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# Sharon Music Academy Newsletter

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## Summer and Fall Registrations

Dear Students and Parents,

The Spring Semester and the school year will end very soon. We hope that you have enjoyed coming to the Sharon Music Academy and appreciated the progress you, your child or your children have made this year. We have scheduled several recitals for our students to showcase their progress and to get a wonderful performing experience. Your instructor will discuss with you recital dates and times that would be convenient for you. Recital schedules can be found on our website on a calendar page. At the end of the semester every student will receive a written evaluation of his or her progress with suggestions what we should work on together in the next year.

We are now in the process of creating summer schedule. Those students, who will continue lessons during some periods in July and August, please indicate it on the registration form and return it to us before June 10<sup>th</sup>. You can pick-up Registration Forms in the hall of our Academy. This summer we will also start several programs for those who would like to learn how to sing and have fun in the process. You can find information about these programs on our website or just call us for details.

We already have a waiting list for the next year. If you want to secure convenient time slots in the fall, please re-register for the fall semester by filling out the Registration Form and returning it, together with the registration fee, to the Administrative Director before June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming recitals.

Tanya Schwartzman

## Share with us your experience

Twenty two family ensembles participated in this year's "Families in Concert" recital. It was an amazing mix of instruments, emotions, styles and fun. Everybody who came enjoyed it immensely. Many of the performers even signed up for the next year recital. The recital was taped by Sharon Cable and will be broadcast in June. Watch for your local listing. A DVD of the recital will be available in June and everybody will have a chance to get a copy of this DVD. Many of you took beautiful pictures or recorded the recital with your own camcorder and put a video on YouTube or other website. We would appreciate if you share these pictures and videos with us. Please send us your digital photos and links to the videos and we will put them on our website.

Many students of the Sharon Music Academy went to New York on May 5th to perform in a beautiful Yamaha Hall as winners of American Fine Arts Festival. As we were told everybody had a wonderful experience. Children from seven states competed for the honor of playing in New York and those who passed the audition definitely deserved this honor. Please share with us your experience by sending us your digital photos and travel notes.



Keys-For-Kids Program:  
Playing keyboards



Keys-For-Kids Program:  
Clapping as music

"What we play is life"  
-Louis Armstrong

## Everyone Is A Winner



**Brandon Bloch**



**Angelique Scully**



**Ari Kriegel**



**Emily Bouton**



**Shishi Chen**

Competitions are always tough. Especially in the fields like music, dance or figure skating, where subjectivity factor plays a big role. It is not uncommon in music competitions to be placed third in one completion and win the first prize in another. Different judges, different tastes, different requirements. For many children just being in a competition serves as a valuable life and music experience. Everyone, who aspires to compete and puts an effort, emotions and dedication in preparation is already a winner. Because in the process one grows as a musician and a human being.

Annual Massachusetts Music Teachers Association Bay State Contest is known to be one of the most challenging and tough competitions not only in New England but in the US. And this year contest was not an exception—very complex programs and the highest levels of performances. The judges were looking for the flawless execution and musicianship. Several students of the Sharon Music Academy demonstrated just that:

Angelique Scully, Catherine Song and Helen Gao won the third places in their age groups and Christopher Chen and Xinlan Li received the honorable mention. Congratulations to all of them!

If you wonder what does it take to win a competition of this level, just ask one of the first prize winners. The answer will be very simple—practice at least 3 hours a day every day.

In June Catherine and Andrew Song, Christopher Chen and Xinlan Li will compete at the 23rd International Piano competition in Washington, DC. We wish them luck and success! We believe in you!

It is Shishi Chen's last year in our Academy—she will be a student at Stanford next year. And she finishes this year with a bang. Shishi won the first prize and \$500 at the Chaminade Club 2007 Instrumental Competition.

## Farewell Recital for our Seniors

On May 13th the Sharon Music Academy had a farewell recital for our seniors, which was held in a beautiful home of Alvin and Cynthia Engel. All our seniors have been admitted to the top universities— Brandon Bloch (UPenn), Emily Bouton (University of Michigan), Shishi Chen ( Stanford ), Ari Kriegel (Harvard). We are proud of their academic achievements, but we love them because they are wonderful human beings and wonderful musicians. It was a remarkable performance by our seniors and our young students— Angelique Scully and Kun-Woo Shin. It looked like a musical relay, where seniors passed a musical baton to the next generations of our students. The seniors shared their thoughts about music, reminisced their experience at the Sharon Music Academy, talked about what music brought into their lives and why they kept coming to their lessons after all these long days in high schools.

We would also like to thank Harris Shilakowsky, Music Director of the Bristol Chamber Orchestra, whose wonderful violin accompaniment made this recital such a success.

If you miss this event, you can watch it on the Sharon Cable in June.

Please visit us online at

[www.sharonmusicacademy.com](http://www.sharonmusicacademy.com)