

25th Anniversary Celebrations & Reflections



*Thank you!
To All who have
stood with PCMS
along the road to 25.*

At a recent gathering of the Northeast Region of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts, I was congratulated by fellow members on the school's anniversary.

I thanked my colleagues, but with some discomfort. My emotions, I realized, were linked to a keen awareness that this milestone is very much about the collective work, leadership and support of many individuals, businesses, and grant-makers over these 25 years.

While I will accept thanks on behalf of the School, it is the countless

(Continued on page 3)



25th Anniversary Gala - September 20, 2007

From L to R:

1. Al Esposito - Pakachoag Church Moderator (PCMS Board President - 1982), Dennis Knight - PCMS Founder, Minister Emeritus, & Mary Anne Slack - 24-year PCMS faculty member; 2. Sarah Smongeski (Executive Director) with Paul Frost, State Rep; 3. Charles Coe - Mass. Cultural Council Program Support Liaison with Kallin Johnson - PCMS Founding Executive Director and current board member; 4. Arline Rayner - Founding board member & former student with Patti Verderese - President, Board of Directors;

5. Linda Roach & Alison Snyder - former board presidents, with husbands David Roach and Don Allison, former PCMS student; 6. Silvia Irving, 20-year faculty member with Jadranka Grek - Notre Dame Long Term Care partner liaison, former PCMS office manager, current PCMS parent; 7. The O'Connor Sisters (of Auburn) - PCMS alumni; 8. Violin students with Maxim Korn, 7-year faculty member.

Photos by Bill Rynders

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Program News

Music Together Classes Now Offered In Dudley & Sterling New!

In an effort to make the school's popular Music Together program more accessible to area families, PCMS expands its reach this fall with new satellite classes offered in Dudley and Sterling. These classes are in addition to classes offered in Sturbridge and at our home location in Auburn.

New Satellite Classes for Music Together:

Dudley:
Monday mornings
at the First
Congregational Church

Sterling:
Monday mornings at the
1875 Town Hall

Winter 07/08 Music
Together® Song
Collection:

STICKS



Music Together® Winter Session Registration Underway

PCMS offers a pre-registration option to currently enrolled families for the upcoming Winter Session during November. All enrolled families should have received a form via their teacher.

Families who are not currently enrolled and interested in signing up for Winter Session classes may register beginning Monday, December 3 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Classes for the Winter Session begin Wednesday, January 2nd and run through March.

Spring session classes begin first week of April.

Check the web site in late February/March for Spring Session registration info.

Classes Starting First Week of
January.
Registration open to new families
starting December

PCMS Board of Directors

PATTI VERDERESE,
PRESIDENT

LOUISE DOWNIE
MEG GALLO

KALLIN JOHNSON
JULIE KELLEHER, CPA

SUE NATOLI
JOHN PACEK
MARCIA REICH

Jazz Comes to PCMS New!

Guitar & Bass -
with Jeff Dostal
Violin -
with Peter Hughes
Saxophone -
with Matt Lefebvre

Call and sign up anytime (as space permits).

**Jazz Ensemble -
Interested?
Give us a call.**

You don't have to take lessons at PCMS to participate. Call the office or speak with Mrs. Smongeski or faculty member Jeff Dostal.

Guitar Studio Recital scheduled for December featuring the students of Jeff Dostal. Call for date/time confirmation.

School-Wide Student Recitals schedule for Sat/Sun. Dec. 8 & 9 - various sessions throughout each afternoon. Call for times.

Creative Drama & Music



December Student Showcase....



**"North Pole
Star"**

Friday, December 7,
2007—

7:00 p.m.

The Great Hall
Student Showcase

Featuring the Students of Creative
Drama & Music with
Kathy Riley, Teacher/Director

25th Anniversary And the Celebration Continues

25

The Road to 25...

(Continued from page 1)

hundreds of others — including those of you reading this note — that I hope will also accept the congratulations.

While one person, Rev. Dennis Knight (now Minister Emeritus of Pakachoag Church), can be thanked wholeheartedly for the original vision, the number of individuals who have in large and small ways contributed not just to the survival of The School, but also its vitality, must too be thanked.

What it takes to nurture a vision into reality, to support that reality as it ebbs and flows through sunny skies as well as caverns and tricky places, and to ultimately lead toward a place of sustenance and security is a commitment that requires the combined forces of many.

Alumni Recitals Celebrate Music, Possibilities & Dreams for the Future



Thank You Alumni Recital Sponsors:

David French Music Company of Westboro

M. Steinert & Sons Pianos of Worcester

Webster Five

The Auburn Cultural Council,

a local agency which is supported by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency.

Former students return to PCMS to perform & celebrate, bringing inspiration to other young musicians.

The first two of three recitals have been received with great enthusiasm, with many of the audience members truly amazed at what they are hearing. An abbreviated version of Director Sarah Smongeski's introductory remarks for the recitals follows:

"You are going to hear something today which is a wonderful testament as to what can be possible –

- *with hard work,*
 - *with dedicated, skilled teachers,*
 - *in a setting which reflects thoughtfulness and artistry,*
- and what is possible when a community is focused and diligent and persistent over 25 years.*

These alumni recitals do not reflect a desire to only work with future professionals. They do reflect:

- *a desire to nurture each student in achieving to the best of their ability;*
- *a desire to instill in all students an understanding and appreciation for good music;*
- *a desire to lead each student to a place where they begin to see and understand the world differently;*
- *and to see themselves as someone who has something valuable to contribute to the community – musical or otherwise.*

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate together – 25 years of music-making and memories and dreams for the future."

Photos, L to R:

1. Melissa Martiros ('99) with former piano teacher Janeen Baker. Melissa is working on a DMA at Univ. of Wisconsin/Madison pursuing piano performance and special needs education.

2. Cristina Verderese ('01) & Jordan Allison ('05), Flutists; Elisabeth LaBarre Gondek, Soprano. Cristina holds a degree in History from The Catholic Univ. of America and will enter a master's program in music at CUA in January where she continues to study flute. Jordan is in her Jr. year at Tufts, majoring in Art History & Spanish, where she studies flute with Nina Barwell. Beth holds a music degree from Anna Maria College, sings professionally throughout Massachusetts, and teaches Music Together classes at PCMS.

3. Lauren Rose King ('04, center) is in her senior year at N.E. Conservatory where she studies with Carol Haber and was a student this past summer in San Francisco's Summer Opera Workshop. She is joined by Silvia Irving (left, voice teacher) and Mary Anne Slack (right), Lauren's early childhood teacher. Lauren first came to PCMS with Mom, Gretchen, at the age of 2.

The Celebration Continues

Special Thanks to The 25th Gala Sponsors:

Madeleine & Robb Ahlquist,
Worcester Restaurant Group (Sole Proprietor/111 Chop House/ VIA Italian Table)
Colony Liquors & Wine Shoppe of Auburn
Millbury Federal Credit Union

PCMS thanks the following friends for special donations in support of the School's 25th Gala & Anniversary:

Rich and Wendy Ardizzone
J. Christopher & Catherine Z. Collins
Jane M. Costello
Richard & Chottsie Cote
Charles D. Demazure,
In Memory of Mary Jean Demazure
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gallo
Dick & Barbara Granger
Paul Jourcin
Ruth M. LaPlante,
In Memory of Paul LaPlante
Patricia C. Lewis
Jane & Andres Molina
Richard J. Monroe
Rocco & Carla Morano
Sandeep & Sumiksha Nehra
Rod O'Connor
Arline Rayner
Peggy Kelley Reinburg,
In Honor of Janeen Baker & Lea Lucia Lipner
Candace, Neel, Sarah Neel, & Annecca Smith
Mike & Becky Stubljär, In Honor of Mary Kate Stubljär & Sarah Smongeski
Irvine F. & Ethel Williamson



25th Gala Special Recognitions

25th Anniversary Special Acknowledgement

To **Members and Leaders of Pakachoog Church** for long-standing, continuing support of PCMS as part of its larger mission in support of local community.

The 25th Anniversary Legacy Award

was presented at the 25th Gala to **Arline Rayner**, founding board member, former student, faithful Cabaret attendee, and long-time contributor to the Annual Fund. PCMS thanks Arline for 25 years of continuous support of the PCMS Mission and Vision.

The Founder's Award was presented to **Dennis Knight**, Minister Emeritus of Pakachoog Church, in recognition of his vision for a school of the arts for Auburn.

The Founding Director's Award

was presented to **Kallin Johnson** in recognition of his leadership of PCMS during its formative years (1982 to 1986).

The 2007 Verderese Volunteer of the Year Award

was presented to **Linda Roach**, Chair of the school's annual Cabaret event fundraiser for 3 years, six-year Board Member and former Board President.

25th Anniversary Alumni Recital

*Saturday, January 19th at 2:00 p.m.
The Great Hall at Pakachoog*

Gerry Senechal, **Organ**
(formerly of Auburn, now of Nashville, Tennessee)
Daniel Allison, **Tenor** (of Sutton; Senior at UConn)

Sponsored by...



Thank you to the students, parents and alumni who volunteered to assist for School's

- **25th Anniversary Open House**
- **The Worcester Chamber of Commerce's Breakfast Club Salute to PCMS at Mechanics Hall**
- **The 25th Gala**
- **The 25th Anniversary Alumni Recitals**

Alumni News

Peter Lefferts (of Sutton; '00; former piano student of Inna Muravnik) graduated in May with a BFA with Honors in Film & Animation from the Rhode Island Institute of Design.

People News

Five Year Students

PCMS congratulates the following students who were recognized in May for reaching the five year milestone as private instruction students:

Stephanie Jacques (of Worcester, Voice)
Susan Kraft (of Sturbridge, Violin)
James Lane (of Auburn, Piano)
Daniel Lefferts (of Sutton, Piano)
Charlotte Michaels (of Sturbridge, Violin)
Erin Renihan (of Auburn, Piano).

The 2007 Peggy Kelley Reinburg Award for Effort, Commitment & Attitude

was awarded to graduating student **Katie O'Connor** (of Auburn, violin student of Maxim Korn). While Katie is the third sibling in her family to receive the award, Director Sarah Smongeski noted to Katie's mom: "Katie was nominated three years in a row for this award. This wasn't about her 'keeping up' with her sisters. She won it entirely on her own merit."

Claire Holston Byrnes (of W. Boylston, 7th grade violin student of Peter Hughes) was selected for the Jr. Central District Festival Orchestra last spring.

Faculty News

Silvia Irving performs in London at the Royal Albert Hall

Silvia sang in Haydn's *The Seasons* with Boston's Handel & Haydn Society in July at the Royal Albert Memorial Hall in London. Silvia has also received a special invitation to sing in *The Messiah* with a professional chorus under the direction of Grant Llewellyn with the North Carolina Symphony in December.

Silvia is a specialist in Early Music having studied at Europe's premier school of Early Music, the Schola Cantorum in Switzerland.

Silvia celebrates 20 years at PCMS this fall.

Janeen Baker, piano, attended the Regional AGO (American Guild of Organists) Convention in Providence in June. Janeen served as organist at several churches in Maine this summer, accompanied at the October 13 Alumni Recital, and gave a recital at Notre Dame Long Term Care also in October.

Amy Carroll, flute, joined the Worcester Chamber Music Society for a performance of a Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto* in September.

"So many of the veterans expressed their gratitude in the quality of your performance and how much it meant to them. The dueling "Taps" was especially moving to the audience."

Kathy Holton,
Producer of *Salute to Veterans*

Students Step Forward for Auburn's Salute to Veterans

Thank you to members of PCMS' Creative Drama & Music class who joined with stu-

dents from the After-School program at Auburn Youth & Family Services to sing patriotic selections for Auburn's *Salute to Veterans* program on November 11th. Kathy Riley, expressive arts specialist and Auburn Youth outreach partner teacher, directed the group.

Thanks also to trumpet students Casey Hibbard (of Sutton) and Teddy Smongeski (of Shrewsbury).

A Note From Patti Verderese, Board President

I am privileged to be working on the Board of Directors at PCMS during this exciting 25th year of celebration. In addition to the many special events taking place this year, performance classes, honors recitals and semester-end recitals continue along with student outreach concerts within the Worcester Area community.

In my 23 years of involvement with PCMS, I have witnessed the product of the quality music education students have received. I have heard first performances of new students who over time have grown in poise and skill and have awed the audience with their accomplishments as they perform at their final recitals. I have seen the dedication and commitment of faculty and staff who make this school a beacon of excellence. I have observed satisfied parents who sought out the best for their children.

At each recital I attend, I am reminded why I am part of the Board at PCMS—the beauty of music and how it changes lives. At the most recent recital held a couple of weeks ago at a long-term care nursing facility, the residents not only enjoyed the performances but responded to the young families who had come to participate. This is just one of the ways PCMS changes lives.

I look forward to working together as PCMS begins the next 25 years!

Thank you. Patti Verderese
President, PCMS Board

Welcome New Board Members

Joining the PCMS Board this fall are:

Louise Downie - Louise, of Auburn, worked at PCMS during its formative years (age one to five!) providing office and marketing support. Louise later worked at the Performing Arts School of Worcester. She is currently a member of the Auburn Rotary and the Auburn Conservation Commission.

Sue Natoli - Sue, of Millbury, is a professional singer. She toured nationally and internationally a number of decades ago as a member of the renowned Hale Sisters. She currently sings in and around Worcester for weddings and teaches voice.

John Pacek - John, of Holden, has three daughters who play an instrument, one of whom has studied here at PCMS with Amy Carroll having transferred from the former Performing Arts School of Worcester. He is a former public school teacher.

Philanthropy / Giving

Please Give Generously to the Annual Fund

Dear PCMS friends & families,
It's that time of year again, when we are all asked to support that which is meaningful in our lives. The Annual Fund drive is in full swing, and by now, you should have received a letter asking for your gift. If you haven't received the mailing, please fill out the form below and return it to the school with your contribution.

The success of the Annual Fund is an important part of the school's future as a non-profit entity. So please consider supporting YOUR school, and the community-wide resource it has become. **Your donation helps PCMS continue to give the gift of music and go on to celebrate another 25 years!**

Thank you and Happy Holidays!
Karmen Bogdesic, Manager of Development

Volunteer Corner

It's easy. It's fun. And it's a simple way to connect with other PCMS students and families... while helping your school at the same time! As a non-profit entity, volunteer help is so appreciated.

Help out while you're waiting during your child's lesson or class by:
stuffing envelopes, assisting staff, cutting out newspaper articles. Just let Elaine know.

Help out from home at your own pace and your own schedule by:
putting together a scrapbook of PCMS history

Help out at recitals/special events by:
Setting-up and cleaning-up for the event and supervising student volunteers
Help out by coordinating a trip to Mechanics or Tuckerman Hall for a concert by getting group tickets for PCMS students/families

Help out by being the *Merchandise Coordinator* for our new 25th anniversary shirts, pencils and totes and setting up/selling the merchandise at PCMS recitals/events.

What's a *Studio Parent*? Look at the Volunteer Corner on the bulletin board for an explanation! Could this be you?

Coming up soon: We will have many opportunities for students and parents to help out with the Annual Cabaret Fundraiser in March. Please check the **Volunteer Corner** on the lobby bulletin board.

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you!

Karmen Bogdesic, Manager of Development
Home office: (508) 842-1596

Student volunteers MaryLynn and Jen O'Connor (rear), Sarah Karuvilla and Katerina Vujic (front) help with sales and refreshments at the 25th Anniversary Alumnae Recital in October.



PAKACHOAG COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

Yes! I will help PCMS give the gift of music.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 + Director's Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 + Conductor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 + Section Leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 + Composer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 + Soloist | <input type="checkbox"/> \$___ Other |

Name: _____

Please print your name as you wish to be recognized.

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

- Check enclosed, payable to PCMS.
- I pledge a total of \$ _____. Please send me a reminder.
- I wish to remain anonymous, and do not wish to be listed as a donor.
- Please list my gift "In Honor/Memory of _____". (Circle one.)
- My gift will be matched by (company name): _____.
- I would like to learn more about including PCMS in my will.
- Give online today at www.pakmusic.org and click on "Donate now". Questions? Call 508 791-8159.

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Thank you.

The Annual Fund - Sustaining for The Future

2006-2007 Annual Fund

PCMS thanks our Annual Fund contributors whose support sustains the school and helps assure future music-making for hundreds more throughout the Greater Worcester Community.

Director's Circle 1,000+

In Memory of
Joseph L. & Georgette C.
Smongeski
Patti & Paul Verderese
Massachusetts Cultural Council

Composers \$500+

Meg Gallo
Roger Greene
Marion S. Palm
Anonymous
The Allison Family
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Weigl

Conductors \$250+

Peter & Catherine Balesano
Gene J. DeFeudis
Susan & John Howland
Donald Michaels & Susan Kraft
Jane & Andres Molina
Nydia & Charles Moser
Dennis & Jane Neslusan
Anonymous

Soloists \$100+

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The Bogdesic / Vujic family
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Elizabeth Kalonas
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Edna Kallstrom
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Diane M. Paradis
Arline Rayner

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Section Leaders \$50+

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of Worcester
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& Francis Norman
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Phyllis Pollack
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Sue Stafford & Jim Demetry
Auburn Town Pizza
John Paul Verderese, MD
Ev and Dave Wills
Susan Hurlburt Jacques
Diane, Jim & Valerie Chase
In Memory of Ruth &
Janine Holston
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Verderese
Leonard & Anna White

Friends - Up to \$50

Beverly Johnson
Zofia Budzynski
Mr. & Mrs.

Brigham Bergquist
Ruth E. Bottom
Constance Brodeur
Beverly A. Brooks
Daniel & Diane Browne
Jon & Pam Clark
Marlene A. Cronin
Rebecca Day
In memory of James J. O'Hara
Andi & Al Esposito
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Maryann Green
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Inna Muravnik
Philip D. O'Connell, Jr. PC
In memory of
Frank & Betty Kalonas
John Song
Santina Stafford
The Stolz Family
Marion & Vince Tassone
Cristina Verderese
Mr. & Mrs.
Paul A. Welcome
Auburn Rotary Club
Amanda Elinoff
Dick & Barbara Granger

A First Lesson

Adult student Stephanie Higgins of Oxford jumps into her first lesson. A beginner, Stephanie was ready to go even before faculty member Sheila Reid showed up for the first lesson of the day.





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Or... e-mail requests if you prefer.

In This Issue...

Winter Session— Music Together Registration Information



*Sarah Smongeski,
Executive Director*

*Karmen Bogdesic,
Manager of Development*

Elaine Rynders, Office Manager

Jennifer Barrett, Business Manager

Pakachoag Community Music School — Fall News

25th Anniversary Year Reflections & Celebrations

The Next Generation?

Rebecca Wefald, of Boylston, introduces a young visitor to the violin at the School's 25th Anniversary Open House on Sept. 9th.



**Hold The Date....
Cabaret 2008**

The Best of the Best
20th Reunion Cabaret

**Friday & Saturday,
March 28 & 29, 2008**

*Gift Tickets Available
for The Holidays*
Donations for silent auction / raffle
welcome anytime!

With Richard Monroe, Bob Gauthier,
Sal Luco, Michael Gondek, Stanley Wilson, Eric Wefald,
Jane Shivick, Mary Anne Slack, Elisabeth Gondek
& more surprise guests!

*Alumni recitals
Outreach Concerts
Jazz Comes to PCMS
Music Together -*

*New Locations,
Bring a Friend & Get A Discount!*

