

*Music is what life sounds like.*  
~Eric Olson

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Academy Closed for Labor Day  
May 25, 26, & 27
- Academy Closed for 4th of July!  
July 1st-5th

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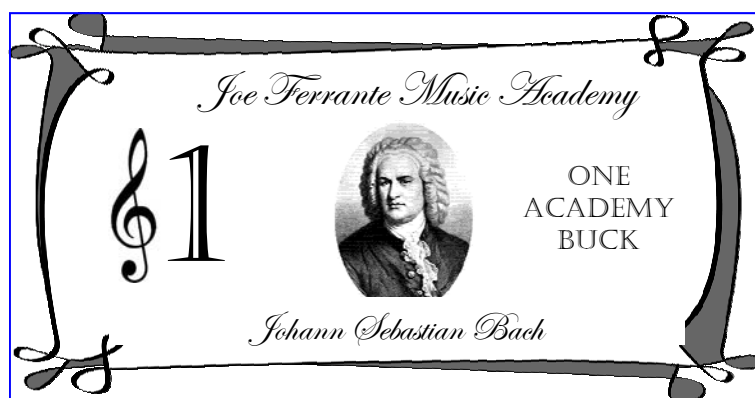
## Academy Store a Great Success!



Since February The Academy Store has been open and been quite busy! Yes, students have been earning Academy Bucks through practicing diligently and marking it on their Practice Logs, in addition to performing and behaving well during their lessons. Our goal was to motivate our students. With students practicing more and with better quality practice, they are improving more rapidly and becoming more involved with music on a daily basis, especially as they become more aware of their own developing talent.

We desire for all of our students to play more advanced literature and be able to use music as a means of expression. Students have been more proactive in their lessons, knowing that their attentiveness will be rewarded with Academy Bucks. With students coming into lessons prepared and with enthusiasm we are seeing students absorb more knowledge per lesson, which is leading to more rapid advancement.

The maximum number of Bucks a student can earn in one week is 10 per discipline, which is just enough to buy a candy from The Academy Store. Please be sure to let your teachers know if there is anything you would like to see available in the Store. As a special treat for your student for reading this article you can cut out this Buck and give it to them which will be accepted just as any other Academy Buck would!



### MAKE-UP REMINDER:

In order to guarantee a makeup lesson, The Academy must be contacted three business days in advance of when the student will miss the lesson. This is to ensure adequate time to inform the teacher of the change and make necessary accommodations for that time to be filled with another student.

**Thank You!**

## Student Honors Concert

This past February the Academy held its bi-annual Student Honors at Azusa Pacific University. The Student Honors Concert is a performance opportunity in which students are nominated by their teachers and then approved by committee, and invited to perform with some of our most advanced, or most im-

proved students. Following the student performances and a brief intermission, teachers Karen Spurney & Mateja Schuck presented "A Tribute to Gershwin", which was a captivating show.

As this is a ticketed event to which all are welcome please keep your eyes open for our next concert in August.

### Joe Ferrante & Student Honors Concert Performers



**GENEVIEVE BIRCHMAN**



**CHRISTINA PO**



**SASKIA VICTOR**

## Introducing our New Instructors!

We have some new teachers into our excellent instructor roster. Please help us welcome them:

**Genevieve Birchman** received her Music degree from Occidental College with an emphasis in Composition. She has been a student of trumpet and piano for over fifteen years in both classical and jazz styles. Prior to graduation, she received the Warren Award for Composition. Her effort as a young professional composer is largely focused on classical music and pop. For a number of years she was the front woman for the rock band, Trophy Room, and is now recording her debut solo album, Traveler.

**Christina Po** is an accomplished piano accom-

panist who has been accompanying choirs since the third grade. She started playing piano when she was 5 and continued playing for churches, school choirs, concerts, and impromptu events for vocalists and instrumentalists. She has a B.A. in Business Administration from the University of Washington with a Music Minor. She loves the one-on-one relationship she can have with each student.. She loves to work with kids and feels that a piano lesson is more than just a music lesson; it is also a time for the student and teacher to get to know each other and to develop a relationship. She also teaches Pre-K Music at the academy and really enjoys working with the little ones and introducing them to music.

**Saskia Victor** graduated Cum Laude from the University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands, in Languages. She traveled extensively in France and Italy. Courses in linguistics and literature in Siena and Venice have complemented her knowledge of the Italian language. In the Netherlands, she worked as an Italian teacher, translator, editor, and writer. The language arts, literature, and teaching are her greatest passions. In 2005 Saskia moved to the United States, and is also currently working part-time in special education. Her understanding, patience, and love for children make her a dedicated teacher.



# Outstanding Achievements in Performance

Congratulations to the students who performed at the three Awards Recitals on April 25th. There were over 600 attendees over the course of the day, and the students performed extremely well. So many demonstrated level advancement in their achievement of piano, composition, voice, guitar, drums, violin, and language arts. The students

and their guests enjoyed dessert and Cuban specialties from Monrovia's Merengue's Bakery & Café, as well as many delightful appetizers brought by parents. Professional performances were also given by Meghan McGovern, Andrea Hamilton, Hubie Wang, and Josh Weekley. Joe Ferrante, President, personally congratulated as he presented their trophies. Special thanks to the Acad-

emy Staff who made this such a successful event, and special thanks to the teachers who work so diligently with the students on a weekly basis. The next Awards Recital will be October of 2009.



## Keep an eye out for our next Community Concert

### Thank You!

Thank you to those of you who participated in our research efforts to learn how we could improve your academy experience. We are glad to hear you are all enjoying and benefiting from the Academy Bucks Program. We are thrilled that adding the Academy Bucks program and Practice Logs have been an effective means of motivating your students to practice well

and practice consistently.

We are also very pleased to hear that providing your students with performance opportunities has been enriching for them and your families. Now that we have your email address, you can be sure that you will hear about our upcoming Community Concerts, Awards Recitals, and Honor's Concerts in advance, and in various ways.

Lastly, we are delighted to hear that receiving STEP reports has been valuable for you

to keep track of your student's growth and progress in their musical discipline or language.



## Academy Summer Closure Dates:

### Mark your Calendars!

- **Awards Recital**  
Sat. April 25th
- **Memorial Weekend**  
Mon. May 25  
Tue. May 26  
Wed May 27
- **Week of the 4th of July**  
Wed. July 1  
Thur. July 2  
Fri. July 3  
Sat. July 4  
Sun. July 5
- **August Closure**  
Mon. Aug. 10  
Tue. Aug 11  
Wed. Aug 12  
Thur. Aug 13  
Fri. Aug 14  
Sat. Aug 15,

# Fun News Flash!

Jill Alonzo, an Instructor and Manager here at The Academy is going to be on Wheel of Fortune! So please tune in May 13th at 7:30pm! Let's hope she wins big!

Summer Ferrante & Andrea Hamilton both have released new CDs which are available for purchase at The Academy. Teacher Meghan McGovern recently sang the national anthem at Dodgers Stadium! We also welcome our new

support staff members Maria & Nicole.

If you are interested in a week long summer camp please be sure to mention it to any one of the staff!

## Can you find all of these words in the puzzle?

PIANO	FLUTE	SPANISH	FUN
VOICE	CLARINET	FRENCH	BUCKS
GUITAR	TRUMPET	ITALIAN	ACADEMY
VIOLIN	THEORY	TUTORING	
RHYTHM	DRUMS	MATH	



TO: