

Dates to Remember

March 16-20	Faculty Appreciation Week
March 27	Performance Classes Youth Program Sommer Center
March 29	Music in the Gallery <i>A Silk Road Journey</i> 4:00 pm OSilas Gallery
April 5-12	Conservatory Closed Spring Break
April 29-30	Year-End Recitals Youth Program Sommer Center
May 3	Chamber Music Festival 2009 <i>McDuffie, Dutton, & Kirshbaum Trio</i> 4:00 pm Sommer Center
May 7	Chamber Music Festival 2009 <i>Guitar Master Class with Ben Verdery</i> 7:00 pm Sommer Center
May 8	Chamber Music Festival 2009 <i>Star Showcase Concert</i> 7:00 pm Sommer Center
May 9	Chamber Music Festival 2009 <i>Star Showcase Concert</i> 7:30 pm Sommer Center

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Stephen Sas

Position at the Conservatory: Double bass faculty

Birthplace: New York City

Current Residence: Fleetwood, NY

How long have you been at the Conservatory?
This is my third year.

At what age did you begin playing your instrument and why?
I began playing the bass at age 12 at my public school in the Bronx. Playing an instrument was mandatory for every student at the school.

Where do you perform when you are not teaching at the Conservatory? I freelance around the New York City area and beyond, with groups like the New York Philharmonic, New York City Ballet, and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

What do you find most challenging about your job?
To instill the same love of classical music and the bass that I have.

What do you think makes the Conservatory so unique?
It is a beautiful setting for a fabulous collection of highly qualified teachers.

What is your favorite type of music to play? To listen to?
My favorite type of music to play is that in which the bass has very vital role (which is of course most music). I love to listen to any sort of music where the artist's commitment and sincerity shines through.

Who is your favorite composer? It would be impossible to choose. Every day brings something new.



A Newsletter for the Families and Friends of Concordia Conservatory

March 2009

Concordia Conservatory Mission Statement

The Conservatory's philosophy and mission is to inspire, instruct, and enrich lives through music for all people regardless of age, ability, ethnic origin, or financial situation and to serve as a music education resource for southern Westchester County. Financial aid and active community outreach partnerships support access for all.



2008/09 Advisory Board

Beth Caruso
Pippa Colvin
Brigitte Conkling
Kathleen Cordsen
Tammy Cushman
Lisa Dawson
John Doyle
Liz Doyle
Annette Espada
Judy Fix
Tom Hendrick
Lisa Hoak
Mauricio Morato
Nicola Mullen
Joseph Philips
Ellen Politi
Lisa Sargent
Lisa Sarraga-Michalski
Kathleen Suss

Kathleen Suss, Director
Mary Beth Stewart, Administrator
Sallianne McClelland, Administrator

171 White Plains Road
Bronxville, NY 10708
914.395.4507
www.concordiaconservatory.org

From the Director

I recently read in an article in *Symphony*, a magazine of the League of American Orchestras and remembered this quote, "Don't waste a good recession." They were making the point that in the difficult times we often make great core decisions about our organizations and companies—yes, even our music schools. We come back to the center. We get to the core of who we are. The article went on to articulate some of the new visions for the American orchestras from a recent task force report. These "visions" resonated deeply with me and are at the heart of who we are at Concordia Conservatory. It is our goal to "practice" them every day in the life of our music school:

- See community engagement as the core mission.
- Be responsible first to the community and move from a delivery system to a service culture.
- Understand it's not always just about the music.
- Value and invest in personal and professional growth.
- Embrace a philosophy of partnership and mutual responsibility
- Invest in research and development.
- Share risks and rewards.
- Inspire people to make music.

Concordia Conservatory will continue to embrace these visions and make the best of this recession.

All the best,
Kathleen Suss

From Bach to Jazz to Dinner—All in One Night Benefit!

Concordia Conservatory's Annual Benefit Gala on January 24 was a smashing success, both musically and financially! Performing to a sold-out audience, Grammy Award winning artist and local resident Lawrence Dutton of the Emerson String Quartet and world-renowned jazz bassist John Patitucci were joined by Concordia Conservatory faculty violinists Jee Sun Lee and Vivienne Kim, harpsichordist Marija Ilic, and cellist Annette Espada, along with guest artists violinist Elizabeth Lim-Dutton, saxophonist John Ellis, percussionist Marcus Gilmore, violists Andy Lin Wei-Lang and Chijui Ray Lee, and cellist Julia Lichten.



The program included Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, Dvorak's String Quintet in G major, and jazz selections with the John Patitucci Trio.

The concert was followed by a Gala Benefit Dinner-Dance "Celebrating Concordia Conservatory," at Wykagyl Country Club which was also the official launch of the Conservatory's Capital Campaign. Over \$20,000 was raised at the benefit evening.

Faculty Success on January 29

A record number of students and their families attended the Faculty Chamber Music Soirée on January 29 to kick off the official Chamber music season at the Conservatory. It was a wonderful evening of music with chamber music performances by Kathryn Lockwood, viola; Yousif Sheronick, percussion; Jee Sun Lee, violin; Stephanie Ho, piano; Yana Goichman, violin; Annette Espada, cello; Melissa Alexander, piano; Sheri Hammerstrom, soprano; Judy Woo, piano; Ken Dybisz, oboe; Keith Kreindler, bassoon; and Saar Ahuvia, piano.


**Concordia
Conservatory**
171 White Plains Road
Bronxville, NY 10708

Concordia Conservatory Chamber Music Festival 2009

Sunday, May 3 at 4pm
Hoch Chamber Music Series
McDuffie, Dutton, Kirshbaum Trio

ROBERT McDUFFIE, *violin*
 LAWRENCE DUTTON, *viola*
 RALPH KIRSHBAUM, *cello*

Schubert: *String Trio in B-flat major "Triosatz"*

Ravel: *Duo for Violin and Viola*

Beethoven: *Eye-glass Duo in E-flat major for Viola and Cello*

Beethoven: *String Trio in G major Op. 1, No. 2*

Thursday, May 7 at 7pm
Guitar Master Class with Ben Verdery

Ben Verdery is distinguished as "one of the classical guitar world's most foremost personalities." He has performed around the world, recorded with a diverse list of artists, and has released 15 albums. He is a prolific composer, outstanding performer, and renowned teacher.

Friday, May 8 at 7:30pm
Saturday, May 9 at 7:30pm
Star Showcase Concerts

The festival's main event will be the Star Showcase Concerts featuring youth and adult chamber ensembles.

All performances will be held at the Sommer Center for Worship and the Performing Arts.

Tickets for Star Showcase Concerts and Master classes are \$10 adult and \$5 senior/child. Tickets for the Hoch Chamber Music Concert are \$25 adult and \$12.50 senior/child. For ticket information, please call the Conservatory office at 914-395-4507 or purchase online at www.concordiaconservatory.org.



The Capital Campaign Inaugurate

Celebrating Concordia Conservatory is the theme of our first-ever Capital Campaign. The Conservatory's ambitious goal of \$1 million will help ensure a lasting legacy for its current and future community. To date, we have raised \$650,000 towards our goal with lead gifts

from our community, which, in these trying economic times, is a tribute, not only to the Conservatory, but also to our generous patrons.

The campaign is composed of five parts: Scholarship and Outreach Programs, Community Musical, Stein Hall Renovation, Chamber Music Series, and Unrestricted Funds. Concordia Conservatory's \$1 million goal can only be achieved with the participation of all students, families, friends, and music lovers. Gifts of every amount will be gratefully accepted; pledges to the capital campaign and naming opportunities can be paid over a period of one to five years. We appreciate your willingness to consider future funding opportunities at the Conservatory. Your interest and service to our music community will help. *Please look for the Celebrating Concordia Conservatory Campaign mailing within the next few weeks.*



The Missing Dingus Found In A Musical Scavenger Hunt!

Concordia Conservatory presented its final concert of the Musical Adventures for Children concert series, "The Musical Scavenger Hunt", with composer and guitarist Rami Vamos, pianist Tom Cuffari, Conservatory Director Kathleen Suss, and Concordia Conservatory student performers. The story centered on ace detective Belinda Pinocchio who is trying to solve the case of the missing Dingus. Belinda meets many entertaining characters and musicians in the process and through the collaborative musical scavenger hunt, she cracks the case and finds the missing Dingus. The student performers, who ranged in age from 7 to 16 were: violinist Rebecca Fix of Eastchester; soprano Hannah Geiling of Bronxville; Christopher Landy, french horn, of Bronxville; guitarist Nicholas Lombardi of Tuckahoe; pianist Julia Lopez of Mount Vernon; baritone Michael Mastrioianni of Pelham; soprano Rose McClelland of Eastchester; cellist Nicholas Politi of Scarsdale; soprano Heather Rubin of White Plains; and pianist Katie Suss of Tuckahoe. In the final curtain call, cast and audience joined the Dingus-hopping on one foot and mooing like a cow! It was a fitting finale to a wonderful series. Join us next year!

Concordia Conservatory
Stein Hall Renovation Project

What is needed?

- Expanded Parking/ New Traffic Pattern
- ADA accessibility
- New Restrooms
- Faculty Lounge

Fundraising Goal:
 \$450,000

Architects:
 Peter Gisolfi & Associates

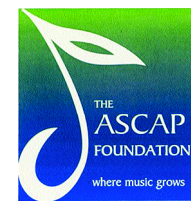
What's it all about?

- Music
- Reputation
- Community
- Growth
- Accessibility
- Creativity
- Dreams
- Excellence
- Naming Opportunities

Celebrate Faculty Appreciation Week March 16-21

Calling all students and parents!

Please join us in recognizing our esteemed Conservatory faculty the week of March 16-21 for our annual faculty appreciation week. This is a wonderful opportunity for private instruction and group students to show their teacher how much they enjoy their lessons and music each week. Just a small act of kindness in word or deed is all it takes!



The ASCAP Foundation For 2010

Concordia Conservatory was thrilled once again to be the recipient of a grant entitled, *The Art of Song: A Romantic Chamber Music Story* to be composed by Matt Van Brink for the Student Chamber Concert Series in 2010. Because of the ASCAP Foundation's continued support, the number of participants performing new music increases each year. Concordia Conservatory is committed to the growth of the chamber music program and endeavors to make this opportunity available to all students.

Annual Play-a-thon & Faculty-on-Parade

Concordia Conservatory hosted its **Annual Play-a-thon and Faculty-on-Parade** on Friday, March 13 and Saturday March 14 in the Sommer Center Chapel.

Students played for 5 or 10 minute increments and gathered sponsors for their "playing time". Teachers contributed to our scholarship and music outreach programs with performances throughout the two days. This gave our students a chance to get involved with our fundraising efforts and make a difference.

This year, each faculty member presented and encouraged their studio to join them at this fun and special event. We thank all of the parent volunteers from each studio. Their time made the two days a great success! This was a wonderful day of music for the entire family.

Christine Cahaney Performs in NYC

Congratulations to Christine Cahaney for a fine performance at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City, at the Winner's Concert of the National Music Certificate Program on February 8. Christine is a student of Marija Ilic. She performed Minute Waltz Op. 64 No.1 by Frederic Chopin.

Summer at Concordia

Catalog now available on www.concordiaconservatory.org

Concordia Conservatory encourages students ages 3 to 18 years old to enhance their musical interests through *Musical Adventures*, *Musical Theatre Workshop*, *Piano*, *Guitar Jam*, *Chamber Music*, *Vocal Arts*, and the *Conservatory Summer Academy Camps*. We also offer *Conga!* early childhood music classes for ages 11 months to 3 years and private instruction for all ages from June 29-August 7.



Music In the Gallery: From India to Egypt—A Silk Road Journey



Sunday, March 29
4pm in the OSilas Gallery at Concordia College
Yousif Sheronick, percussion
Steve Gorn, Bansuri flutes, clarinet

Music moves with caravans. A song, a rhythm, a musical instrument pass along the Silk Road between Asia and the Mediterranean. Join Steve Gorn and Conservatory faculty Yousif Sheronick and hear how they enliven traditional melodies and rhythms with their distinctive voice of the culture. This unique performance is being held in conjunction with the John Isaac: Kashmir Photograph Exhibition, which is on display until April 5. Tickets can be purchased by calling 395-4507 or online at www.concordiaconservatory.org. Tickets are \$20 adults and \$10 children/seniors.