Where did you go to school?
Hartt School of Music at University of Hartford and University of Cincinnati

At what age did you begin playing your instrument and why?
Age 9 or 10. I was always fascinated by watching drummers.

What is one interesting fact that everyone should know about you?
I am a breast cancer survivor.

Who is your favorite composer?
Brahms, Schumann & Chopin

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Read, practice, cooking

What do you think makes the Conservatory so unique?
Expression.

What do you find most challenging about your job?
Balancing my schedule as a freelancer with finding time to experiment with new artistic opportunities.

Where do you perform when you are not teaching at the Conservatory?
I perform a lot in the U.S and Germany playing New/Contemporary Music.

What do you find most challenging about your job?
Where did you go to school?

At What age did you begin playing your instrument and why?
I started piano when I was 6 years old. My mother signed me up for piano lessons and I loved it.

What do you think makes the Conservatory so unique?
Very well organized, great place to learn music, and lots of performance opportunities for students.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Hike, travel, cook, swim, and discover new sounds and music

What do you find most challenging about your job?

Where do you perform when you are not teaching at the Conservatory?
Hartt School of Music at University of Hartford and University of Cincinnati

At What age did you begin playing your instrument and why?
When I was a kid I was always interested in percussion and would watch my dad (who is also a musician) drumming.

What do you think makes the Conservatory so unique?
Small, tightly-knit community

What do you find most challenging about your job?
Even with all the diverse programs and offerings, it still feels like a small, tightly-knit community

Where do you perform when you are not teaching at the Conservatory?
I performed in Greece and also travel a bit with various groups.

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**New Camps at the Conservatory**

Imagine boosting your songwriting skills with a school year’s worth of comprehensive classes culminated in a fully staged musical production. Or gaining the tools and techniques needed to play classical guitar. Or participating in a summer music festival or orchestra performance. Or working on your senior graduation recital. The Conservatory offers these and many more summer camp opportunities for vocalists, instrumentalists, actors, composers and performers of all ages and skill levels.

**Love Letters**

The Hoch Series Finale

Concordia Conservatory presented its final concert of the Hoch Chamber Music season with a program entitled, LOVE LETTERS, with violinist Lawrence Dutton, violist Elizabeth Lin-Dutton, cellist Julia Lichten and pianists Misha and Cipa Dichter on March 21. A special part of the program was “The Heart Grows Fonder,” a new violin and viola duo composition by our very own Conservatory faculty Matt Van Brink for Liz and Larry Dutton which was commissioned by the Hoch Chamber Music Society. It was indeed an evening of joy to a full house.

Love Letters was port of ARTSEE, a five month Festival of new works in Westchester County, celebrating Anti-Westchester’s 50th Anniversary.

**Conservatory Winners of the Tri-State Certificate of Excellence**

Congo to the Concordia Conservatory performers in the Tri-State Certificate of Excellence Winners Concert on March 1 at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall. Performers and recipients of the Certificate of Excellence awards include guitarist Nicholas Lombardo, sopranos Sofia Ricciarini, Abby Bruno, Natalia Morato, and Katharine Ugrayo and flutist Laney Bagwell.

The Royal Conservatory Music Development Program provides a national standard of musical achievement for people of all ages studying music privately in the US, by offering a sequential course of study. The program centers on periodic one-on-one, adjudicator-to-student performance evaluations that also function as teaching and learning opportunities. Assessments are offered for keyboard, string, wind/woodwind, and brass instruments, voice, and the academic subjects of music theory, music history, and pedagogy. These winners received the top scores in their category and level in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut area for their Royal Conservatory Music Development Program Exam.

**Musical Adventures Family Series Concluded with Schmutzinberry Has Writers Block & The Magical Mystery**

In March, Schmutzinberry Has Writer’s Block was the Conservatory’s last show of the 2014-15 Musical Adventures Family Series. With book by Ram Vasen, the show featured the piano trio of Nuri Pachl, violin, Annette Espada, cellos, and Jon Klimentoff, piano with Ram Vasen of Schmutzinberry.

Music featured in the show includes new works by Conservatory student J.P. Redmond. This one-act, musical education comedy centered around Wolfgang Amadeus Schmutzinberry. He had written his block was commissioned to write a very important piece for an important occasion but could not come up with a single note! He came to the Conservatory and found inspiration to write his music.

On February 7, the Conservatory presented The Magical Mystery Musical also by Ram Vasen that featured Conservatory students with Olivia Damasco, Emily Murray, Jack Clough, Grace Smyth, Rona Tedko, Gia Damasco, Rose Hanish, Emma Sanchez, Jack Szczepanski, Carmel Pacht-Colbien and Abby Bruno with Kathleen Sos, stage director, Audrey Hanish, choreographer and Greg Sos, music director. The band included Emma Sanchez, piano, Abby Carter, bass and percussion, Rose Hanish, cello, and Nick Lombardi, guitar.

**Student News**

Albert Ai (piano student of Sisyphe Ahn) received a top score in his recent NYSSMA grade 5 auditions and now he is heading for his final level festival. His upcoming competitions include the Concordia International Lute, Mozart Concert and New York Music Competition. He recently performed Chopin’s D-flat minor Waltz at the Pulman Music Festival. He is preparing for his Royal Conservatory Music Development Program level 6 Exam.

Laney Bagwell (student of Clara Hoffman), played the first movement of the Prokofiev Violin Concerto No.1 on a recent school trip to Ireland. Laney attends Thornton-Cononon School in New Rochelle and is a member of the school’s Viola Choir, where Laney and the band performed together for greats.

Marissa Beddow (student of Sun Young Chang and Caroline Peck) won a prize winner in the Yorkies Philharmonic Competition. She will appear on the winner’s concert on May 17 Saunders High School. She is also the 1st Place HS division winner in New York Lynx Opera Theatre Young Artist Competition. She was featured on the concert’s May 2 at Symphony Space in NYC. She heads to theBroadway Music Center Vocal program this summer.

Rory Christian (student of Yinon Chao), participated in the Long Island Conservatory Soloist Competition in February and was chosen as a winner. She performed in the Winner’s Concert at Merkin Concert Hall in March. She will perform Chopin’s Cello Concerto and the Mouse.

Will Cofli (student of Stephanie Ho), will travel this July to the Arnold Amyot Music Festival in Mount Mason, July where he will participate in the piano program.

Jasper Coo (student of Sun Young Chang), is headed to the Bemidji HS Vocal Program Music. He is preparing for his summer after being accepted after a competitive audition process.

Henriette Feldman (student of Zoe Sune), second top score on NYSSMA. She will be performing with Greater Youth Orchestra in Lincoln Center’s Avery Fisher Hall on May 3.

Michael Londy (student of Stephanie Ho and Eunbi Kim), received a perfect score for his NYSSMA audition playing the School of Music and theory skills, and make new friends who love music like you? The come join us for two fun filled weeks during the Conservatory’s Summer Keys Piano Camp with piano department head Melissa Alexander this summer!

**Dates to Remember**

| MAY | 15 | Hear It Live! Composers Concert
| 22-23 | Music Development Program Spring Exams
| 23 | Spring Conservatory & Stein Hall
| 25 | Conservatory Closed
| 29 | Memorial Day
| JUNE | 3 | Adult Performance Class
| 12 | JP Redmond & Rami Vamos with the Haunted House
| 15-25 | Musical Adventures Mini Camp Early Childhood Program
| 29 | Conservatory Camps Begin

**Consortium Alumni Corner**

Luke Dutton graduates from Trinity College with a BA and has accepted a position with ProService, a human resources firm in Honolulu, Hawaii starting this summer.

Carolyn Caruso finishes her sophomore year at Northeastern University, majoring in communications and women’s studies.

Cristina Favara will be beginning a teaching position with City Year AmeriCorps and graduates from Fordham University in May.

Julia Hoch graduates from Williams College this June and is headed to Pittsburgh Light Opera, an equity theatre, to assistant stage direct The Wedding Singer, Gypsy and Man of LaMancha.

Danny Levitz receives his senior graduation piano recital at SUNY Purchase on May 12 and graduates in May.

Alice Smyth is graduating from Fordham University in May and continues to work as a freelance harpist and a cantor at Holy Family Church in New Rochelle. Alice recently received a grant from The Juilliard School for research on social media and harp performance.

**Online registration is open now for these and all our summer camp offerings. www.concordiaconservatory.org**

**Conservatory Summer Music Festival**

Take in performances ranging from four to eight hands, sharpen your sight reading and theory skills, and make new friends who love music like you! The come join us for two fun filled weeks during the Conservatory’s Summer Keys Piano Camp with piano department head Melissa Alexander this summer!