership requires solid teamwork. Your accompanist isn't just a karaoke machine or backing track. He or she is a musician who will be putting in hours of practice, both alone in the practice room as well as with you in rehearsals, so that you'll shine in your performance. You can do a lot to ensure your team's success (these are all easy!):

Provide the sheet music as early as you can. Like you, your accompanist needs time to learn the music. Aim for at least a month before your first rehearsal. As soon as you can, let your accompanist know what you're playing—he or she may be able to find sheet music online. Be specific: J.S. Bach, Sonata #2 in d minor, BWV 602 – “Bach d minor” may pull up a dozen different pieces. Hum a few bars, at least!

Which movement(s) are you playing? Don't assume that your accompanist knows you're playing the entire sonata, or just the first

movement because “That's what everyone plays” or “That's what's in the NYSSMA manual” (your accompanist doesn't own a copy of the manual).

Are you cutting anything? If you're omitting two pages of orchestral intro or a 32-measure break in your concerto, tell your accompanist before he or she devotes dozens of hours to learning it.

What is your tempo (tempi)? Even if the metronome marking is noted, you may want to take it slower. Or faster. Are there areas of *rallentando*, *rubato*, *accelerando*, *stretto*, *a piacere*—places where you're speeding up or slowing down? These are not always marked in the piano accompaniment.

When and where is the performance? Provide your NYSSMA date and time as soon as you can.

When and where do you want to rehearse? If you can, provide concrete days and times when you will be available. Your accompanist has to plan around other obligations (e.g., work, family, other soloists).

Before rehearsing, **listen to recordings of your solo with accompaniment.** This gives you a better idea of the entire piece. Play along with a recording to hear how the parts fit together.

Have your teacher listen to your ensemble. Your teacher is a great coach who can troubleshoot any issues, like balance, or coordination of tricky passages.

Nail down the accompanying fee and payment schedule. Your accompanist loves making music, but has bills to pay!

Playing with an accompanist is a rewarding, fulfilling experience. Plus, it's so much more fun. Treat your accompanist the way you'd like to be treated, and you'll have a wonderful time.

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