

25 & Counting:

Celebrating Community, Students & Faculty

 **A Note from the Director**

PCMS' 25th Anniversary Year has proven both invigorating and inspiring. I and all of our faculty have delighted in the many celebrations which have embraced community, students and faculty. Becoming 25 has furnished the School with a renewed sense of self as to what makes Pakachoag stand out: as a music school dedicated to 'excitement, joy & high expectations'; as a resource throughout Greater Worcester; and as a member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts.

Because of the support of so many throughout the Greater Worcester community, Pakachoag continues its quest forward, crafting lasting experiences and memories for young and old alike.

More than ever, this year, I look forward to a future that will bring alive new visions and open up more pathways for the larger community to experience the many ways in which music enlightens, challenges, and fulfills.


Please, visit PCMS anytime.
 The music is here for everyone.
 Sincerely,
 Sarah Smongeski
 Executive Director



Students & Faculty Join The Celebration: Daniel Collins (of Sterling; right) performs Largo from a Bach Double Concerto with his teacher Peter Hughes at the Worcester Art Museum as part of First Night Worcester. Daniel will graduate from Worcester Academy this May, attending Notre Dame University in the Fall. Continued opportunities to play violin at Notre Dame were an important part of Daniel's college choice.

Alumni Highlight

Lauren Rose King ('04) recently won the N.E. Conservatory bi-annual Concerto Competition in the vocal category. As a result, Lauren was the featured soloist with the NEC Symphony in Jordan Hall, Boston in April.

 A 20-Year
 Faculty Member
 Reflects on PCMS'
 Successes, and Shares
 Career Highlights

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 New Endowed
 Scholarship Fund
 Honors 24-Year
 Faculty Member

In recognition and honor of Mary Anne Kalonas Slack's 24 years of service, Pakachoag Community Music School announces the establishment of *The Mary Anne Kalonas Slack Endowed Scholarship.*

(Continued on page 5)

Reunion Cabaret
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We "were overjoyed at the quality and professionalism of the 25th Anniversary Cabaret production... The Singing was extraordinary, your accompanists were superb and we were duly thrilled by the choice of music. ... Thanks for the extraordinary memories you created for us."
 Bob & Madeline Dupuis of Marlborough.

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Celebrating Young Musicians & Family

Music Together® at PCMS

Fall 2008 --

Why Early Registration is A Good Idea...

Information for Fall registration will be available in June. We suggest registering before open enrollment in August to make sure you secure a space in your desired class. Early registration also helps Elaine in the office to get class confirmation information out well in advance of class start dates.

Interesting Tidbits from the Front Office

Elaine Rynders, office manager, and Sarah Smongeski, would like to share....

We had a number of calls this Spring explaining late registrations. Not originally planning to register, a number of parents commented that their child was asking ‘when will music class start up again, Mom?’, and Mom, suddenly realized that child was anxiously awaiting the start of the next Music Together session.

We encourage families to participate in the MT program on an on-going basis. Each day in the life of a little one is an opportunity to build foundation skills for future success in school and life. The consistency and repetition provided through the three-session Music Together curriculum, as well as the learning that takes place in a social setting, can have a significant impact on your child’s music and overall development.

Satellite Music Together Classes now available in Dudley, Sterling & Sturbridge.



April Family Jam

Grandparents and dads, who are not usually part of week-day class visits, discover during Family Jam afternoon why Music Together classes are so much fun (not to mention a great learning opportunity).

MT teachers Christine Taylor and Julie Holston-Quimby led a Music Together Family Jam on Saturday, April 12th. In addition to favorite MT songs and play-alongs, The Quimby Family entertained with folk selections and fiddle music. Light refreshments followed. Thanks to Julie & Christine for volunteering their time to make this family opportunity available.

Creative Drama & Music

presents...



“The Unity Tree”



Friday, May 2, 2008— 7:00 p.m.
The Great Hall *Christine Taylor, Teacher/Director*



Come visit Cat-ville and Dog-burg on Pakachoag Street as the cast of The Unity Tree teaches us how to all get along.

Christine Taylor took over the drama class this spring following four years of direction under Kathy

Riley who is now focusing on outreach activities. Many thanks to Kathy whose 10th anniversary with PCMS was acknowledged at the December showcase. Christine comes well-prepared as an active thespian with the Stageloft Theatre in Sturbridge.



Above: The Cast of December’s Show: “Who’s the Best Reindeer of All?”



Katie Rosum (piano student of Lea Lipner; of Millbury) plays *Grandfather’s Clock* at an April School-Wide recital.



Answer the music joke correctly and we’ll enter your name in a drawing for a 99 Restaurant Gift Certificate.

E-mail or leave a note with your name, age and answer by June 1st. You don’t have to be currently enrolled to participate.

Q. Why was the piano on the front porch?

Watch for PCMS’ Fall newsletter for winner and answer.

Private Instruction — Celebrating Students

Graduating Seniors:

Very best wishes to this year's graduating students.

Daniel Collins (of Sterling; violin student of Peter Hughes) attending Notre Dame Univ. in Indiana.

Erin Renihan (of Auburn; piano student of Janeen Baker) attending Quinsigammond College, Worcester majoring in Early Childhood Education.

André Molina (of Boylston; piano student of Lea Lipner;) accepted at Catholic Univ. of America (with scholarship).

Nick Zini (of Sturbridge; trumpet ensemble member with Jon Clark) has been accepted at Gordon College as a music education major but will defer for one year while he performs locally with his band "Leaving Stafford" gaining some real-life experience in the world of music.

Alumni News

Scott Song ('99; violin) earned a BS degree in Biology from UMass Amherst in 2003 and a Doctor of Optometry (OD) from Penn. College of Optometry in '07. Scott is currently working in Virginia as an Optometrist.

Andrew Song ('03; piano) received a BA degree from Boston College in '07. He is currently working at the State Street Bank in Boston.



Above: Cecile Afablé (of Sturbridge) and Sarah Kalousdian (of Uxbridge) perform at the Fitchburg Public Library April outreach concert. Cecile also played two Bach Inventions, and Sarah spun her way (very cleanly) through Chopin's Minute Waltz.

ARE YOU A PCMS VOLUNTEER?

A BIG thank you to the following PCMS student volunteers, who did a wonderful job working the Cabaret shows:

Rachel Chambers, Lydia & Vera Grek, Sara Kuruvilla, James & Hanna Lane, Jeffrey Lefferts, Charlotte Michaels, Amisha Nehra, David & Julia Ngyen, Katie & Jen O'Connor, Erin & Krysten Renihan, Karin & Rebecca Wefald

Thank you to parent helpers as well: Therese Lane, Jayne Hibbard, Karin Chambers, & Susan Kraft.

Volunteering...

It's **good** fun. A **good** experience. For a **good** cause – **your** music school!

So next time you see a sign up sheet on the school bulletin board asking for volunteer help – please lend a hand, so that PCMS can be strong and celebrate another 25 years!

Karmen Bogdesic, Manager of Development

Congratulations to Students accepted into ...

Jr. Central Mass. Districts:

Cecile Afablé (of Sturbridge; piano student of Lea Lipner) accepted on Mallet Percussion.

Lydia Grek (of Auburn; Piano student of Lea Lipner) accepted playing Trombone. **Zachary Roper** (of Sutton; trumpet student of Jon Clark).

And...

Sr. Central Mass. Districts: Trumpet students of Jon Clark: **Teddy Smongeski** (of Shrewsbury) and **Casey Hibbard** (of Sutton) accepted into the Mass. Central District Concert Band.

Rebecca Wefald (of Boylston; violin student of Maxim Korn) accepted into the Central District Orchestra.

Avon Tyler of Uxbridge prepares for his weekly lesson with Maxim Korn.

When asked by Sarah Smongeski upon Avon's early arrival: "I expect Maxim is keeping you busy?" "You bet," replied Avon "but I love every minute of it".



The Trumpet Choir (right) performs at Tower Hill Botanic Gardens in Boylston during the holidays. L to R: Ted Smongeski (of Shrewsbury), Dustin Weigle (of Southboro), Jon Clark (Faculty/Director), Casey Hibbard (of Sutton), Nick Zinni (of Sturbridge).



The "Union of Violins", under the direction of Maxim Korn and featuring students of Maxim, Peter Hughes & Sheila Reid, warms-up for an April 13th Anniversary Outreach Concert at the Fitchburg Public Library. Students from all sides of Worcester (north, south, east and west) participated.

Congratulations to the students selected for this year's Honors Recital (pictured on back cover from L to R):

Krysten Renihan (of Auburn; flute student of Amy Carroll); **Erin Renihan** (of Auburn; piano student of Janeen Baker); **Jeffrey Lefferts** (of Sutton; piano student of Inna Muravnik); **Cecile Afable** (of Sturbridge, piano student of Lea Lipner); **Claire Holston Byrnes** (of W. Boylston; violin student of Peter Hughes); and (not shown - James had to leave before we snapped the shot) **James Flagg** (of Uxbridge; piano student of Inna Muravnik).

The PCMS Honors Student Recital provides an opportunity for advancing students (who are either in grade 8 and up, or who have been studying for 4 or more years) to perform artistic selections (from the standard classical repertoire) in performance. Students are selected based on their teacher's recommendation, their own interest, and following the results of an audition. Students with an interest in participating in future years might wish to consult with their teacher. PCMS anticipates moving the Honors Recital to an every-other-year event starting in 08/09.



Celebrating Faculty

25 20-Year Faculty Member Janeen Baker Reflects on PCMS' Successes, and Shares Career Highlights

Board President Patti Verderese met with Janeen Baker earlier this year to reminisce over tea about Janeen's experiences at PCMS, and why she thinks PCMS has prospered and grown over the past 25 years.

Patti (P): How did you first come to be involved with the School?

Janeen (J): Dennis Knight, pastor of Pakachoag Church back in the early 1980's, called me and told me about his vision for a community music school initiated by the church. At that time, the public schools were moving towards reducing the arts

programs in the schools. Dennis and the church members felt such a school would fill this projected void and be a resource for the community. Dennis knew of my music background and involvement with the Auburn community and wanted my opinion. At that time, I taught piano privately in my home.

I became more involved with the School when one of my more exceptional students, Kathy Lee, needed a teacher who could take her further in studying piano. I sent her to Kallin Johnson, first executive director. Shortly thereafter, Kallin and I began to have joint recitals.

Then, in 1988, when I and my

husband Rex were moving away from Auburn and building a house in Princeton, I asked the new executive director, Peggy Reinberg, if I could bring my students

to PCMS. Since then, I have taught at the school (minus two years away with the Peace Corps in Africa) and for many years have also served as the school accompanist at recitals, outreach concerts, and other PCMS events.

(P): Why do you think PCMS has prospered and grown over the past 25 years?

(J): "The perseverance of current executive director, Sarah Smongeski. We really moved after Sarah took over. She had some great ideas that re-energized the school."

(P): What are some highlights in your career that stand out?

(J): "Having some of my students audition for an honors recital and pulling it off wonderfully; when I see one of my students do such a wonderful job on piano in composure



20-Year Faculty members Silvia Irving (L) and Janeen Baker (R) reunited in January with former students and Alumni recitalists Daniel Allison, Tenor, and Gerry Senechal, organist. Gerry now serves as a church organist in Nashville, TN; Daniel is finishing a degree in Music Education at UConn.

and department; when I hear former students like Gerry Senechal and Melissa Martiros, who performed in our 25th anniversary alumni recitals."

PCMS is fortunate to have many dedicated faculty members like Janeen Baker. As a parent of former PCMS students of Janeen's, I am grateful that Janeen has remained at the school for over 20 years and grateful for a friendship nurtured through my family's long-term association with PCMS.

Patti Verderese, President - PCMS Board of Directors.

What makes teaching fun for Janeen at PCMS?

"When you have an 8-year old who is serious and interested, who practices 40 minutes every day; an older kid - when something starts to click and they become excited about everything they are playing; when someone follows your passion - it's motivating and exciting," says Janeen. "And I just love my adult students; I can really talk music with them."

William Ness Teaching Organ

William Ness has joined PCMS this spring to pick up for Scott Lamlein who has moved his work life closer to home in Connecticut. William is well-known in the area as the organist at First Baptist Church in Worcester. Recent performances have included April concerts at Holy Cross and at St. Paul's with Ian Watson on the Dueling Organ Concert with the Mastersingers of Worcester. In October, William will be performing in Illinois.

Faculty Performing Locally & Regionally

Inna Muravnik presented solo piano recitals at the Hanover Public library in March, April and May with works by Ravel, Haydn and Brahms, Mozart and Chopin.

Silvia Irving presented a Faculty Recital at Anna Maria College on April 25th singing works by Schumann, Brahms and Ravel. PCMS faculty member and flutist **Amy Carroll** also performed Copland's Duo for Flute & Piano along with selected chamber music with Silvia.

Peter Hughes performed solo violin recently at Foothills Theatre's production of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change". Peter's playing "provided fine support for the cast" as noted in Worcester Telegram & Gazette's theatre review.

Sheila Reid's ensemble, Duo Divertimento, will be performing a concert at the Worcester Art Museum May 18th, at 3 PM. Guitarist Carl Kamp will join her. Composers to be represented are Czech, Italian, Spanish and Cuban. Concert is free with museum admission.

Christine Taylor Achieves Music Together® Certification

PCMS is very happy to announce that Christine Taylor has been awarded Music Together Level I Certification for outstanding achievement in teaching, musicianship, program philosophy, and parent education.

Achieving Certification status, which is granted by The Center for Music and Young Children in Princeton, NJ, requires considerable preparation and completion of an intensive supplementary training program.

PCMS expresses its appreciation to Christine for taking the time to further her professional standing as an educator and musician.

French Horn with New Faculty Member Candace Thomas

PCMS had a real treat at its February performance class when Candace Thomas and student Cara Loughlin performed a duet for French Horns.

Candace completed her BM degree at Boston University. She has also completed coursework at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota and served as a Graduate Assistant at UMass Amherst. In addition to teaching, Candace plays with the Thayer Symphony Orchestra in Leominster.



Endowed Scholarship Honors Mary Anne Slack - 24 Year Faculty Member and Cabaret Founder



(Continued from page 1)

Each year, starting in 2009, an Early Childhood/Music Together family applying for financial aid will receive tuition support in Mary Anne's name.

Mary Anne, currently a resident of Spencer and originally from Northbridge, joined PCMS in 1983. During the subsequent two decades, Mary Anne led the school's early childhood program into becoming

recognized as one of the very best music programs for young children around Worcester. Some of her former students are now bringing their own children to Music Together classes at PCMS. One of her former students, Elisabeth LaBarre Gondek, is also now teaching at PCMS.

In 1987, Mary Anne organized and presented the School's first fundraising Cabaret. For 20 long years (minus two years off), Mary Anne mapped out and organized show themes and plots, coordinated rehearsals for the four weekends prior to shows, and sang her heart out for Cabarets - all in support of the School's current and future students.

Beginning in 1997, Mary Anne led the development of the school's early childhood program by recruiting and training four

additional Music Together faculty who have themselves become dynamic, committed faculty.

Mary Anne retired from active duty as a PCMS teacher in May 2007, but returned to organize and sing in the school's 20th Reunion Cabaret in March. She currently teaches music in the Spencer/E. Brookfield school system.

Proceeds from each year's annual Cabaret help sustain the school, making it possible for PCMS to provide financial aid for low-income families, keep tuition costs down, and provide special outreach programs for at-risk youth and frail elders.

Photo to left: Mary Anne Slack (L) accepts congratulations from Sarah Smongeski at the School's 20th Reunion Cabaret for her part in furthering the mission and vision of PCMS.



Celebrating Community Giving

2007-2008 Annual Fund - As of April 15, 2008

PCMS thanks our Annual Fund contributors whose support sustains the school and assures quality music-making for hundreds throughout the Greater Worcester Community.

Director's Circle \$1,000+

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

Composers \$500+

Anonymous
Meg & Steven Gallo
Donald Michaels &
Susan Kraft
Jane & Andres Molina
Jane & Dennis Neslusan
Andrew & Bonnie Weigl

Conductors \$250+

The Snyder / Allison Family
Kallin Johnson
Michael & Jill Lorion
Nydia & Charles Moser
John T. Verderese
Kelsa & Don Zereski

Soloists \$100+

Anonymous
Robert & Beverly Bachelder

Rex & Janeen Baker
Peter & Tina Balesano
Kathleen & David Bartolini
J.Christopher &
Catherine Z. Collins
Richard & Chottsie Cote
Gene J. DeFeudis
Joyce Fuller
Robert & Janice Gallo

Roger Greene
Barbara Groves
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Susan & John Howland
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Honor Stickney Pollok
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John Paul Verderese, MD
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Section Leaders \$50+

Ursula R. Bergman
Louise Downie
Chris & Wayne Everett
Dorothy Favreau
Dick & Barbara Granger
Myles & Polly Kimmitt
Maxim & Isabella Korn
Gina & Joseph Kuruvilla
Bernie Lempicki & Gail Morgan
Judes Look-Why
Vivienne Morana
Carla & Rocco Morano
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of Worcester
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Rod & Kathleen O'Connor
Candace & Neel Smith
Sue Stafford & Jim Demetry

Louise & Sal Ventriglia
Eric Wefald & Lise Hildebrandt
Yang Xie & Yi Jiang

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Lisa & Kevin Geraghty
Gayle A. Green
Kenneth & Mary Green
Peter Hughes
In Memory of
Frank & Betty Kalonas
Ruth M. LaPlante
Beverly Martiros
Inna Muravnik
Saint-Gobain Corporation
Kum & John Song
Cristina Verderese

Dear *Tenuto* readers:

If you've responded to the Fall Annual Fund drive appeal – we thank you, and are happy you've joined our list of contributors.

If not, please consider supporting PCMS and its mission, with your gift by returning the form below. Your contribution will help strengthen the school and support *all* its programs, and will help PCMS bring music to more families in Auburn, Worcester and 35 surrounding communities.

Make a donation. Make a difference. Thank you. *Karmen Bogdesic, Manager of Development*



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

- \$1000 + Director's Circle
 \$250 + Conductor
 \$50 + Section Leader
 \$500 + Composer
 \$100 + Soloist
 \$_____ 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.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



PCMS is grateful to the following sponsors for their support which not only makes for a successful event, but strengthens The School in its ability to fulfill its Mission.

Lundgren Honda,
Auburn: December 2007
Student Recital Weekend

Gallo Builders,
Holden: March 2008
Student Honors Recital

**M. Steinert & Sons,
Worcester &
Webster Five:**
March 2008
Annual Cabaret Fundraiser

Savers Bank, Auburn:
May 2008
Student Recital Weekend

PCMS Parents and friends:
Like all non-profits, PCMS relies on the support of friends in the business community. If you know of, or work for an organization that may be interested in supporting PCMS through sponsorship, please let me know. Thank you.

PCMS Recipient of \$15,000 Grant

PCMS is most grateful to the Greater Worcester Community Foundation for supporting PCMS as we work to assure its longevity as a community-wide resource .

The grant, awarded last June, is being split between two fiscal years and is helping PCMS as it focuses upon expanded development through giving and strategic planning.

Successes to date include new event sponsorships, 100% growth in individual giving achieved over two years, and several new grant awards to support the financial aid fund and residence in a fully accessible facility. The School has also achieved increased visibility in connection with its 25th Anniversary Year.

Ultimately, the grant is connected to building the capacity of the School in order that it might address its fiscal challenges, while keeping tuition costs down, maintaining quality, and continuing a commitment to providing financial aid for low income families.

During the past three years, the School has incurred an additional \$12,000 in its annual budget directly connected to Pakachoag Church's utility costs (over \$30,000 annually) .

Greater Worcester's award has allowed the School the transition time needed as we continue our work to sustain the school for the next 25 years.

Thank you Greater Worcester and contributors for your help in making and sustaining PCMS as a community wide resource.

Did you know....

- Pakachoag Community Music School is a not-for-profit organization.
- Tuition revenues cover only about 80% of what it takes to run the school
- All staff are part-time equaling a Full Time Equivalent of about 2
- Many of the extra events scheduled throughout the year such as Auburn's Salute to Veterans (last November), the Music Together Family Jam, special community concerts, and the Unison of Violins, have all been made possible due to the volunteer efforts of faculty and staff.

20th Reunion Cabaret - A Smashing Success

PCMS celebrated its 20th Annual Fundraising Cabaret on March 28 & 29 with a special reunion show, *Thanks for the Memories*.

Attendees commented upon how much they loved the variety of music and voices. Thanks to the support of over a hundred local businesses and colleagues in the not-for-profit sector, each show featured beautiful raffle baskets and silent auction offerings.

Thank you to volunteers, including board members, parents and staff, who spent countless hours soliciting donations, arranging raffle baskets, and creating a beautiful performance venue.

Most especially, thank you to the



performers who all volunteered to make this year's show such a huge success.

As a result of this 20 year tradition, PCMS is able to keep tuition costs down, provide financial aid, and invest time in pursuing special outreach programs for those in need.

Special thanks to this year's Cabaret Chair Meg Gallo, and staff support provided by Karmen Bogdesic and Elaine Rynders.

Above: 20th Annual Reunion Cabaret ,
Thanks for the Memories.

From L to R: Front row: Gregory Paradis (alum; attending Muhlenberg College majoring in Musical Theatre and Anthropology), Jennie Mulqueen, Bob Gauthier (returning from Maine), Jane Shivick, Kyle Gonyea (returning from Manhattan), Mary Anne Slack.

Back Row L to R: Richard Monroe, Elisabeth LaBarre Gondek, Michael Gondek, Eric Wefald (PCMS parent) and Sal Luco. Not shown: Stanley Wilson (Tenor), and pianists Janeen Baker, Kallin Johnson and Lynn LaComfora.

Photo courtesy of Bill Rynders



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Mission

Pakachoag Music School is dedicated to providing the highest quality music instruction and performance opportunities to the broadest possible student base, from infants to the elderly, by creating excitement, joy and high expectation for intellectual, emotional and creative self-development.

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Pakachoag Community Music School — Spring 2008 News



Above: Students gather following the annual Honors Recital. See Page 3.

Pakachoag Community Music School cordially invites alumni, friends, relatives and would-be musicians to join PCMS in the Great Hall for the School's

May Student Recitals & Alumni Reunion Weekend
May 17 & 18, 2008

We will be acknowledging alumni in attendance at each recital session. Multiple sessions each afternoon. Please call the office one week prior for time confirmation. Alumni - please e-mail to let us know if you will attend. Everyone welcome!



Sarah Smongeski, Executive Director

Karmen Bogdesic, Manager of Development

Elaine Rynders, Office Manager

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Board of Directors

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