

What's New At The Music Learning Center? Fall 2009



LATEST NEWS

Fall Recital Weekend

New Faculty

New Guitar Class

Piano & Keyboard Programs

Ensemble Programs

Student News

Faculty News

Summer Camp

MLC Faculty... Did You Know?

INFORMATION

[MLC Website](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON:

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday 11/20 through Sunday, 11/22 - MLC's Fall Recital Series held at the Danbury Music Center, 256 Main Street, Danbury. Over 200 students will perform.

Fall Recital Weekend - Friday Nov. 20 thru Sunday Nov. 22

Our 17th annual Fall Recital Weekend is just around the corner! Each of the seven sections features a great mix of instrumentalists and vocalists of various ages and levels. During the past week our instructors have been passing out slips that contain information regarding the recitals, along with each student's section assignment. The performances are Free and open to the public, so be sure to bring plenty of friends and family along to see our students shine! All of the recitals are held at the Danbury Music Centre's Marion Anderson Recital Hall, 256 Main Street. If you have any questions please call the office. You may also stop by the office for a copy of our MLC Parents Guide to Student recitals.



Welcome New Faculty





Pamela Quirinale - piano instructor, recital accompanist

Pamela received a B.F.A. with Honors from Carnegie-Mellon University and studied piano with Kevin Parizo. She has experience as a musical theatre accompanist and director and did graduate studies in Theatre at Pittsburgh Playhouse. Pamela has conducted music workshops and has served as a church musician and director.

LAURIE HASKINS - MLC Group Piano Teacher

Laurie Haskins traveled to Oklahoma City this summer to attend the 8th annual Keyboard Ensemble Technology Seminar (KETS). KETS was a week-long seminar for piano teachers and music educators at the University of Central Oklahoma. It was sponsored by Ogilvy Music, University of Central Oklahoma and the YAMAHA Corp. of America. The focus was on teaching group keyboard classes using Yamaha digital pianos and lab systems, just like the ones in use at MLC. These instruments offer fantastic instrumental accompaniments and sounds that can turn a group of keyboard students into an orchestra or a band. (See ["Introducing.... Keyboard Bands!"](#) to learn more)

Sara Smith - flute instructor

Sara has a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Western Connecticut State University where she won the Outstanding Leadership Award. She performed with the WCSU Orchestra as a concerto soloist, the Wind Ensemble, Concert Choir, Flute Quartet, and Symphonic Band. She was a member of the WCSU Flute Club and participated in WCSU's Julius Baker Master Classes. Sara has also performed with the Redding Community Orchestra and the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra.

New Fall Class - Join Us!

Introduction to Guitar

Taught by MLC guitar instructor Andrew Arriaga.

Beginning students will learn the basics of guitar playing: correct posture, hand placement, beginner chords, and simple song accompaniment. This six week class will serve as a great first step for anyone who has ever wanted to learn to play guitar. Tuition: \$132 for six 40 minute classes. Sections for different age groups are being planned and will begin in January. Students are required to provide their own guitar and a copy of "Mel Bay's Guitar Method" (available at Music Plus). The MLC offers guitar packages for purchase starting at just \$129.



Call the MLC Office for available class times and start strumming!

TIPS FOR STUDENTS



How to Make Practicing Easier

Improving music takes practice. Parents sometimes have difficulty getting their child to practice every day. Our experienced and talented teachers

Piano & Keyboard Programs

The Music Learning Center offers parents of beginning students the option of choosing between Group and Private Piano Lessons. Each method offers particular benefits. A MLC staff member will help a parent select the best approach for their child. Adult classes are also offered.



Private Piano Lessons: At the Music Learning Center our diverse and highly trained staff of 16 piano instructors allows for a unique advantage when selecting the right teacher for you or your child. While each of our instructors are talented and caring individuals, experience has taught us that by carefully considering each student, together we can arrive at a placement that will afford the best opportunity for enjoyment and success.

Group Piano Classes: In addition to the topics that are covered in

encourage regular practice through a number of means that prevent it from becoming tedious for the student. Here are some tips that a parent can use to help make practicing easier:

1. **Time** - Set the same time every day to practice so that it becomes part of a routine or habit. This works particularly well for children. Generally the earlier in the day the practicing can occur, the less reminding will be needed by the parent.

2. **Repetition** - This works well with younger children. Instead of setting a time frame for practicing, we recommend repetition. For example, a student practices a particular song 4 times every day or a scale 5 times every day. With guidance from the teacher, a parent can monitor the rate at which pieces are played in order to insure that the student is not rushing.

3. **Rewards** - Parents can encourage children to practice by granting them occasional rewards for successful practicing. Praise tends to be the most coveted reward - there is no substitute for a pat on the back for a job well done.

private piano lessons, students in group classes are able to perform duets, trios and ensembles with their classmates. Some students find the group lesson setting to be particularly enjoyable and motivating. Beginning students are assigned to a class where they will be among students their own age. Our group piano lab system features the latest in music technology, including digital pianos for each student to play on.

Keyboard Bands: This is an exciting MLC program that enhances a private piano student's experience by offering the opportunity to practice and perform with a group of their peers. Students develop important group playing skills while learning pieces in many different musical styles. Each member of the "band" is assigned a different instrument sound on their keyboard. When performing together, the group can then take on the sound of anything from an orchestra to a rock band. Keyboard bands are offered at MLC as a supplement to a student's private lesson. Performances are scheduled at the end of each six week session.

Band & Ensemble Programs - "let's play together!"

Becoming a member of a performing group is every musician's dream. One of the great rewards for learning to play an instrument comes when you have the chance to share in a group performance with friends. The lessons of cooperation and teamwork can be a wonderful musical experience, as well as a valuable life experience. The Music Learning Center offers students a variety of opportunities to play in a band or ensemble including...



ROCK BANDS - BRASS ENSEMBLE - FLUTE CHOIR - GUITAR ENSEMBLES - JAZZ COMBOS - KEYBOARD BANDS

Each group meets once per week for six consecutive weeks and culminates in a performance. Many new Bands and Ensembles are forming now and will begin meeting in January. Not sure which group is right for you or your child? Give the MLC office a call and we'll find the one that is a perfect match for your interests and experience.

P.S. - Adult students! We're forming groups for you too! Give us a call to learn more.

Student News - Look Who's Hot!

Michael Mosca, Shane Peters' guitar student, auditioned for Tri-M, a nationwide music scholar's organization for high school students. Michael was accepted as a freshman!

Sydney Coelho, Margaret McKerrow's voice student, sang "The Star Spangled Banner" at Rogers Park several times this summer for the Cal Ripkin junior league 12 yr. olds who made it all the way to the World Series this year.



"Look what they've gone on to"..... Jeff McGill's former student **Dan Zank**, musician and composer, recently won an Emmy Award for his arrangement of the opening number for the 2009 Academy Awards

ceremony which featured Hugh Jackman.

Let us know about your student's accomplishment. Send us a note at office@musiclearningcenter.org

Faculty News - Congrats!

Guitar Instructor **Andrew Arriaga** is now doing freelance arranging for a major music publisher, the Hal Leonard Corporation.



Guitar Instructor **Shane Peters** has started his first year of Graduate School at SUNY Purchase Conservatory and is working towards receiving his Masters Degree in Jazz Guitar.

Earlier this year, MLC director **Jeff McGill** and his jazz quartet released a new CD entitled "Then & Now", which has been getting great reviews. To give it a listen and learn more visit jeffmcgilljazz.com

Summer Music Camp at MLC - Make Your Own CD!

This summer, kids who participated in the MLC Summer Music Camp had a blast! Our camp program is a fun filled way for students aged 4-12 to build on their love of music with exciting and age appropriate musical activities. Campers got to build musical instruments, perform songs, play keyboard, and best of all, they created their own CD! Look for info in the spring edition of this newsletter about the 2010 Summer Music Camp at the Music Learning Center.



MLC Faculty... Did You Know?

Many of our instructors are involved in performance careers with positions in symphony orchestras, concert bands, choral groups, chamber ensembles, plus jazz and rock bands. Our teachers perform as soloists and accompanists, and several direct instrumental programs at public and private schools. MLC faculty members have been award recipients in recognized international competitions and have studied at prestigious universities and conservatories world-wide, including: **The Juilliard School, Moscow State Institute of the Arts, Ithaca College and Danbury's own Western CT State University.**



Our faculty encompasses a wide range of playing styles and performance experiences:

Piano: Classical, jazz, musical theatre, popular, rock, contemporary Christian.

Guitar: Jazz, Rock, Classical and Country styles just to name a few. We also teach banjo!

Voice: Operatic, popular, Broadway, and jazz are just a couple of the vocal styles that our combined voice faculty are proficient at.

Percussion: Drum-set playing in Rock, Jazz, popular and traditional styles. Plus vibraphone, pans (steel drums), and hand drumming too.

Brass & Woodwinds: Concert bands, symphonic and marching bands, wind ensembles and jazz bands.

Strings: Orchestras and chamber ensembles.

Music Learning Center, 425 Main St., Danbury, CT 06810 · 203-748-1444

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