

# Musical Musings

Dear Friends of the CCSA,

Change ushered in our 2017-18 season as we said good-bye to Dr. Libby Meyer as our Executive Director and welcomed Andrew Shaud as her replacement. Libby was the center of our Suzuki universe for 16 years and taught numerous students how to play the violin and viola, how to read music, and how to play in a group ensemble.



*Farewell to our Libby*

But most of all, Libby taught them a love of music that will serve them for the rest of their lives. We will all miss Libby's enthusiasm and dedication to music education and to the CCSA as much as we will miss her infectious laugh, but we wish her well in her continued work as a music professor at Michigan Technological University and as a composer.

We are thrilled to have Andrew as our new Executive Director. Andrew was hired last year as our cello instructor and Keweenaw Youth Symphony Orchestra director and has stepped into his new role as Executive Director with grace.

Andrew holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Cello Performance from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where he studied with Mihaly Virizlay. He has completed Suzuki training for Cello Units 1- 4, 6 and 7, as well as Suzuki Principles in Action and Wrap Your Brain Around Targeted Technique Practice. As a performer, Andrew has played with the Keweenaw Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Maryland Symphony and Gettysburg Symphony Orchestras.

The end of our 2017-18 season brings even more change with it. We recently learned that our space at the E.L. Wright building will be converted into residential apartments and we are now in the process of looking for a new home. We are hopeful to find the perfect space where we can continue to make music together.

Please consider sending in a donation today—every bit helps as we look forward to moving into a new space.

Thank you for your continued support,

Lara Neves  
CCSA Board Member



*Andrew Shaud, CCSA's new Executive Director, conducts the KYSO.*



*CCSA delights the symphony crowd with pre-concert music in the Rozsa lobby.*



## Upcoming Events

### CCSA Faculty Recital

E.L. Wright Studio · Hancock  
April 7 · 6 p.m.

### Advanced Student Recital

McArdle Theatre · Houghton  
April 8 · 2 p.m.

### KYSO Concert

**with Preparatory Strings**  
McArdle Theatre · Houghton  
May 2 · 5:30 p.m.

### Spring Piano Recital

McArdle Theatre · Houghton  
May 5 · 2 p.m.

### Spring Recital

McArdle Theatre · Houghton  
May 12 · 2 p.m.



*This ninja can also play the cello, as witnessed at our annual costume recital.*

# Graduating Student Spotlight:

## Bria Neves

### Tell us about your instrument(s.)

I have played the violin for almost 14 years and the guitar for three years. The thing I enjoy most about playing the violin is playing in groups such as quartets and orchestras. The most difficult thing about playing the violin is learning the small techniques that seem like they don't matter but actually make or break your sound and quality. My family is very musical. My dad conducts, my mom sings, and my two sisters both play instruments and one dances. We have played together for church activities. I "play" for family and friends if they come to a concert or recital. Other than that, I prefer not to voluntarily play for people.

### What type of music do you enjoy?

My favorite type of music to play is dramatic and vibrant Latin dances like tangos. I listen to a wide variety of music, including classical, piano concertos, film scores, 80's music, Disney songs, Broadway, alternative, pop, rock, synthetic, and rap. Latin music, however, is my favorite kind of music to listen to. My favorite piece to play on the violin is basically the whole *The Little Mermaid* pit orchestra Broadway score. It is fun, challenging, lively, magical, romantic, and whimsical all at once. My favorite composers are two film score composers: Danny Elfman and Hans Zimmer. My favorite film is any film directed by Tim Burton and orchestrated by Danny Elfman. They both have a beautifully eerie style that's centered around isolation, wonder, magic, and the fierceness of reality. I can't choose between *Edward Scissorhands*, *Alice in Wonderland*, or *Ms. Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*.

### How do you balance life and practicing?

When I was in elementary and middle school, I would wake up at 6 a.m. and practice for an hour before school. That was the easiest way to balance my daily practice. In my life now it's much harder to do but I just practice whenever I can or need to. When I'm not making music, I'm usually watercolor painting, doing calligraphy, watching movies, playing games, or playing with my dog.

### Favorite superhero and food?

My favorite superhero is Batman and my favorite food is burritos.

### Plans after graduating high school?

After graduation I plan to study psychology and criminal justice.



Bria Neves, violinist



CCSA friends playing music together.

CCSA is a big diverse musical family. We meet our friends here and we have fun together. We learn and we grow together. We are lucky to have this nice organization in our community and we love CCSA!

- Ling Zhang, Suzuki parent



CCSA friends just hanging out.



Groucho, Mozart and Ruffles the Clown keeping the first violin section together.



Cellist Erin Mckenzie at present and at age 6 (above.)



Holiday Recital December 2017

## Catching Up with Erin McKenzie

I started playing cello through the CCSA when I was four or five years old. I had an older brother who started on the violin around the same time, and then a younger sister who started on the viola few years later. I was the only one who stuck with it, and played with the CCSA all the way through my senior year in high school, playing for the Keweenaw Youth Symphony Orchestra, in quartets, and for Solo & Ensemble. Once I graduated from high school, I attended Michigan Tech University for Biology, joined the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra, and took on the role of interim cello teacher for CCSA while a new full-time teacher was sought.

Teaching the cello group class was a lot of fun, and a new experience for me – to go from being the student to the teacher! I have always enjoyed helping others learn and seeing the different ways a student can progress, which I was able to do through the group class and through helping with the KYSO. The wonderful thing about music is that it means something to all of us, and the creativity and sense of accomplishment we can have with it are individual and priceless. Through all my experiences with the CCSA, I learned how to be humble, to accept help and positive criticism, how to determine what others need in terms of assistance, and to accept that we are each different in our abilities and have meanings for our accomplishments. This spring season is my last with the CCSA, as I will be attending Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine beginning in the Fall of 2018. My goal is to continue to play the cello as often as possible through school for the stress relief, and to play again someday with community orchestras. Playing the cello wasn't something I chose when I was first starting out, but now it is something I choose to continue.

## Milestones

### Cello:

Margaret Ensminger—completed Book 7  
 Rachel Bergstrom—completed Book 3  
 Abbey Eliason—completed Book 3  
 Calvin Kytta—completed Book 2  
 Julia Qi—completed Book 1 and 2  
 Madison Thomas—completed Book 1  
 Sophia Miller—passed Twinkles

### Violin:

Grant Fred  
 Eddie Zhou  
 Rachel Sun  
 Elizabeth B  
 Julia Jeon—  
 Max Qi—c  
 Puree Urua  
 Ernest Feng  
 Jessica Veri  
 Nicolas Vie  
 Suvie Ten—  
 Alan Xu—



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- Ling Zhang, Suzuki parent



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and Ruffles the Clown  
violin section together.



Holiday Recital December 2017

## Graduating Student Spotlight:

### Tell us about your instrument.

I play the violin, among others, and have been playing since I was four years old, for a total of 14 years. I love making music, but with the violin in particular, I like its sound and how it almost feels like I'm singing when I play. Bowing in general was always a struggle for me, getting the hand to become completely relaxed while maintaining a sturdy grip was challenging.

### What do you like to play and do you play for others?

My favorite type of music to play would definitely be slow, romantic period stuff. I like lots of time for vibrato and swells. Music I listen to varies greatly, I'll listen to anything from jazz to rap. One of my favorite pieces to play is Meditation from Thais. My dad and my sister are both musical, and we have a tendency to have jam sessions from time to time. I've played for all sorts of people, mainly family and friends though. It's always a huge compliment when someone actually WANTS to hear you play.

### How do you balance life and practicing?

Practicing with school work is something that's always going to be hard to do. You have to set time aside after school, or after sports, otherwise it's never going to get done. Trust me...When I'm not making music, I'm probably outdoors, either on a run or backpacking with friends. I love to run, play video games, hike, camp and be with close friends and family. I also have been really getting into recording and mixing my own music lately.

### Favorite superhero and food?

My favorite superhero is definitely Batman. Favorite food would have to be lasagna.

### Plans after graduating high school?

I plan to attend The University of Michigan. I will be majoring in Sound Engineering with a minor in Electrical Engineering.

# Seth Helman



Seth Helman, violinist

## Get Your 2018-2019 CCSA "Fun Cards!"

Contact CCSA's office or your favorite CCSA family to order your **Fun Cards** and receive discounts at area retailers and restaurants. Pick up several - **Fun Cards** make great gifts! A big thanks to the sponsors of our 2018-2019 **Fun Cards**:

5th & Elm Coffeehouse  
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McDonald's - Houghton  
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Pizza Works  
Subway - Houghton  
Taco Bell - Houghton



Lillian and Amanda working together on harpsichord.

## Milestones

### Cello:

Margaret Ensminger—completed Book 7  
Rachel Bergstrom—completed Book 3  
Abbey Eliason—completed Book 3  
Kalvin Kytta—completed Book 2  
Julia Qi—completed Book 1 and 2  
Madison Thomas—completed Book 1  
Sophia Miller—passed Twinkles

### Violin:

Grant Fredrickson—completed Book 5  
Eddie Zhou—completed Book 5  
Rachel Sun—completed Book 3  
Elizabeth Bergstrom—completed Book 3  
Julia Jeon—completed Book 3  
Max Qi—completed Book 2  
Puree Uruakolarn—completed Book 1  
Ernest Feng—completed Book 1  
Jessica Verive—completed Book 1  
Nicolas Viera—passed the Twinkles  
Suvie Ten—passed the Twinkles  
Alan Xu—passed the Twinkles

### Piano:

In March, eight of Dr. Amanda Plummer's students participated in the Michigan Teachers Association Student Achievement Testing for piano at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Hancock. Students above Level 5 who receive outstanding scores at the local level may choose to compete at the regional and state levels. These students received outstanding scores and will be awarded certificates. Students who receive outstanding scores two years in a row receive trophies.

Sam Miller (Level 1a)  
Tim Austin (Level 2)  
Rachel Stern (Level 2)  
Lillian Austin (Level 7)

Esme Schmidt (Level 1a)  
Maire Lark (Level 2)  
Edward Zhao (Level 2)  
Annika Seigel (Level 7)



### **CCSA Staff**

Andrew Shaud, M.M.

Executive Director  
Cello Instructor  
KYSO Director

Amanda Plummer, Ed.D.

Piano Instructor

Lindy Wagner, M.M.

Violin Instructor  
Preparatory Strings Director

Erin McKenzie

KYSO Manager

Alex Frazier

Accompanist

### **CCSA Board of Directors**

Timothy Eisele, President • Yangping Ou, Treasurer

Jon Ensminger, Secretary • Allison Helman

Lara Neves • Becky Austin • Ling Zhang

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Thank you to  
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for continued support.



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

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