

from the
**Director's
 Chair**

Strategic planning. Images of program, administrative and fiscal examination, community and focus group meetings, hard work and challenging choices are present within those words. This was the path the Crescendo Academy of Music Board of Directors undertook during the past five months with the help of Pamela Gallina of LIA Consulting, LLA. Every aspect of Crescendo was examined and the results will better position us for collaborations, strategic alliances, financial management and program growth. Planning was supported by generous grants from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. The resulting document is available for you to read in the Crescendo office.



Thank you to everyone that assisted us in this process.

Musically yours,

Audrey

***Eaton Corporation Grant Supports
 Music Together® Program Development***



Eaton Corporation recently awarded Crescendo a grant to support the development of our *Music Together* program. This money will be used to help cover the

costs of training instructors, administrative support, and marketing. Their support will allow Crescendo to increase the number of classes we offer and bring the joy of making music to even more families in the Kalamazoo/Portage area.

The funds will also be used towards scholarships for families to participate in the classes, helping to ensure that no families are turned away from the opportunity to make music a significant early childhood experience for their children.

The six-week summer session of *Music Together* begins the week of June 20th. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings at 5 and 6pm at Crescendo and Friday mornings at 10 am at Excel Dance Centre (6775 West Q Avenue, Kalamazoo).

Free demonstration classes will be held the week of June 13th. To register for a class, contact the Crescendo office.

***Here's what we've
 been up to...***



Do-Dah Parade 2010 *Crescendo* musicians flaunted their musical superpowers in the 2010 Do-Dah parade. **Join us this year on June 4th when we are Cheerleaders for Music!** Contact the office to sign up!



PNC's Marvelous Music: *The partnership between Crescendo and the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra continues. Joanna Steinhauser teaches the five Marvelous Music violin students.*



Our fantastic new website will debut at the end of May. Still crescendoacademy.com, but with new looks and features. Follow us on Facebook too!

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Contributors to this edition: *Audrey Lipsey, Jane Maddox, Silvia Sidorane, Jackie Bancroft, Corlyn Longer-Schreck, April Woodward-Slack*

In Tune With...

Silvia Sidorane

Cello instructor Silvia Sidorane is the most senior member of the Crescendo faculty having started in 1991 when we were still “Young Strings Academy.” Silvia was born and grew up in Riga, Latvia. Here, in her own words, she tells us a bit about her life.

When did you start studying cello?

When I was eight years old my mother took me to elementary music school. I was tested for musical ear, rhythm and physical ability to play an instrument. I studied at Riga Elementary Music school for 7 years. I had twice a week cello lessons for 45 minutes, twice a week solfeggio, and twice a week string orchestra. In later years we had mandatory piano once a week.

What about high school and college?

After elementary music school I passed four exams and entered Jazepa Medina Music High School. After four years in high school, I earned a diploma with the ability to teach at an elementary music school level. Next was



Cellist Silvia Sidorane performs as part of the Opus IV Quartet at a Crescendo Faculty Recital.

Jazepa Vitola Latvian State Conservatory. After five years I earned a Bachelor degree in cello performance. In 1987, I began teaching cello at the same school where I began my studies. And in 2008 I received Master in Music Education from MSU.

Why did you come to the United States?

First it was curiosity what this country was about – the opportunity arrived and I took my three kids (ages 8, 6 and 4) and cello and came to the U.S. Because of large Latvian population and far relatives, we ended up in Kalamazoo.

Noteworthy

Crescendo students continue to be recognized for their achievements:

Guitarists **Lily Bowman and Cameron Andrews** were selected to perform on the Sigma Alpha Iota “Spotlight on Youth” recital in March.

Participants in the 2011 Gilmore International Keyboard Festival “KeysFest” included piano students **Emily Batzloff, Eva Bugnaski, Zoe Bugnaski, Maileen Bugnaski, Anastasia Chubb, Sara Elfring, Soledad Hervas, Aria Kleber, Lyric Kleber, Helen O’Leary, Gwendolyn Park, and Arthur Woodworth.**

Violinist **Madeline Ballard** received a first division rating at the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association District High School Solo & Ensemble Festival in February. Violinist **Samir Deshpande**, cellist **Scott Linder**, and pianist **Kaitlyn Nelson** received first division ratings at both District and State Solo & Ensemble Festivals.

Clarinet students **Laura Livingston, Matthew Peavler and Madison Preston** all received first division ratings at the

MSBOA Middle School Solo & Ensemble Festival on April 16.

Jori Sportel has been accepted into the Vocal Music program at Hope College for Fall, 2011.

Jared Dumois, clarinet, performed with the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Woodwind Quartet at the BRAVO! concert on May 5.

Voice student **Becky Thomason** has been accepted into the Music Theater camp at Interlochen Arts Academy this summer and has been cast in the Farmer’s Alley Theater production of “Urinetown” this summer in Kalamazoo.

Voice student **Logan Ambrose** has been admitted to the music department at Western Michigan University as a sophomore.

Mezzo soprano **Shelby Bishop** earned a second place at the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition in November. **Allyson Williams**, soprano, earned an honorable mention.

Did you speak English? What were your first jobs?

My first words in English were “hi and bye.” I had studied German and my German mixed with English. My first job was in Latvian kindergarten at Latvian Heritage Center. In 1991, getting better at English, I had an interview with Karey Weirich who hired me to teach cello at Young Strings Academy. I started with one student who drove from Allegan. I worked at Bronson Hospital, played in symphonies, taught in Head Start and Marshall Public Schools.

What positions do you now hold?

Mornings I teach at Portage Central High School, Middle School and Elementary. There I work with string orchestra students. Afternoons I teach at Crescendo, and nights and weekends, I play in symphonies and with Opus IV, my string quartet.

What advice would you give Crescendo students?

Music is an international language. Wherever they will be in their life, it will help to connect to people and understand them better. Before learning English, I was able to play in an orchestra and understand what the conductor expressed.

Voice students **Shelby Bishop, Allyson Williams, Stephanie Beckner, Rebecca Coryell, and Emily Morgan** received first division ratings for solo performances at both district and state Solo & Ensemble Festivals. **Allyson Williams and Ingrid Blix** received a first division rating for their duet performance. **Kara Grodecki** earned a first division rating at district and a second at state. **Veronica Hapman, Sarah Jane Carpenter, Alex Coryell and Ingrid Blix** all received second division ratings at district.

We would also like to recognize the achievements of our instructors:

Piano instructor **Bethany McKnight** has been admitted into the graduate program at Michigan State University where she will study piano pedagogy.

Piano instructor **Derek Herzer** has been admitted into the graduate program at the University of Southern Maine. His field of study is piano performance.

Cello instructor **Luke Cook** has joined the Board of Directors for the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Society.

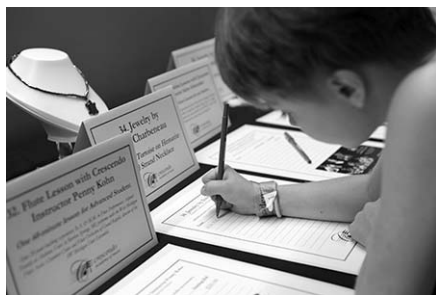
Save the Date: CrescendoFest 2011 Saturday, October 1st

A Celebration of Locally Grown Music and Food Scholarship Fundraiser

Crescendo Academy of Music is thrilled to announce the date for the second annual *CrescendoFest: A Celebration of Locally Grown Music and Food*. It will take place from 2-5pm on Saturday, October 1, 2011 and will feature a progressive recital, a silent auction, a Music Together® demonstration, and an instrument petting zoo. The event will be accompanied by a sampling of locally-grown, family-friendly foods and beverages provided by growers and restaurateurs from the Kalamazoo area.

All who attended last year had loads of fun eating fare from local vendors, listening to music performances by many of our talented instructors and students, and bidding on a wide range of items in the silent auction.

Crescendo students, families and friends are warmly invited to attend what promises to be an exciting afternoon. Mark your calendars!



The Crescendo Fiddlers, led by violin instructor Sarah Hedlund, greeted attendees at CrescendoFest 2010.



Enjoying food and conversation (above);

Bidding in the silent auction (left)

Other Ways To Support Crescendo

Volunteers wanted: Please call or email the Crescendo office to ask where your help is needed and to have your name added to our volunteer list.

Bring your empty printer ink and toner cartridges to the Crescendo office or give them to your instructor. Cartridges are recycled at Office Depot for credit used for office supplies. All cartridges are accepted.

When you use your eScrip card at Hardings or online, Crescendo receives a percentage of every dollar spent. Visit eScrip.com for ways to use the card online. See the office for your card.

Organization and Business Support

Crescendo has received donations from the following organizations and businesses during the current academic year:

Arts Fund of Kalamazoo County through the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, to support scholarship and outreach programs;

Constantin and Ruth Butiu Fund at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, to ensure availability of need-based tuition assistance;

Diane S. Robertson Charitable Foundation, grant to support music programs for youth;

Eaton Corporation, grant to support *Music Together*;

Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, for operational support and long range planning;

Kalamazoo Community Foundation, to support long-range planning;

Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Society, donation to the scholarship fund in honor of the 10 year anniversary of Audrey Lipsey as Prep String Orchestra conductor;

Ladies Library Association of Kalamazoo Supporting Organization, to support student scholarships;

Pfizer Foundation Volunteer Matching Gift Program, matching gift for employee volunteer time given to Crescendo;

PNC Foundation, to support *Marvelous Music* collaboration with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra;

Richard G. Tomlinson Family Fund at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation,

to support operations;

Sylvia and Lawrence Wong Foundation, to support student scholarships.

Baby Grand Donated

Jeff Ross, of Jeff K. Ross Financial Services, recently donated a baby grand piano to Crescendo which is being housed in the large ensemble room. The addition of a baby grand to our school will allow us to utilize the ensemble room for small studio recitals as well as giving us an additional instrument on which to teach. Several Crescendo instructors have already used the piano; and we are pleased to have received such a generous gift.



crescendo
academy of music

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resonance

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Crescendo Academy of Music is a nonprofit organization with funding support from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, the Burdick-Thorne Foundation, the Sylvia and Lawrence Wong Foundation, the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, the PNC Foundation, the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, Eaton Corp. and individual donors striving to make music accessible to all through need-based scholarships. The Academy provides services to all children and adults without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, weight, height, handicap, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran or marital status.

Individual instruction: Violin, Viola, Cello, String Bass; Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone; Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Low Brass; Percussion, Piano, Voice; Classical, Acoustic & Electric Guitar; Mandolin; Composition & Theory. **Ensembles and group instruction:** Kalamazoo Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra; Crescendo Fiddlers; Children's Guitar Ensemble; Flute Ensemble; Small Ensembles; Outreach Programs; Monthly Recital Opportunities; Music Together® for infants through kindergarteners.



Member of the National Guild for Community Arts Education since 2005.



Cello instructor Silvia Sidorane has been teaching at Crescendo since the beginning...page 2



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