

Studio of Martha Lynn Carroll

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NEWSLETTER August/September 2006

Letter from Mrs. Carroll

I hope everybody has had a wonderful relaxing summer, and enjoyed their trips across the country and even across the world. My summer has been very relaxing yet hot, and very exciting now that the baby is squirming and kicking almost all day.

As you know, our Autumn Recitals will be held a little early this year. They will take place at my Dawsonville studio, on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st (see the Recital Dates and Locations for details). Every student is invited to participate in the recital, regardless of how long they have been taking lessons.

Hopefully, I will continue to teach throughout October until whenever the baby is born, and I am planning on resuming lessons at the beginning of December.

This February, all piano students up to 12th grade will be asked to participate in the NDMTA Festival Auditions, which are non-competitive. Further details will be given in the next newsletter.

I look forward to the next month and a half while students prepare their pieces for the upcoming recitals.

-- Martha Lynn Carroll

Happy Birthday

July 10 – Audrey Gurley turned 14!

Reminders

Just as a reminder, please remember that payments are due at the last lesson of the month. Students are asked to keep their nails clipped short so this does not have to be done during lesson time. Always remember to write down practice times and complete written work (this includes analyzing chords for older students).

Composer Tidbits

- ❖ Chopin couldn't compose music unless he had a piano nearby.
- ❖ Purcell was appointed organist at Westminster Abbey when he was only 17.
- ❖ Haydn worked for a Hungarian prince for almost 30 years, directing all musical rehearsals and concerts, taking care of all the instruments, and writing any music the prince wanted written.
- ❖ When Kuhlau was 7 years old, he slipped on a slippery street and lost his right eye.

Recital Dates and Locations

Student Autumn Recital

Students up to age 19
Saturday, September 30, 2006 at 3:00 pm
Dawsonville studio
Please arrive at least 10 minutes early. Ice cream sundaes will be served following the recital.

Adult Autumn Recital

Adult students (age 20+)
Sunday, October 1, 2006 at 3:00 pm
Dawsonville Studio
Please arrive at least 10 minutes early. Refreshments will be served following the recital

Refreshments assignments:

Joyce: Cheese/Crackers
Margaret H.: Something hot
Margaret M.: Something sweet
Melanie: Fruit
Laura: Something hot
Anil: Vegetables

Directions to Dawsonville studio:

From GA 400, turn east onto Jot-em-Down Road (this is the 4th traffic light north of Exit 17). After about ½ mile, veer left onto Blue Ridge Overlook. After exactly 7/10 of a mile, you will see two driveways on the left right next to each other, going back into the woods behind some other houses. Take the first driveway (gravel). The mailbox is gray and says 1184.

Piano Tuner

David Hauser

Office Phone: 770-918-8485
Cell Phone: 678-525-5373
E-mail: davidhauser@earthlink.net
Website: <http://home.earthlink.net/~davidhauser>

Student News and Announcements

Congratulations to Roya Kalantari and Casey Register, who each performed her Senior Piano Recital this summer. Each of them played beautifully and skillfully, and I am very proud of their accomplishments!

Heartfelt welcomes are extended to our newest students, Megan Riedinger (violin) and Chrisann Timbie (violin).

Referral Policy

Beginning this August, all students who refer a new student who completes 3 months of lessons will receive one month of free lessons. This also includes any student who signs up for lessons on a second instrument (for instance, a piano student who decides to add violin lessons): this student will receive one month of free lessons on their primary instrument.

Practice Champions

* Denotes Champion of the Month

May '06

Beginner (age 5-7) – Gracie Clark (280)
Beginner (age 8+) – *Melanee Wang (971)
Intermediate – Christopher Pham (540)
Advanced – Casey Register (840)

June '06

Beginner (age 5-7) – Gracie Clark (397)
Beginner (age 8+) – Symonne Stryjewski (830)
Intermediate – Christopher Pham (590)
Advanced – *Casey Register (990)

July '06

Beginner (age 5-7) – Gracie Clark (340)
Beginner (age 8+) – Symonne Stryjewski (875)
Intermediate – *Christopher Pham (980)
Advanced – Casey Register (900)

Music Stores

Hutchins and Rea / Symmes Music

12 Perimeter Park Drive
Suite 110 (Building 12)
Atlanta, GA 30341
Phone: 770-455-3130
Store Hours: 10:00AM - 5:00PM
Monday-Saturday, U.S. Eastern Time

Ponce de Leon Music Center

1060 Dahlonega Highway
Suite 110 (Building 12)
Cumming, GA 30040
Phone: 770-889-7616

Music Authority

123 Merchants Square
Cumming, GA 30040
Phone: (770)886-9066
Monday 10:00AM - 8:00PM
Tuesday 10:00AM - 8:00PM
Wednesday 10:00AM - 6:00PM
Thursday 10:00AM - 8:00PM
Friday 10:00AM - 6:00PM
Saturday 9:00AM - 6:00PM
Sunday 3:00PM - 6:00PM

Music and Arts Center

Mansell Crossing Shopping Center
7331 North Point Parkway
Alpharetta, GA 30022
Phone: (770)993-4428
Monday 10:00AM - 9:00PM
Tuesday 10:00AM - 9:00PM
Wednesday 10:00AM - 9:00PM
Thursday 10:00AM - 9:00PM
Friday 10:00AM - 9:00PM
Saturday 10:00AM - 6:00PM
Sunday 12:00PM - 5:00PM

Draisen-Edwards New School of Music

4125-B Hwy 20
Buford, GA 30518
Phone: (678)482-2884

Composer Spotlight

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)



Felix Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn was born in Hamburg, on February 3rd, 1809, the son of Leah Salomon, and Abraham Mendelssohn, a wealthy banker, and the grandson of Jewish rabbi and philosopher Moses Mendelssohn. Being born in a family of well-to-do intellectuals certainly had it advantages, providing the ideal cultural environment for the artistic and precocious young Felix. In addition to receiving a good education, Felix and his family traveled around Europe.

While Moses Mendelssohn frowned German Jews converting to Christianity in the hopes of gaining social acceptance outside their ghettos, that did not stop Felix Mendelssohn's parents from baptizing their four children, Fanny, Rebekah, Felix, and Paul, in the Lutheran Church, and from converting to the Lutheran faith themselves in 1816, when they moved from French occupied Hamburg to Berlin, hence the added surname Bartholdy. Oddly enough, Felix resisted the name change, and kept the last name of Mendelssohn.

The move to Berlin proved to be beneficial for young Felix, who had received prior musical instruction from his sister Fanny, as it was there he studied the piano under Ludwig Berger and composition with Karl. F. Zelter. Visiting friends of the family were also a positive influence on the Mendelssohn children, as most of them were intellectuals who were involved in the arts and other cultural activities. From a

young age, Felix Mendelssohn showed the true talent of a prodigy, playing both the piano and the violin, painting, and being gifted in languages.

Felix traveled to Paris to study the works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Johann Sebastian Bach with his sister Fanny. Truly inspired by the masters, particularly Bach, he composed eleven symphonies, five operas, and many other pieces for the piano. This was only the beginning for the young musical genius, who impressed audiences and artists alike with his precocious talent.

In 1821, Zelter took his 12 year-old student to visit German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The visit was most important to the young Mendelssohn, who remained at the 72 year-old writer's home for over two weeks. Goethe was fascinated by the gifted young man, and the two would later correspond via a series of letters. Later, when Goethe heard Mendelssohn's B minor pianoforte quartet, he showed such appreciation that the young composer dedicated the piece to him.

When Felix Mendelssohn was 16, he composed his Octet for Strings in E flat major, Op. 20, which wasn't just impressive because of its composer's age, but because it was the one of the first works of its kind. Mendelssohn's piece featured an ingenious interplay between two distinct string quartets.

In addition to the literary works of Goethe, Mendelssohn found inspiration in the works of English playwright William Shakespeare. At the age of seventeen, he composed the overture to "A Midsummer Night's Dream Opus 21", based on the Bard's comedic play. The piece featured lush orchestration, and is considered one of the most beautiful works of the Romantic period of Classical music.

From 1826 to 1829, Mendelssohn studied at Berlin University. It was then he decided on music as his chosen profession.

During the years that followed, Mendelssohn traveled and performed all over Europe, discovering England, Scotland, Italy and France. In 1832, Mendelssohn presented his magnificent "Hebrides Overture", as well as other important works, in London, a

city where he greatly enjoyed performing his works. In 1833, he took on the post of conductor at Düsseldorf, giving concert performances of Handel's "Messiah" amongst others. That same year, he composed many of his own vocal works, including "Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us," and the Opera, "Trala. A frischer Bua bin i", as well as the "Italian Symphony".

At the age of 26, Mendelssohn moved to Leipzig and he became conductor of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, performing works by Bach and Beethoven amongst others; at the time, there was little interest in Bach's music, but Mendelssohn changed all that, using his own popularity and the four hundred singers and soloists of the Singakademie to help renew interest in the great composer's work. Earlier, in 1829, Mendelssohn had made his debut as a Maestro, being the first to conduct Bach's "St-Matthew Passion" since the composer's death in 1750, and more importantly, 100 years after Bach's own premiere performance of the work. Mendelssohn performed the piece

In 1832, Mendelssohn married Cécile Jeanrenaud, the daughter of a Protestant clergyman. It was a happy marriage, and they five children, Carl, Marie, Paul, Felix and Lilli. Over the years that followed, Mendelssohn was very prolific, and in addition to numerous composition, he gave several successful performances of his work, and that of other great composers. Mendelssohn composed several works for the piano, which was highly popular at the time; but he also wrote for many different combinations of instruments and voices.

In 1842, Mendelssohn performed private concerts for Prince Albert, and Queen Victoria, who were both strong supporters of his work. A year later, Mendelssohn founded the and directed the Leipzig Conservatory, where he also sometimes taught when his busy schedule permitted it. Despite being a generally happy and pleasant individual, Mendelssohn was sometimes a little too strict with his pupils; this was perhaps due to the fact that he was so passionate about music, and had a difficult time listening to the beginners mistakes of his pupils. Nonetheless, the Conservatory remained one of the most prestigious music institutions in Germany for half a century.

In addition to his post at the Conservatory, Mendelssohn was named director of the Music Section of the Academy of Arts in Berlin by the by King Frederick of Prussia, but this appointment wasn't entirely pleasing for Mendelssohn, who was often asked to compose on demand. He was left with little time for his own work, but he still managed to compose such masterpieces as the Ruy Blas overture, stage music for Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", of which the now world-famous "Wedding March" was a part of, and "The Scottish Symphony", the third of the five symphonies he composed during his lifetime.

Felix Mendelssohn was very close to his family; from his sister Fanny to his father, to his own wife and children, and he cherished the moments spent with them. When his father died in 1835, Mendelssohn felt he had lost his best friend. seven years later, his mother died, adding to the tragedy, but the worst was yet to come; following a Christmas family reunion, his sister Fanny suffered a stroke while rehearsing for a Sunday concert. She died on May 14th, 1847. Felix Mendelssohn is said to have screamed and fainted upon hearing the sad news, devastated from the loss. Needless to say, Mendelssohn's mood did not improve following Fanny's death, and he himself suffered two strokes, the last of which killed him on November 4th, 1847. He was 38 years old. He was buried alongside his sister in in the cemetery of Holy Cross Church in Berlin.

While most of his life was spent in happiness, that final years of his life saw mounting grief and tragedy; however, this did not deter him from composing, and throughout the hardships he maintained the same degree of inspiration and the same quality o work, despite his intensely busy schedule. Some critics may argue that he would have been another Bach or Mozart if he had suffered more in life, as the "tortured artist" cliché dictates. However, it is interesting to note that in death, there were more tragic incidents which marred Mendelssohn. Nearly a hundred years after his death, the Nazis tried to discredit him, taking down his statue in Leipzig, and even going as far as forbidding the study and performance of his music.

Of course, none of their efforts to silence the voice of genius had any success, and Mendelssohn is now considered the 19th century

equivalent of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Most critics agree that Mendelssohn's most vibrant contributions were in the choral and organ music genres, which was probably the result of his deep admiration fro Bach and Handel. Mendelssohn will remain the most successful composer his time, but more importantly, one of the most gifted and talented, surely deserving a place alongside greats such as Mozart, Bach, and Beethoven, in the Pantheon of musical Gods.