

## More Choices for Pre-Schoolers

Pakachoag's popular Suzuki method of instruction for young children is growing as parents experience the links among early music experiences, health, happiness, and success in school and beyond.

Pakachoag has long been known as a Central Mass. leader in early childhood education with classes for the very young dating back to 1983, just one year following the school's founding. In fact, Pakachoag was providing early childhood music and movement classes before many of the national providers came on the scene, including Music Together, the nationally based program incorporated into Pakachoag's programs starting in 1999.

Now, with four of the school's faculty trained in the Suzuki method of instruction, students as young as 3 years old may opt into Violin lessons; and as young as 4 years old for Guitar. With these expanded offerings, parents of pre-school aged children may now choose among Music Together classes, Violin or Guitar lessons. So which program is best?

Every child's development—musically, socially, cognitively, and emotionally — can vary widely during these formative years. Understanding what each program has to offer can help parents make informed choices.

*(Continued on page 2)*



**A Suzuki Violin Ensemble visits Tatnuck Park Nursing Home in March with teacher Sheila Reid.**

The Suzuki Violin Ensemble performed at Tatnuck Park Assisted Living in Worcester on March 15th. Eight students (aged about 5 to 9 years) played a half hour concert for an enthusiastic audience of seniors. Participating were: Seth (of Douglas), Gabriel (of Webster), Reina (of Worcester), Olivia (of Auburn), Will (of Shrewsbury), Joshua (of Worcester), Shayla (of Shrewsbury), and Shannen (of Worcester).

## Recitals Spur Enthusiasm for Faculty, Alum & the 'Save the Piano's' Fund

Pakachoag is delighted to report that, thanks to the very generous donations of concert attendees, parents and faculty, two new damp-chaser humidifier/dehumidifier systems are due to be installed on the Yamaha and Kawai upright pianos in April. We will also be purchasing a bona-fide piano lamp, saying goodbye to the wobbly, glare-in-your-eyes lamp that has none-the-less served

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Worcester Youth Orchestra Auditions for 2010-11 Season

May 27-29 at Pakachoag.

Please call the office or go to [www.pakmusic.org](http://www.pakmusic.org) and look for "Events: WYO"

## May Student Recital Weekend:

May 15 & 16

You're Invited.

Please call the office after May 5th for a schedule of start times

## Come Visit!

We're a little easier to find following erection of new signage on Pakachoag Street in November.



### Inside —

*Summer Program Overview*

Page 3

*New Faculty Appointments*

Pages 4 and 5

*Afternoon Tunes Update—Youth to Youth Music in Worcester*

Page 3

## Program News

### Summer Programs

**Early Childhood Summer Samplers**  
(ages birth to five)

**Music for Special Learners**  
(for children with and without special needs—ages 3 to 8)

**Summer Fiddling**—for Violinists at the level of Suzuki Book Four and Up

#### Blues Jam for Adults

Players of any instrument who play at a beginning through intermediate level are invited to join.

**Jazz Jam for Middle/High Schoolers**  
At the intermedidate level.

**Musical Theatre For The Young**—  
For Children entering grades 1 through 3.

#### Private Lessons

Please go to [www.pakmusic.org](http://www.pakmusic.org) and look for “Summer” for complete schedules and registration information.

*(Continued from page 1)*

#### Concerts Help Save Pianos

accompanist Janeen Baker well these past four years.

Thanks to Amanda Mole, alum and graduate student at Yale, who presented in January a wonderful program of mostly Baroque music played on Pakachoag Church’s Dobson Pipe organ, with donations accepted at that concert for The Fund.

Additional thanks to the faculty who donated many hours of practice time in preparation for the February faculty recital. It was a very special afternoon with an overflowing crowd. As Director Sarah Smongeski wrote to faculty following the program, “I enjoyed the music greatly; but what I really, really enjoyed was to see our teachers working together so harmoniously — musically and socially. ... I regret that my camera was not ‘on’ at the end to capture one more special moment: One of the young students in attendance, Alexander, aged 9,...walked right on up during the applause following the final piece performed, and handed a bunch of flowers to his teacher Curtis. He proceeded to shake Curtis’ hand, and then moved down the row to do the same with the other two performers before returning to his seat. You’d think he had just completed training at one of the Olympic medal ceremonies. Curtis’ big smile rounded out the afternoon.”

Thank you attendees and faculty for your generosity in saving Pakachoag’s pianos—so that many more students in future years will enjoy the rewards of lessons and concerts on ‘healthy’, long-lived pianos. In particular, thank you to the Kraft & Verderese families who made leading donations to ‘top off’ the fund.

Next on the list... A high quality upright piano to accommodate the growing number of Pakachoag students.



Faculty Perform a Beethoven Trio for Piano, Clarinet and Cello at the February faculty recital

## Events & Summer Programs

Go to [www.pakmusic.org](http://www.pakmusic.org) and look for ‘events’ and ‘summer’ on the home page.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Pakachoag generally recommends a minimum of three sessions of Music Together classes before moving to an instrument. Ideally, if you begin Music Together classes shortly after birth, you can cycle through all nine song collections by age 3; and while repeating those song collections bring additional benefits at ages 4 and 5, parents will also have learned during that time how to assess their child’s ‘music competency’ and readiness for an instrument.

Taking the time to provide a sound music foundation for your child during the formative years (birth to age five), which is so strongly provided through singing and movement as part of the Music Together curriculum, will pay off in later years when moving to an instrument.

In fact, did you know, a number of Pakachoag’s successful high school musicians are themselves graduates of the Music Together program?

#### Which Program to choose?

The answer depends in large part upon your child – both with regard to their stage of music competency, overall developmental readiness, and taking into consideration any innate tendency to be drawn to a particular instrument.

Learn more at:  
[www.musictogether.com](http://www.musictogether.com)

[www.suzukiassociation.org](http://www.suzukiassociation.org)

## People News .....

### 2010 High School Graduates

Congratulations and best wishes to:

**Amanda Balesano**, of Auburn, accepted at Holy Cross, Boston College, Assumption, Bentley & Babson.

**Ian Cunningham**, of Brookfield, pursuing a major in Architecture.

**Vera Grek**, of Auburn, accepted at Holy Cross.

**Jeffrey Lefferts**, of Sutton, accepted at Liberty University, Virginia.

**Julia Nguyen**, of Auburn, accepted at Williams, Trinity, Vassar, Brandeis and WPI.

**Krysten Renihan**, of Auburn, considering Piloting and/or Music.

**Amanda Roper**, of Sutton, accepted at RPI, University of Richmond, and Boston College.

**Rebecca Ruggere**, of N. Brookfield, pursuing Sound Recording/Technology

**Annecca Smith**, of Worcester, accepted at Bryn Mawr, Smith, Brown, Holy Cross, & U.Mass.

*Have we missed anyone? Please let us know so we can include you in our Fall newsletter update.*



### 'Afternoon Tunes' Outreach Update

*Afternoon Tunes*, initiated last September and based at All Saints Church, continues its work to provide free music lessons to young people of low income backgrounds living in the All Saints neighborhoods.

Founder of the program and Pakachoag Alum Elizabeth Butterworth writes:

"At the moment we have 23 kids in private lessons and I think 3 students on the wait list (all of whom are taking a group recorder class).

"... Our recital! It will be on Saturday, May 29 at 11:30 at All Saints, and all the students will be performing! We have an almost full roster of teachers for next year, although we're still looking to fill a few positions. Sheila [Reid, Pakachoag Faculty Member] is continuing to work as our Music Education Coach next year."

### Pakachoag Parent & Olympic Runner Inducted into Hall of Fame

Parent Vivienne Morana was inducted in February into the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Hall of Fame in Charlotte, North Carolina. Vivienne, among other career highlights, was a member of the Korean Olympic Track & Field team. Congratulations Vivienne!

### Music Festival Acceptances

Congratulations to the following students accepted into the Mass. Central Districts:

**Amanda Roper**, Violin student of Maxim Korn, Orchestra

**Vera Grek**, Trumpet student of Jon Clark, Concert Band

**Casey Hibbard**, Trumpet student of Jon Clark, Concert Band

**Katerina Vujic**, piano student of Lea Lipner, Chorus

### Honors Recital

Congratulations to the following students accepted for this year's Honors Student Recital:

**Lydia Grek, Jon O'Connor & Katerina Vujic**, piano students of Lea Lucia Lipner;

**Aimee Renihan**, Voice student of Silvia Irving; **Jen O'Connor**, Flute student of Sarah Smongeski; **Krysten Renihan**, Flute student of Amy Carroll; and **Jeffrey Lefferts**, piano student of Inna Muravnik.

### Alumni Performing

**Arielle Cady**, former violin student of Sheila Reid, presents this spring a junior year recital at Anderson University in Warren, Michigan where she is majoring in music.

**Lauren Rose King**, former voice student of Silvia Irving, was cast earlier this spring in the lead role of Yum-Yum in the New York, Cohoes based C&R production of *The Mikado*.

Lauren, a graduate of NEC, will continue her vocal studies thereafter, moving to Manhattan to study with Deborah Birnbaum, an internationally established teacher and performer whose private studio includes singers from the Metropolitan and other major opera companies in the US and abroad. **Cristina Verderese**, former student of Sarah Smongeski, presents a Graduate Flute Recital on April 25th, as she completes her Master's degree in Music at Catholic University this May.

### Faculty Appointments:

**Pakachoag is pleased to welcome:**



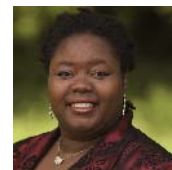
**Jeremy Milligan**  
(Guitar - Suzuki & Traditional; Classical, Flamenco, Jazz, Folk, Pop; Acoustic, Electric). Prior to joining Pakachoag, Jeremy

taught a large roster of students (ages 4 to adult) in the Northampton area.

Jeremy's background includes playing at sea with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines where he performed with such legendary acts as Herb Reed & the Platters, and the Miracles.

Following his stint on the seas, Jeremy spent time in Spain, where he studied Flamenco guitar at the 'La Janda' school in Vejer de la Frontera. Currently, Jeremy is completing a Master's degree in Classical Guitar at the Hartt School of Music, with an emphasis in pedagogy and the Suzuki method of teaching.

**Audrey White**  
(Violin - Suzuki & Traditional) began her study of the violin at the age of four.



She is a graduate of the GBYSO program as well as the New England Conservatory of Music where she taught for a decade as part of the Preparatory and Continuing Education Division. Audrey has studied and performed in Japan with Dr. Shinichi Suzuki. She currently conducts the Boston Citywide String Orchestra, a multi-generational ensemble of string musicians drawing from the Boston community. She performs regularly with the Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra, and is the conductor of the Worcester Youth Orchestras. Audrey began teaching Suzuki violin at Pakachoag in March.

## Philanthropy / Giving

### Cabaret Fundraiser 2010

Thank you attendees, sponsors, advertisers, business contributors and volunteers for making the 22nd Annual Cabaret Fundraiser on March 26-27<sup>th</sup> a success! Singing an eclectic arrangement of popular Broadway songs and top Billboard hits, Sue Natoli and the Hale Sisters delighted attendees for four performances. Sue has sung alongside such greats as: Tony Bennett, Sammy David Jr., and Natalie Cole and had the leading role in the Broadway musical, *Hair*.



The Wine Tasting held on March 27<sup>th</sup> was a huge hit! Over 60 people attended the event and sampled a dozen local wines courtesy of Colony Liquors & Wine Shoppe of Auburn. Guests also enjoyed the fine cuisine from our friends at the Worcester Restaurant Group.

The Cabaret and Wine Tasting events raised just over \$16,000 to help support Pakachoag's 'Living Vision':.....where music is our passion, for life.

*"Sue's voice was so beautiful...we thoroughly enjoyed the show!"— an attendee.*



Your support is bringing smiles to the faces of students!  
This group gathered to celebrate, following another successful student recital on Sunday, April 11th.

## The Annual Fund: The Cornerstone that Keeps Pakachoag Thriving

Hello Friends,

Thank you to our growing roster of annual fund contributors. Your generosity:

- eases the financial burden for students in need;
- recruits talented teaching artists; and
- brings music to inner-city youth through outreach.

The Annual Fund is the cornerstone of the non-tuition part of our budget, so the school relies on building a strong

Annual Fund, in order to continue building strong programs for the future.

If you haven't donated yet, please take a moment to support Pakachoag Music School of Greater Worcester. With your help, students are discovering the wonderful world of music, and parents are seeing (and hearing) dreams for their children come to fruition.

Sincerely, Lisa Vuona, Manager of Development

PAKACHOAG MUSIC SCHOOL OF GREATER WORCESTER  
Yes! I will help Pakachoag change lives through music!

- |   |  |  |
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- I would like to learn more about including the Music School in my will.
- Give online today at [www.pakmusic.org](http://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.

Don't forget to check with your company about their matching gift program, as you make your contribution.

Matching gifts are an easy way to double your donation!

# Giving



## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

The Music School is grateful to the following sponsors for their support, which not only makes for a successful event/program, but strengthens the school in its ability to fulfill its Mission:

### Spring 2010:

#### **TOM INGRASSIA PRODUCTIONS**

www.ingrassiaartist.com  
Alumni Organ Recital -  
January 2010.

#### **SECURITY ENGINEERED MACHINERY**

www.semshred.com  
Faculty and Student Recitals -  
February and May 2010

#### **WEBSTER FIVE**

www.web5.com  
Honors Recital - March 2010

#### **SPECTRUM MUSIC**

www.Spectrum-Music.com  
Student Recital—April 2010

### **Cabaret Fundraiser Sponsors 2010:**

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### **2009-2010 Annual Fund**

*Pakachoag thanks our Annual Fund contributors whose support sustains the school and helps assure future music-making for hundreds more throughout the Greater Worcester Community. This list as of April 1, 2010. The campaign runs through August.*

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Teddy Smongeski  
Jill & John Sullivan  
Dimas Valentzas  
Cristina Verderese

\* *Save the Pianos Fund*

### **2009-2010 Financial Aid, Access, Operational Support As of April 1, 2010**

The following grantors are keeping the dreams of parents and students alive as their wishes for music lessons and classes come true — even when finances do not permit.

- Pakachoag Church (in-kind Facility Support)
- Greater Worcester Community Foundation
- The George F. & Sybil H. Fuller Foundation
- Hoche-Scofield Foundation
- Wal-Mart
- Auburn Chamber of Commerce



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(508) 791-8159  
www.pakmusic.org

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Sarah Smongeski,  
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**In This Issue...**

*Summer Program Highlights*



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*Guitar students, with teacher Jeff Dostal, gather for a December Performance*

*Graduating Senior Recital Weekend*

Friday, May 21  
**Flute** with  
Krysten Renihan (Home-Schooled High School Graduate)

Saturday, May 22  
**Piano, Voice & Violin** with  
Marylynn & Katie O'Connor  
(Anna Maria College Graduate)

Sunday, May 23  
**Organ** with  
Annecca Smith  
at All Saints Church  
(Doherty Memorial High School Graduate)

*Programs free and open to the public.*

**Spring 2010 News**