

Education Newsletter

Announcements

Another season of fabulous music making has come and gone, and there is so much to look forward to as fall begins. The students at Jordan Kitt's Music have given dozens of recitals, performed for events, festivals, and competitions throughout the region, and have grown as musicians in private lessons and in the Yamaha group classes at each of our three locations in Rockville, Fairfax, and Beltsville. The Jordan Kitt's Music Piano Festival continued this year with more than 60 performers, and a fantastic Honors Recital that showcased the hard work of 18 talented young artists and their teachers. We are thrilled to provide our students with the best educational and performance opportunities we can and look forward to another year of music making with you!



JKM President and CEO, Chris Syllaba with the winners of the JKM Piano Festival at the Honors Recital on March 9, 2019.

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Rockville



Yee Chen Pao with student Zhichen Lee at the MSMTA Festival on May 4, 2019.

It's no secret that practice pays off. Student Zhichen Lee is proof that practicing 30 minutes before school and another hour in the evening pays off. This year he was a winner at the JKM Piano Festival, and at the MCMTA and MSMTA festivals. He studies with Yee Chen Pao, who is proud to celebrate 20 years of teaching with JKM in 2020!

Alice Shiu's students have also had a successful season of festivals and recitals. Two of her students, Rajorshi Basu and Crystal Ni, were chosen as winners of the JKM Piano Festival, and many others won awards at the MSMTA festival and the Rockville Competition for Solo Piano. Additionally, two of her adult students performed at the MCMTA Adult Recital at Strathmore Mansion.



Pam Brown at the MCMTA Adult Recital on April 28, 2019.

Students of Alys Keretses performed in her annual recitals in May and participated in the JKM Piano Festival, and her student Alin Ainin was selected as a winner. This past August Ms. Keretses started the Hands On Concert Series which features local musicians in multiple genres. The first season of Hands On included performances from piano duo, guitar duo, saxophone, and bass. Join us for Season Two of Hands On!

Fairfax

For the past 20 years, many of Pat Keithly's students have participated in the Springfield Music Club's Spring Festival, but this year *all* of her students (including group students) performed and *all* received Superior ratings. What an outstanding accomplishment!



Adrienne Ellis performing at the "Kitt's Kids" concert in Fairfax, VA.

On June 6, students of Ai Yuki, Mei-Yuk Tang, and Pat Keithly performed for parents and passers-by at the first outdoor JKM "Kitt's Kids" event in the Mosaic District of Fairfax, VA. JKM Fairfax manager Brad Prentice, as well as teachers Pat Keithly and Nuria Planas-

Vilanova also performed for this exciting event that will hopefully become a new JKM tradition.



Students of Livia Sutejo at their Hawaiian luau recital on June 6, 2019.

In March, many of Livia Sutejo's students performed in the National Federation of Music Clubs Spring Festival. Ava Mozahebi earned her 6th consecutive Superior rating, and Crystal

Nguyen and Anderson Jones earned their 3rd consecutive Superior ratings. Her students also gave a Hawaiian luau themed recital on June 8.

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Beltsville

JKM Artist-in-Residence and teacher Martha Blakely is active in the local music community and throughout the eastern region. This past June she adjudicated over 100 piano students for the National Guild of Piano Teachers auditions in Long Island, NY. She also studied



Alexander Wu earned a Regular High School Diploma in Piano from the National Guild of Piano Teachers.

voice, vocal pedagogy, choral music, and choral conducting in Richmond, VA, Princeton, NJ, and NYC this summer, including singing with the Berkshire Choral International and the Richmond Symphony with conductor Tom Hall, as well as the Westminster Choir College Summer Choral Festival with Z. Randall Stroope. Her students benefit greatly from her experiences and expertise, and have been very successful this past spring. Alexander Wu was

awarded the Regular High School Diploma in Piano from the National Guild of Piano Teachers after performing a 90-minute piano exam. He has studied with Ms. Blakely for 11 years. Sixteen of her students performed for the National Guild of Piano Teachers auditions on June 15, and 23 students performed in the annual Spring Concert on June 23. Voice student AnnaBeth Tsai-Turton won 1st place in Classical Voice and 3rd place in Popular Voice at the MSM TA Vocal Competition in April. Jayden Phillip was awarded a Superior Plus rating for his original piano composition, *Gondola*, at the International Piano Composition Contest.



Jayden Phillip won a Superior Plus rating at the International Piano Composition Contest.