



Introducing Sierra Music Academy's Newsletter

The staff of Sierra Music Academy proudly presents the first edition of our new quarterly newsletter, *Sierra Notes*. The primary purpose of our newsletter is to inform our students and their families about our school news and upcoming events as well as local and regional musical performances.

We will also use the newsletter to provide our readers more information about music theory and music history. This information will hopefully serve as a useful supplement to the teachings provided during lessons. We hope you will become avid readers of our new periodical!

Hear the Sierra Chamber Ensemble – LIVE OCTOBER 27

While the emergence of CD's, satellite radio, and the ubiquitous iPod have made listening to music so very convenient, anybody who has ever been to a concert knows that these modern inventions will never replace the experience of listening to a live performance.

For all of the fans of live music and for those students who have never been to a live performance, the Sierra Chamber Ensemble welcomes you to join us for our debut performance.

When: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Friday, October 27th

Where: Adventure Christian Church,
6401 Stanford Ranch Rd, Roseville, CA

Cost: Students of Sierra Music Academy - FREE
Immediate family members of our students only pay half the regular admission price

Regular Admission: Adults - \$12
Students and Seniors - \$8
Children under 4 years old – FREE

(For more information, please call 916-797-8741 or visit our website: www.SierraMusicAcademy.com).

The performance, entitled "*Classical to Modern: 500 Years of Music*," will feature some of the most popular classical, jazz, Broadway show tunes, modern and pop music ever composed. While

the music connoisseur will appreciate the technical aspects of the performance and the clever musical arrangements, we designed our debut performance to entertain individuals and families who typically do not go to see a symphony orchestra or a chamber ensemble but nonetheless love to hear good music.

This particular performance will be presented in an interactive format and is designed to be educational in nature. For the more senior audience members, the performance will surely include some favorites of today and yesteryear. For our younger audience members, the performance will serve as an introduction to a variety of musical genres and will hopefully allow them to more easily recognize and better appreciate these various genres in the future. Of course, our main goal is that everyone will sit back in their chairs, relax, and enjoy the music.

Many of you will be asking yourselves two questions by now: "*What* is a chamber ensemble?" and "*Who* is in the Sierra Chamber Ensemble?"

The former question is a little difficult to answer because of the many ways that a chamber ensemble can be defined. In a historical sense, a chamber ensemble was a small group of musicians that played classical music in an intimate setting such as a palace

chamber. A modern definition would simply describe a chamber ensemble as any small group of musicians that play and perform classical music without being led by a conductor.

While there are a variety of combinations of instruments that can form a chamber group, the most popular is the string quartet (Haydn is widely recognized as the inventor of the string quartet and wrote over 100 works for the string quartet...a traditional string quartet consists of two violins, a viola, and a cello). The second most popular chamber ensemble grouping is the piano trio (violin, cello, and piano), followed by the woodwind quintet (flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, and bassoon).

Unlike some of the more traditional chamber groups, the Sierra Chamber Ensemble is a unique

blend of piano, string, and woodwind musicians and sometimes includes percussion, brass, and vocal elements. The musical works that the group plays are uniquely arranged to create for the audience a provocative sound that is at the same time both smooth and unpredictable – or as Austin Powers would say, “It’s Groovy Baby!”

So who is in the Sierra Chamber Ensemble? The musicians that comprise the Sierra Chamber Ensemble are also the founding teachers of the Sierra Music Academy who came from all over the country to form a premier chamber music group and music school. A brief biography of each of the performers / instructors can be found below.

We look forward to seeing you on October 27th!

An Introduction to the Members of the Sierra Chamber Ensemble and Faculty of the Sierra Music Academy

Michael Agostini – Director

Mr. Agostini is the Director and Co-Founder of Sierra Music Academy and manager of the Sierra Chamber Ensemble. He has a broad range of experience in education, having worked for several years as a teacher and administrator in both public and private schools. He has also worked as a school evaluator and helped with the strategic planning of K-12 and adult educational programs. In addition, Mr. Agostini has worked extensively in public school reform, helping with the development of charter schools in California and supporting the expansion of the charter school movement through his research and writings.

Michael earned a Bachelor's Degree in History from Yale University and a Master's Degree in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Yu-Chen “Joanne” Agostini – Flute/Piano

Ms. Agostini is the Head Teacher and Co-Founder of Sierra Music Academy. She is an award winning flutist who has been selected as a finalist at numerous regional and national flute competitions in her home country of Taiwan. Yu-Chen has had the opportunity to study under legendary flutists of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and some of the finest flutists in Europe. In addition to her flute skills, Yu-Chen is also an experienced pianist. She has been teaching piano and flute for over ten years.

Yu-Chen earned her Bachelor's Degree in Music from Soochow University and a Master's Degree in Woodwind Performance from the Boston University School of Music.

Erin Finkelstein – Clarinet

Ms. Finkelstein has been a guest lecturer of clarinet at the University of the Pacific and has given clarinet master classes to hundreds of individuals and in public and private K-12 schools across the West Coast. She currently freelances with the Sacramento, Stockton, and Modesto Symphony Orchestras and the Sierra Chamber Ensemble. Ms. Finkelstein is also in the process of completing her training as a

Feldenkrais® Practitioner in order to teach people, including musicians and artists, how to prepare, use, and listen to their bodies to avoid repetitive motion injuries and to enhance functioning.

Erin earned her Master's Degree in Clarinet Performance from Arizona State University and her Bachelor's Degree in Clarinet Performance from the University of the Pacific. She has also studied at the Mannes College of Music in New York City.

Vuong Hoang – Guitar

Mr. Hoang has dedicated his life to the performance and teaching of guitar. Prior to moving to the Sacramento area, Mr. Hoang taught at Santa Monica City College and was the head guitar teacher of a private music conservatory in Los Angeles. He is currently writing his own guitar instruction book that he plans to publish in the near future. Mr. Hoang has acted as the principal guitar of musical productions in Los Angeles and has extensive experience as a classical guitar soloist and ensemble performer.

Mr. Hoang received his Master's Degree in Guitar Performance from the University of California Los Angeles and his Bachelor's Degree in Guitar Performance from the California State University Los Angeles.

Dr. Balazs Rozsa – Piano

An accomplished pianist, Dr. Rozsa has performed in the U.S. and Europe for a wide variety of concerts and musical productions. He has won numerous piano competitions including the National Chopin Competition in Budapest Hungary and the University of Washington School of Music Concerto Competition. In addition to performing, Dr. Rozsa has extensive piano teaching and evaluation experience, having conducted music teacher workshops, headed several piano juries, and organized piano auditions.

Dr. Rozsa received his Doctorate in Piano Performance from the University of Washington, his second Master's Degree in Piano Performance from Illinois State University, his first Master's Degree in Piano Pedagogy from the Franz Liszt College of Music in Hungary, and a Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance from the Béla Bartók Conservatory of Music in Hungary.

Dr. Yen-Yu Shih – Voice/Piano

Dr. Shih is a multi-talented musician who in addition to being an accomplished vocalist and pianist, has managed and produced a wide variety of musical productions. Her performance experience is extensive, having been elected as the section leader of several philharmonic and concert choirs and as a guest soloist to even more. Since the start of her career, she has won a lengthy list of both vocal and piano competitions and has received rave reviews for performances given both in the U.S. and abroad.

Dr. Shih earned a Master's Degree and Doctorate in Voice Performance from Arizona State University. She also earned an additional Master's Degree in Performing Arts Production from Florida International University and received her Bachelor of Music Education from the National Taipei Teachers College.

Dr. Evgeniy Sporov – Violin/Piano

Dr. Sporov prides himself on his ability to take his beginner and intermediate violin students to the advanced level. Before moving to California, he has played the role of lead violin instructor at numerous music camps and was the designated instructor of the first violin section of the Jackson Symphony Youth Orchestra. Before moving to the U.S., Dr. Sporov was the regional supervisor for the string departments of 127 music schools and 3 music colleges in Russia. Dr. Sporov is also an accomplished pianist who has taught piano for nearly ten years.

Dr. Sporov earned his Doctorate in Violin Performance from Michigan State University. He received his Master's Degree in Chamber Ensemble Performance and a Bachelor's Degree in Violin Performance from Glinka State Conservatory in Russia.

Fun and Games

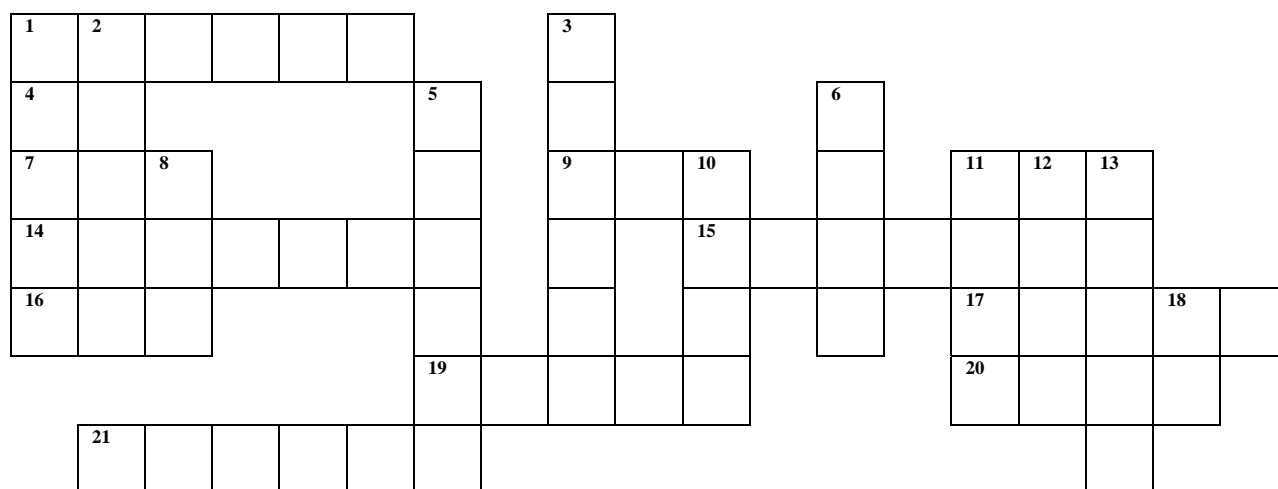
Crossword Puzzle – Theme: Music

Across

- 1) This year (2006) is this composer's 250th birthday, born January 27, 1756 in Salzburg, Austria.
- 4) At the end of the show, you stand _____.
- 7) _____ the performance.
- 9) Leave the theater or go _____.
- 11) The tempo is measured by the number of beats per minute also know as this abbreviation.
- 14) Keltic or Celtic music is from this country.
- 15) Hawaiian guitar.
- 16) Concerts are sometimes performed at the _____ Expo in Sacramento.
- 17) Spanish and Portuguese song forms, African rhythms, and indigenous South American music fuse to form this type of music.
- 19) From the highest to the lowest notes a singer can hit is referred to as the singer's _____.
- 20) Ancient Greek stringed instrument that was strummed like a guitar rather than plucked like its cousin – the harp.
- 21) Sierra Music Academy teacher, excellent flutist, wonderful wife and mother, terrible miniature golfer.

Down

- 1) Classical _____.
- 2) Sydney _____ House.
- 3) Smaller than a viola.
- 5) In order: Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, _____.
- 6) A work of art; also the singular of opera.
- 8) Jimi Hendrix played an electric guitar, definitely not an electric _____!
- 10) Every 6-12 months you should _____ your piano.
- 11) Hollow percussion instrument that is either struck internally with a clapper or externally with a mallet (often found at the top of a church steeple).
- 12) Let's _____ some music!
- 13) This piece has a 4/4 time signature or it is in 4/4 _____ (British spelling).
- 18) In other words (Latin abbreviation).



Crossword answers will be posted at www.SierraMusicAcademy.com/newsletter.html

To contact Sierra Music Academy or the Sierra Chamber Ensemble, please call us at (916) 797-8741
or email us at info@SierraMusicAcademy.com.

For information about upcoming events, please visit our website:
www.SierraMusicAcademy.com.