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Spring 2021

ALTO Newsletter

June 25, 2021

Musician's corner

For our first Musician's corner, we interviewed Devin Hough, a luthier who specializes in bowed string instruments. While he makes and repairs a broad range of modern violins, violas, cellos, a majority of his instruments are baroque or renaissance period bowed string instruments, such as those from the violin family, viola da gamba family, and violas d'amore.

Be sure to check out the full Musician's corner on our website!

Early Music Monday

We are saddened to announce the ending of Early Music Mondays. Stay tuned for more!



MTM Tutoring Sessions

Missions at Music (MTM) was founded by Michayla Gee and Tammy __. MTM offers free private lessons for piano, violin, flute, voice, guitar, and ukulele. Michayla and Tammy founded MTM in August of 2020 and began offering lessons in March of 2021. MTM is currently providing nearly 30 students with free music lessons, and around the same number on their waitlist. MTM hopes to double this number once they have the capacity to do so.

MTM's mission statement is: "We at Missions Through Music aim to utilize music to empower and uplift the spirits of those in need, and seek to better their lives and the lives of those with Cystic Fibrosis. We will accomplish this through our various initiatives, which include our monthly music postcards, music fundraisers, and free music lessons. All proceeds gathered through our fundraisers and generous donors will go to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to support CF research." By offering music lessons, MTM can empower and uplift spirits of those in need, and also empower underserved youth with access to opportunities, experiences, and resources that were previously inaccessible.

Tammy and Michayla first bonded over a shared interest in music and medicine during a summer internship. Tammy had a call with a nurse, who suggested starting a program to provide hospitals with music, and so Tammy reached out to Michayla to create a nonprofit based on this idea. After learning about cystic fibrosis and the minimal funding it receives compared to other more widely known diseases, Michayla and Tammy developed the mission they have today. Originally, they had the initiatives of music postcards and fundraisers, but they decided they wanted to expand their reach and give back to their community who had given so much support. To accomplish this, they came up with the idea of offering free music lessons for youth.

Currently, MTM looks forward to getting more music tutors, and hopes to accommodate as many students as they can. MTM also hopes to further their impact through their other initiatives, such as fundraising and providing hospitals, nursing homes, and orphanages with joy through music postcards.

MTM initially faced the challenge of finding students. Michayla and Tammy originally promoted the program on Instagram and had a good number of interested tutors, but no students to match them with. Michayla and Tammy then reached out to Virtual Tutoring SF, a youth-led academic tutoring program in their area. From promotion through Virtual Tutoring SF, MTM received an overwhelming influx in students. Currently, MTM faces the challenge of a lack of tutors to match interested students.

Michayla and Tammy highlight the importance of networking when setting up any type of program or organization: “Reaching out to other individuals and organizations can be a huge help with regard to the promotion of your program/organization. Don’t be afraid to ask for help!”

Program Showcase Submission Statement

Are you in an exceptional program that you think should be featured? Fill out this form and it might be featured in our next newsletter or post!

The Zoom Where It Happens

Upcoming plans and proposals in the making:

- Building better communication within and between ALTO programs
- Offering in person events and activities at the local level in select geographic areas
- Expansion of our recruitment team
- Internal reorganization

What we're working towards this quarter:

- Creating more tutoring programs, especially in regions of the United States where we currently have no programs
- Launching our Tutor Training Sessions in June
- Several events including masterclasses and our concert
- More partnerships with corporate sponsors, grant foundations, news stations, etc
- Offering ALTO Merch such as T shirts and hoodies
- Partnering with various music companies to increase our giveaways, product discounts, and product donations offerings within the ALTO Grants Program

Have a comment, question, or suggestion
you'd like to make to ALTO?
[Fill out this form](#)

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If you would like to sponsor our organization, please contact us at altomuisc tutoring@gmail.com

Tips

Tutors

“Focus on the fundamental techniques first. If you allow your student to advance too quickly, they will have a weaker foundation and that will bite them back in the long run. Focus on tone, rhythm, intonation, and posture before adding more complexity”

Kyu Nagashima, tutor at Presto Music

“Sometimes it’s not the best to only focus on playing- having a good foundation on music theory will improve their music-reading capability. Lesson time can be saved instead of being spent on naming notes and finding which finger/string they match to”

Karen Meng, tutor at DHS Strings Tutoring Program

“Communication is really important, unless you’re going it alone without coordinating with your school or friends. Put out advertising as soon as or even before you’re ready to take students - there’s no such thing as embarrassing or shameless advertisement. [Finally,] things don’t always go smoothly so expect some things to go off the rails, be ready to resolve conflicts and convince people”

Drew Liu, Program Coordinator at DSHS Band Tutoring Program

“Have tutors send an email after [each] class with top things to think about while practicing [this] week”

Iva Dimitrijevic, Program Coordinator at Harp Lessons

Program Coordinators

Music Fact

Baritone Leonard Warren died on stage at The Met in 1960 just as he had finished singing Verdi’s ‘Morir, Tremenda Cosi’ (‘To Die, a Momentous Thing’).

