



Nurturing Expression Through the Language of Music

## Newsletter

December, 2011

### **SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS JANUARY 9TH!**

Keep an eye on our website for spring semester course listings and registration materials. Private lessons begin on January 9 and group classes begin on January 23.

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### **NEW WEBSITE**

We have just launched our new Dana V. Music website, with a brand new design and all spring course information and registration materials. This website will continue to evolve and will soon include media from our recitals and programs. Take a look at [www.danavmusic.com](http://www.danavmusic.com)

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### **VOICE STUDENTS: HELP ONE OF OUR TEACHERS GRADUATE**

**Sarah Davis**, one of our fantastic voice teachers, is in the process of completing her doctorate at CU Boulder. She is currently required to complete a project...YOU can help! Please click the link below to complete a survey about your speech habits. This will be completely anonymous and will take you less than 10 minutes! You will truly be helping her succeed in her goals!!

Deadline to complete survey: **January 3, 2012**

Click [here](#) to complete the survey.

Thank you so much!

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### **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR RECITALS OF RELEVANCE!**

All 4 recitals were a huge success, with over 80 students participating and over 250 total people in attendance. Bravo to all of our brave performers! We hope to have you join us again for our spring recitals on May 12-13.

### **FLATIRON CHORALES FINISH HOLIDAY SEASON ON A HIGH NOTE!**

On December 6th and 13th the Flatiron Chorales presented their holiday concerts to the residents of The Academy in Boulder and those of The Lodge at Balfour in Louisville. All three choirs made lovely presentations of a variety of songs and ended their concerts with such a lively Boogie Woogie Santa Claus that he actually showed up and danced while the choirs sang. Dana V. Music is truly grateful to have such a wonderful group of

voices and families involved with the Flatiron Chorales.

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## EASY HOLIDAY GIFTS!

Dana V. Music offers gift certificates in any denomination or number of lessons. This is a gift that truly keeps on giving! Register your student for spring classes and purchase your holiday gift certificate at the same time, or introduce a friend to our programs with this gift.

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## TEACHER'S CORNER

### The Art of Learning & Listening: Why We Need to Slow Down!

**Emma Shubin**, DVM Eurhythmics and Flute Instructor

In music, as in life, we are constantly having to balance commitments and with our practice time. We have many notes to learn, pieces to practice, ensembles to rehearse with, not to mention lessons to give or take of our own. We often are rushing to learn a new piece, or feel behind in our work with our instrument, and there is an incessant pressure to rush through the process of learning. I was distracting myself from the usual holiday push to learn lots of music in a short time, when I stumbled across a video of the great Itzhak Pearlman giving advise on the art of practicing. His simple advice was that in our practice, we need to slow down, learn things in small sections, and that repetition is key. His rule is simple: "If you learn something slowly, you forget it slowly." I have heard some version of this advice my whole musical life, but rarely do I truly believe that the sure way to reach the finish line of learning a piece of music is to actually slow down. Every time I teach a Eurhythmics class to young children, I am reminded that learning music is such a multilayered event; it takes both our kinesthetic awareness, our mental faculties, and our knowledge just to begin to scratch the surface. I often video myself teaching classes, and observe that I am racing to fit in a lot of material and thus rushing my students and myself to do too much in a short time. I ask myself, and you as a student or parent of a student: When was the last time you did something as monumental in it's requirements of the "whole self" as learning the art of music? For me, I can hardly think back to anything since learning how to walk and talk. It is true that languages require repetition and practice, but but they don't require the fine motor skills or kinesthetic awareness and control needed that singing, playing the piano, stringed, or woodwind instrument does. When we rush ourselves in the process of learning, we build in tension and practice in bad habits that we inevitably will have to go back to relearn or address somewhere down the road. So this holiday season, I encourage us all to slow down, truly listen to the work we are doing on our music and instruments and allow ourselves the space and time to repeat and really hear the passages of music we are making, so that we all can be our own best teachers. I will leave you with the words of one of the great musicians of our time giving this advice that we have all heard, but can always be reminded of:



Happy holidays and may the new year bring wonderful music into your life!

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## CONSIDERING A HOLIDAY PARTY? DANA V. MUSIC IS HERE TO HELP!

Dana V. Music is pleased to announce that our veteran teachers are available to perform at your holiday party! Imagine your guests singing around a piano or enjoying beautiful live music while dining or chatting. Make your party memorable by hiring one or more of our staff to provide live music! Our teachers are experienced in performance including voice, piano, guitar, violin, viola, flute and/or any combinations of duets and ensembles. Your guests will appreciate it! Please call our marketing director, **Nancy Fitzgerald**, at (303) 947-3536 for details and booking arrangements.

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## BRAG WALL

### Student News:

**Rosie Irwin** was selected for the second year in a row for the Colorado All State Choir. Congrats to **Jeremiah Owens** who was also selected for this great honor!

**Tess Haifley** is a soloist in her select choir's concert at Niwot High School.

**Lindsey Ashby** performed as a Who in Northglenn Youth Theatre's production of *Suessical!* The program was so professional and we hear that she had an amazing time! Lindsey will also be a soloist in Cornerstone Christian's Academy Holiday show, *A Miracle on Main Street*.

Congratulations to **Rowan Stormo-Flanagan** for earning the role of Amaryllis in *The Music Man* at Platte Choice Middle School!

DVM alum, **Michelle Herring**, won the 2011 Camera's Eye Boulder County Theater Award for "Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Musical Role" for her performance as Olive in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* with CenterStage Theatre Company this past summer! Way to go, Michelle!!! *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* was also one of 3 shows nominated for "Best Musical" of 2011.

**Emma Breitman** was just cast as the Minstrel in her school's production of *Once Upon a Mattress*. Congratulations, Emma!

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## TEACHER NEWS

### Teacher News:

**Sarah Davis** auditioned and was selected to play the main role of Suor Angelica in CU Boulder's production of Puccini's *Suor Angelica!* We are so happy for you, Sarah!