

# Education Newsletter

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

What a year it has been! We have endured a challenging time, gotten creative with limited resources, and kept pursuing musical excellence together. Our outstanding teachers have worked hard to bring great opportunities to our students. Teacher Mei-Yuk Tang kept the JKM Piano Festival running on March 6, 2021 with 88 virtual participants. Twenty-eight students were selected as winners and performed in the virtual Honors Recital. Additionally, Richmond teacher Chloe Fortin was recently elected President of the Richmond chapter of MTNA. Congratulations, Chloe!



*Two winners of the JKM Piano Festival wear their participation medals and display their trophies after the virtual Honors Recital.*

If you are new to Jordan Kitt's and interested in taking piano or voice lessons, now is the perfect time to enroll. So many exciting things happen throughout the entire year and our teachers make sure you have the best opportunities to grow and succeed in your musicianship!

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## IN OUR SCHOOLS

At the Fairfax School, teachers have been teaching online lessons for the past year, but many are looking forward to resuming in-person lessons. James Quesenberry is hoping to resume in-person lessons as soon as it's safe and is accepting students ages 10 and above. He has been a teacher with Jordan Kitt's Music for an impressive 35 years!



*Fairfax teacher, James Quesenberry, is ready to teach in-person lessons again!*

Livia Sutejo's students have enjoyed great success this year. Arya Mozahebi earned his fourth consecutive Superior rating in the National Federation of Music Clubs Falls Church Piano Solo Festival. Sandi Schneider won 2nd place in the VA Federation Music Clubs 2021 Junior Composers Competition. Congratulations!



*Arya Mozahebi earned a Superior rating in the National Federation of Music Clubs Falls Church Piano Solo Festival.*



*Sandi Schneider won 2nd place in the VA Federation Music Clubs 2021 Junior Composers Contest.*

## Education Newsletter, continued

In Rockville, teachers and students are also looking forward to resuming in-person lessons, though some teachers found advantages to online lessons. Alys Keretses started offering monthly group lessons last fall in order to keep students motivated to practice, give them regular performance opportunities, and keep everyone connected.

Two Rockville teachers, Li-Ly Chang and Yee-Chen Pao, earned their NCTM certification through MTNA earlier this year. Our teachers work so hard to provide the best education for their students!

Mei-Yuk Tang made the 2021 JKM Piano Festival possible by having students record their pieces and submit videos which were judged by Dr. Jeannette Fresne, a music professor at Lamar University in Beaumont, TX. There were 88 performers, which was nearly a 20 percent



*One student's performance video for the JKM Piano Festival on March 6, 2021.*

increase in participation from 2020. Twenty-eight performers were chosen as winners and were invited to perform in the virtual Honors Recital. Congratulations to all of the performers, the winners, and to Mei-Yuk Tang for making it possible!

Our Beltsville, MD and Richmond, VA schools have remained busy during the pandemic as well. Following the retirement of Education Managers Martha Blakely and Patricia Keithly in 2019, JKM welcomed Wesley Pollard into the role of Vice President of Education. Mr. Pollard has kept all of our schools running smoothly during challenging times and is working to grow our programs as the pandemic becomes less threatening. He currently teaches at the Richmond JKM school.

There has been no shortage of exciting and creative events in our Virginia Beach school. Their first virtual recital was held in June 2020, another in September, a unique Halloween themed recital in October, and a holiday recital in December. Videos of these events can be found on YouTube. The Yamaha Junior Music Course 3 students celebrated their graduation in December, and the JMC4 students graduated in April 2021. More than 30 students participated in the National Federation Music Club Festival and VA Music Teachers Association Skills Test, which took place in February. In March, forty-one students participated in the virtual JKM Piano Festival, and seven were chosen as winners. In April, many students participated in the VA Music Teachers Association's Theory Test. The JKM VA Beach school also held the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum's Levels of Progress event, which is a judged performance opportunity for students. Nine students were selected to perform in the Honors Recitals in May 2021. Keep up the excellent work, VA Beach!



*VA Beach teachers Kelsey Jamerson and Mun Lee Han held the 2020 Pandemic Halloween Piano Recital on YouTube.*

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