



## Newsletter

*October, 2011*

### **RECITALS OF RELEVANCE: SAVE THE DATES!**

**December 10-11**

We love to share our recitals with the community and therefore present them at retirement communities in the Boulder/Louisville area. This is a no-pressure way to hone performance and concert skills while making friends and lifelong connections. Students are encouraged, but not required, to perform at one of these recitals. We will also be hosting a recital for "first-timers" in our new Ensemble Room, a more intimate venue for a smaller number of performers. Sign-up sheets will be available in early-mid November.

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### **EASY HOLIDAY SHOPPING IN OCTOBER!**

Does the idea of a packed mall and long holiday shopping lines make you want to run the other way? Relax! Dana V. Music has an easy solution. Consider getting some holiday gifts taken care of in October with a Dana V. Music gift certificate for lessons. Available 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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### **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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### **REMINDER - WE HAVE A NEW OFFICE PHONE NUMBER!**

Please make sure you have updated your phones to reflect our new phone number change at Dana V. Music to **(303) 974-5586**. This is our main office line, but remember, you must contact your teacher directly to cancel lessons. As always, we are happy to speak with you!

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### **WINGS FOR DESTINY**

One of our sweet preschoolers, Destiny Burton, is suffering from Dravet Syndrome, a rare seizure disorder that has unfortunately begun to impact her daily life and health quite dramatically. Destiny, now 5 years old, has been a part of our Preschool Musical class since the fall of 2010. She is a joyful and loving girl with a giant

imagination, and we are so happy to have her in our lives.

Destiny now needs to begin taking 2 new medications in order to keep her symptoms at bay. These medications cost approximately \$800 per month and are not covered by insurance. The Burton family has recently launched "Wings For Destiny," a fundraiser to help get her the medication she needs.

Please click [HERE](#) to learn more about Destiny's story and Dravet Syndrome, and to see how you can help.

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## TEACHER'S CORNER

Beginning this month, we will feature tips and favorite picks from a Dana V. Music teacher in this section.

Piano teacher **Nancy Fitzgerald** offers the following about making the most of home practicing, no matter the instrument:

1. Set an agreed upon amount of time for practice and create an environment conducive to practicing, such as limiting family interruptions, making sure the home is as quiet as possible (no t.v. blaring, no telephone calls, put pets in another room). Remove the cellphone!
2. Set the timer! True, it may seem old-fashioned, but it is easy to lose track of time and/or consider the practicing "good enough" within just a few minutes. Start with a block of 15 minutes.
3. Be an involved parent. Many teachers welcome parents to observe lessons or, if that is not possible, provide parents with updates of student progress and lesson content. Knowing what your student is working on or challenged by will help maximize practice time by focusing the practice on specific sections of music. If you hear your student starting every practice time at the beginning of a piece of music, chances are they are not working on the more "difficult" or challenging sections.
4. Change the brain: Encourage breaking up school homework with practice time. Here's why: many students are overwhelmed with multiple subjects to complete each night. So, perhaps after dinner or activities, they devote the entire evening to working on homework. This typically engages the left side of the brain for the entire time. It is fatiguing and this scenario actually becomes one of diminishing returns. Taking just 15 minutes of time to work on their music engages the right side of the brain and can refresh their minds. Many students have reported that when they took a break to play music and then returned to their studies, they felt refreshed and more focused. Give it a try!

**Nancy's Pick of the Month:** Ars Nova Singers Oct. 28-29: "Glory: Mozart Panorama" is Ars Nova's concert in collaboration with the Boulder Chamber Orchestra-7:30pm Friday in Denver at Saint John's Episcopal Cathedral, 1350 Washington St. and 7:30pm Saturday at Boulder's First United Methodist Church, 1421 Spruce St. Check online for ticket information and the winter and spring schedule. 303-499-3165.

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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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## ALUMNI UPDATE

**Tanner Sands:** Tanner is doing great in his sophomore year at CU Boulder. He received the Claudia Boettcher Merthan Vocal Scholarship along with a Department of Music Scholarship for being named the Outstanding Freshman of the Year in the School of Music. He was also a finalist at the Anderson Competition as a freshman. Tanner spent the summer at the New York Stage and Film Powerhouse Theater Apprentice Program at Vassar College, where he played Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Congratulations, Tanner, and keep up the good work!

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## BRAG WALL

DVM alum **Erin Jones** auditioned and was selected to sing in the choir for the concert, [The Choral Music of Eric Whitacre](#), at Carnegie Hall. Whitacre, a famous composer of choral works, will conduct the concert, which will take place on April 1, 2012. Way to go, Erin!

**Thomas Russo** is performing the part of Dill in the Denver Center's production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, now through October 30. Read the Denver Post's review and see pictures from the show [here](#).

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## TEACHER NEWS

Congratulations to voice teacher **Elizabeth Bell**, who was just elected as the new Colorado/Wyoming NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) 2nd Vice President and Auditions Chair. It's a huge job, but we know she is perfect for it!

The [Tetra String Quartet](#), adjunct faculty members at Arizona State University, will be performing, among other works, the last nine songs from the Beatles' legendary *Abbey Road* in an original arrangement written by DVM violin teacher, **Alex Vittal**. Other recent collaborations with Vittal include several arrangements of Lady Gaga hits which were performed this summer on Houston NPR along with an arrangement of the swing-era classic "In The Mood." Very recently, Tetra commissioned and recorded a new arrangement by Vittal of the Christmas spiritual, "Go, Tell It On The Mountain" for a holiday album available in early November, 2011.

**Katie McClave** traveled to Minnesota on October 1 for her college reunion at Gustavus Adolphus College. She also participated in the alumni choir, directed by Dr. Greg Aune, celebrating 75 years of the Gustavus Choir. The choir sang at the Sunday morning chapel service on campus. It was wonderful to re-connect with friends and share music in that beautiful setting.