

Dear CCSA Members and Friends:

Welcome to Musical Musings, from the CCSA Board. Since we always want to hear from all of you with any suggestions you have for improving the organization, we had our first on-line membership survey. I wanted to share some of the results



with everyone, and discuss what the Board is doing in response. The first question, regarding the cost of lessons, confirmed that the lessons are already as expensive as most people are able to pay, and perhaps too expensive for some families. Our second question, of whether people feel that they understand what exactly is being offered by CCSA, found that a bit more than a third of responders would like the programs explained more clearly. The responses to our third question, of what types of fundraising activities people would support, show that there is support for a broad range of fundraising, and that most people would support some type of benefit performances by the students. And, the fourth question confirmed that everyone sees our top priority as being

musical education, although cultural enrichment and establishment of a musical community are important to about half of the respondents.

Based on these survey results, the Board is working on raising funds to support our teachers and paying rent without increasing tuition. We welcome any assistance that you are able to provide in fundraising activities. The Board meeting schedule is listed in the annual CCSA calendar, and I would like to encourage anyone with an interest to attend. Also, we currently have two vacant Board positions, and I encourage anyone with an interest in volunteering as a Board member to contact me. The board positions are open to all who have an interest in supporting the mission of the CCSA, and are not limited to the parents of current students.



Upcoming Events

Poor Artists Sale Performance

Calumet School Gym
Dec. 3 · 2 p.m.

KYSO Winter Concert

McArdle Theatre · Houghton
Dec. 5 · 6 p.m.

Holiday Recital

McArdle Theatre · Houghton
Dec. 7 · 6 p.m.

CCSA Pre-KSO Performance

Rozsa Center Lobby · Houghton
Dec. 10 · 6:30 p.m.

100 Day Practice Marathon

Begins Jan. 26

Piano Recital

E.L. Wright Studio · Hancock
Jan. 28 · 2 p.m.

Solo Recital

E.L. Wright Studio · Hancock
Feb. 5 · 2 p.m.

CCSA String Festival!

E.L. Wright Studio · Hancock
Feb. 24 – 25

Viola & Cello Recital

E.L. Wright Studio · Hancock
March 19 · 2 p.m.
"A low strings extravaganza!"

Students in costumes performed solos and ensemble pieces at the annual Halloween Recital in October.

CCSA Staff

Libby Meyer, D.M.A.
Executive Director
Violin & Viola Instructor
Amanda Plummer, Ed.D.
Piano Instructor
Lindy Wagner, M.M.
Violin Instructor
Preparatory Strings Director
Andrew Shaud, M.M.
Cello Instructor
KYSO Director
Erin McKenzie
KYSO Manager
Alex Frazier
Accompanist



The CCSA received \$17,500 from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, roughly 18% of our annual operating budget. Thanks MCACA for this important source of income!


CCSA Board of Directors

Timothy Eisele, President · Yangping Ou, Treasurer
Rhiannon Schmidt, Secretary · Allison Helman
Wil Shapton · Jon Ensminger
Laura Schilling · Michael Verive

Copper Country Suzuki Association

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 Copper Country Suzuki Association

Student Spotlight: Kolson & Kalvin Kytta

Kalvin Kytta, 4th grader and cellist in Preparatory Strings, has played cello for 2½ years and enjoys playing cello with his family in church. Kolson Kytta, 8th grader and cellist in the Keweenaw Youth Symphony Orchestra, had initially played violin for a year but switched to cello five years ago because he “preferred to sit down.” This preference is surprising, for anyone familiar with the Kytta brothers knows they’re constantly on the move playing basketball, tennis, running cross-country, skiing, and more. CCSA was able to get Kolson and Kalvin to sit down and tell us a little about themselves playing the cello.



Kolson at the Halloween Recital.

CCSA: What do you enjoy about playing the cello?

Kolson: “When I think of cello I think of my lost childhood, okay, just kidding, it has given me a greater appreciation for music.”
Kalvin: “I enjoy the beautiful music.”

What do you find most challenging about playing the cello?

Kolson: “It is torture at first but once you practice the songs enough, it sounds quite lovely.”
Kalvin: “Going into other positions.”

What do you think about when you play?

Kolson: “I think about the rhythm.”
Kalvin: “About high school band. My brothers are in band and at the end of the year I can pick a band instrument too. Cello has taught me a lot about music.”

Who have you studied cello with?

K & K: Maggie Twining, Ben Holtz, and now Andrew Shaud.



Kalvin performs at the Halloween Recital.

What is your favorite type of music?

Kolson: “Classics like Beethoven’s 5th and pop music.”
Kalvin: “Western, rock, country, and classical.”

Do your parents remind you to practice?

Kolson: “Not all the time, but 99 percent of the time.”
Kalvin: “Yes, my parents tell me to practice.”

What do you like to do when you’re not making music?

Kolson: “Play basketball, watch Dr. Who, and read.”
Kalvin: “Play sports and read.”

Sounds of Summer

CCSA takes a break in the summer time from the regular schedule but that doesn’t stop students and teachers from making lots of music. Fiddling classes are held, taught by Libby Meyer, ukulele classes are taught by Amanda Plummer, and CCSA students also take part in various music camps. Bria Neves attended Superior String Alliance Summer Music Camp, Kora Johnson attended Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, Grant Fredrickson attended Village Chamber Music Camp, and Ellie Helman and Seth Helman attended PJ Olsson’s Rock Camp. Ellie, Seth, Bria and Margaret Ensminger also played regular gigs over the summer as quartet *Sul Ponticello*.

Libby Meyer attended the Swannanoa gathering in Asheville, NC where she studied Irish fiddling with Martin Hayes. She received professional development grants from both the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Music Teacher Association to attend.

Libby was also awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Park Service along with Chris Plummer and Kent Cyr to record soundscapes of the National Parks on Lake Superior and write a composition that will be premiered by the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra in December of 2017.



Grace performs for Houghton Rotary’s Seafood Fest.



Seth and Ellie at PJ Olsson’s Rock Camp.

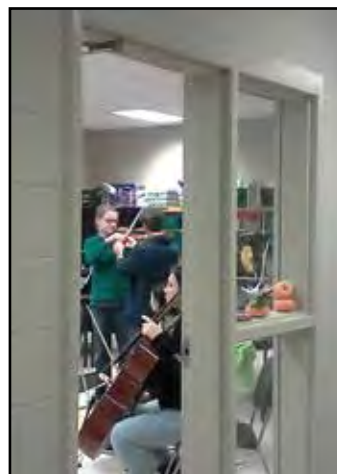


Grant, second from left, at Village Chamber Music Camp.

In Full Swing

CCSA’s new cello instructor, Andrew Shaud, has arrived and cello lessons are in full swing! Andrew is also directing the Keweenaw Youth Symphony Orchestra: strings this fall with full orchestra forming in January 2017. The KYSO performs their Winter Concert this December 5.

Andrew is also busy teaching group classes in Baraga. CCSA has partnered with the Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College Stem Academy and is offering weekly music classes at their Baraga Campus. These classes are free for the students with instrument rental also provided. Andrew has nine violin and cello students taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity.



Alaina, beginning violin student at the KBOCC, adjusts her bow-hold with Andrew’s guidance while cello students look on.



The KYSO directed by Andrew Shaud, far left, pause during rehearsal.



Bria performs for Houghton Rotary’s Seafood Fest, accompanied by Alex Frazier.

Milestones

Rachel Ou Sun finished Violin Book 2.
Evie Austin finished Violin Book 2.
Eddie Zhou finished Violin Book 3.

Izzy Johnson-Berman, Sam Miller, Colin Raasio and Ephraim Shaud learned the notes of the staff.

Libby Meyer received her “Sweet 16” tiara at the Spring Recital for directing the CCSA for sixteen years.



CCSA students celebrate Libby’s Sweet 16 at the Spring Recital in May.



I wish to support the **Copper Country Suzuki Association** and help make high-quality music instruction available and affordable for children in our community.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____
 I’d like this gift to be anonymous.
 This gift is **In Honor Of** or **In Memory Of** (circle one): _____

I’d like to sponsor a scholarship at the \$500 \$250 \$100 level.
 Sign my business up to be a “Suzuki Star!”

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 • offer scholarships
 • keep tuition affordable