

Fall 2011 Music Adventure Newsletter



This summer, Music Adventure returned to Tenuta di Spannocchia for the third year. 2011 marked Chamber Music for Young Artists' 12th year and the inception of the Adult Cello Workshop. We were thrilled to return to Spannocchia, a historic agricultural estate 22 km south of Siena. Participants came from New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Germany. Most participants were visiting Europe for the first time. Six cellists joined Katie Kennedy and Eric Dahlin for the Adult Cello Workshop for nine days and ten nights of music making. Fourteen high school students attended the 12th Chamber Music for Young Artists program for two weeks of chamber music immersion. Joining Eric and Katie on faculty for the Young Artists Program were Teri Einfeldt and Jarek Lis. Jarek's wife Malgosia and children Kuba and Maya also made the trip. Ann Hoag came from the Netherlands to act as student coordinator. Both programs enjoyed the wonderful meals prepared from food organically grown and raised at Spannocchia and took day trips to some of the spectacular nearby sights. The Spannocchia Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to promoting environmental sustainability, traditional Tuscan culture and the fine arts, operates the 1,100 acre farm and educational center 14 miles south of Siena, Italy.



Encore! On September 16, 2011 some students from the 2011 Young Artists program reprised works from this summer at our annual Reunion Concert in West Hartford, CT. They performed for family, friends and residents of Atria Hamilton Heights.

**Adult Cello Workshop
July 28 – August 7, 2012**

**Chamber Music for Young Artists
August 7 - 21, 2012**

Note that dates include travel from America. Programs begin in Italy on July 29 & August 8th.

2011 Chamber Music for Young Artists

This summer, for our two-week long Chamber Music for Young Artists program, we had six returning students and eight new students. Most of the group traveled together to Rome and stopped to visit the stunning hilltop town of Orvieto on the way to Spannocchia. Julia Miller, a violin student from Germany, met us at Spannocchia. Each of the students performed in two or three small ensembles, all of which performed at the terrace before dinner and in more formal evening concerts. The string orchestra prepared several works led by Jarek and Eric. Groups received daily coachings, practiced individually and received one-on-one attention. The level of performance was impressive this year! All the groups really clicked and the students were supportive and appreciative of each other's efforts. We also had several t'ai chi sessions on the lawn before breakfast and mini Italian lessons after lunch.

On day trips, our group explored the tiny walled hilltop town of Monteriggioni and the former Etruscan center of Volterra. On the middle Saturday, the group spent the day in Rome. Returning students visited the sumptuous Borghese Gallery while the others toured the Colosseum and the Forum. We met at the Spanish Steps, had gelato by the Pantheon and visited St. Peter's Basilica before having a pizza dinner on a lively street near Piazza Navona. The other two trips in 2011 were to Florence and nearby Siena. The day in Florence was filled with art and architecture. New students took ArtViva's walking tour and visited David at the Accademia. Returning students visited the jewel-toned Chapel of the Magi in the Riccardi-Medici Palazzo, the peaceful San Marco Museum, a former monastery where Fra Angelico decorated each cell with a fresco, and the Church of San Lorenzo designed by Brunelleschi. We had our picnic lunch near San Lorenzo, explored the market and finished the day with a visit to the Palazzo Vecchio.

This year, we learned even more about the farm. Katie Phelan, Spannocchia's director of education taught us about Cinta Senese, the heritage breed of pig raised at Spannocchia for salumi. She also gave us a fun and delicious course on pasta making. A local beekeeper introduced us to the world of bees and finished his presentation with a honey tasting. We'll never think about honey in the same way again. The figs ripened during our second week and were delicious, although sticky snacks. Pizza night and pesto lasagna were special culinary highlights for this year's group.



Chamber Music for Young Artists Repertoire 2011

Chamber Music

Dvorak Terzetto Op. 74 for Two Violins and Viola

Imre Sulyok Quintet for Clarinet and Strings

Vivaldi "Domine Deus" from Gloria

Mozart Quintet in Bb Major, K. 174

Mozart Divertimento in D Major, K. 136

Hummel Quartet for Clarinet and Strings

Schubert String Quartet in g minor, D. 173

Mendelssohn String Quartet Op. 44 No. 1

Haydn String Quartet in g minor, Op. 74 No. 3

Chamber Orchestra

Respighi Ancient Airs and Dances Suite 3

Sibelius Andante Festivo

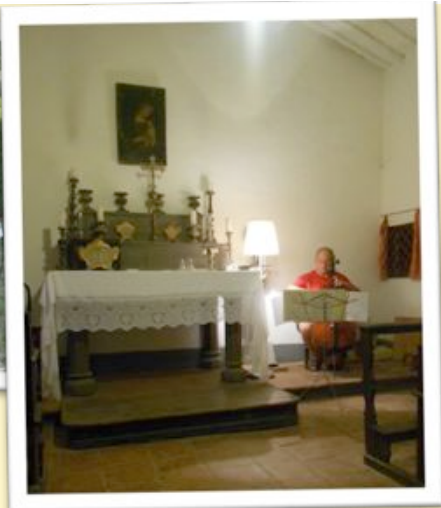
Vivaldi Concerto "L'estate" Op. 8 RV 315

Pergolesi Salve Regina

Faculty Concert

Zoltan Kodaly Duo for Violin and Cello, Op. 7

Jean Barriere Sonata in G Major for Two Cellos



Adult Cello Workshop Highlights from 2011

Nine days and ten nights of music making at the peaceful and rustic Castello perched on top of a hill, flanked by cypress trees and surrounded by olive groves and forests. Every meal prepared by Spannocchia's amazing chefs using produce organically raised on the farm, including their own olive oil and wine. Four course dinners in the garden, followed by late night jam sessions, lively conversation and quiet walks under the stars. It was a dream.

Mornings started with scale class or t'ai chi on the lawn and often included ensemble rehearsals, lessons, technique classes and individual practicing. The music making usually continued into the afternoon, if we weren't off exploring. Members broke into pairs and prepared duets and we played a few cello ensemble works with everyone, as well as some after-dinner reading sessions and informal opportunities to perform for appreciative guests, interns and staff.

This year, the group spent an afternoon in Volterra (beautiful drive through the countryside from Spannocchia) where we enjoyed the Roman Theater, the medieval architecture, Etruscan history, alabaster studios, cafes and wine bars. We spent another afternoon and evening in Siena touring the Duomo, enjoying a group dinner at Ristorante Guidoriccio, just off the main square *Il Campo* (where we celebrated John's birthday) followed by a cello recital by Antonio Meneses (Bruch, Prokofiev, Schumann) next door at the Teatro dei Rinnovati in the Palazzo Pubblico. We also spent most of a day enjoying Florence where everyone went off and did their own thing - tours of the Uffizi and the recently reopened Vasari Corridor, cafe hopping and exploring the markets, and visiting Michelangelo's Medici Chapels and Santa Maria Novella Church. We enjoyed a dinner together at Trattoria Nella near Santa Trinitá.

Some participants enjoyed visiting the charming untouristed neighboring town of Torri and attended a Sunday church service there. Others visited the spectacular ruins of the San Galgano Abbey and the little chapel with the sword in the stone, just 10 minutes from Spannocchia. Katie Phelan, Spannocchia's Education Director led us through a fascinating and delicious tour and tasting of Spannocchia's salumi products. Several participants took a cooking class with Spannocchia's chef Loredana and prepared an elaborate lunch.

Italy was marvelous!

Twice we were visited by a fox who was frightened off by Tom pounding his feet... Tom managed to come close to a wild boar (we believe) and showed true athleticism by racing up a 45 degree incline!

Karen and I danced in the square in Siena.

We played with our inimitable instructors, were treated to recitals by them and attended a solo recital of Marin-Marais and Bach by John in the chapel at Spannocchia.

We went to a nighttime cello concert in Siena by Antonio Meneses and ate and drank marvelously!

We even managed a small concert on the lawn at Spannocchia, well attended and well applauded by guests (in vino veritas!)

All in all it was terrific, and, to say the least, interesting.

I am ready for a return!

-Eugene Ciccone

Cello Workshop Participant '11

Excerpts from the Spannocchia guest book from 2011 Music for Young Artists participants:

I never knew a place could be so wonderful. From the delicious meals to the amazing sunsets, there is nothing I would change about Spannocchia. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to live here for two weeks and study music within these old walls. I will treasure each memory like spotting a *cingale* one morning, chasing cats through the gardens and sitting on the wall watching the last bits of sunlight leave the sky. I cannot wait to return here to the place where so many things are wonderfully stuck in the past. - June Criscione, Albany NY

Two years ago I had a fantastic two weeks at Spannocchia. I was delighted to return to the villa I fell in love with. New friends, fantastic food and music was all I needed to make this another memorable experience. Thank you for everything! I hope I can come back soon. - Andrew Sunde, West Hartford CT

Spannocchia feels like home and I absolutely do not want to leave. Spannocchia is large enough to make a visitor feel completely isolated from the 21st century world... yet it is small enough to feel like family immediately. The interns, the staff and others were always friendly and helpful. Even though far from any large city, there is always something to do ... swimming, filming the scenery, going on a hike, writing postcards on the terrace, enjoying the beautiful view and of course, practicing the violin. I also loved the food. Being a vegetarian when traveling can sometimes be very hard if not impossible, but there were always delicious meals prepared! This place is simply gorgeous and magical. I wish I had had more time here and definitely hope to return soon. Thank you so much! - Julia Miller, Berlin Germany

Thank you so much for providing your students with a superb experience. Like giving a party, the key is who comes, and you invited a great group of youngsters.

It was instantly clear from looking at their body English at the airport on their return that they had bonded as a group. They arrived at the airport last night animated, exuberant, upbeat, and talkative. Emma was really flying, happy, engaged, smiling. Emma had a wonderful time, and filled us in on all the great things she did.

When I asked her what she had learned, she thought for a moment and said, "A new way of looking at music." As music educators, you can't do much better than that.

- Peter Adomeit and Marilyn Sanders,

Parents of Emma CMYA '11



Are you interested in attending Music Adventure in 2012?

Adult Cello Workshop preliminary deadline is **December 1, 2011**. Please email Eric and Katie at dahlin@musicadventure.org. No audition is required.

Chamber Music for Young Artists is open to high school students. Primarily for string players, MA directors may choose to also accept a woodwind, harp or guitar player. The Young Artists program requires an audition. Beginning this fall, we are using a rolling admissions process so students and families may plan further in advance. Spaces are limited to a total of 16 – 18 students; apply early. All applications should be received *no later than* February 15. Applications will be accepted after that time if there is still space available. There is limited scholarship available for those with demonstrated need and priority is given to those who apply early.

Do you believe in the Music Adventure experience?

Tuition fees for Music Adventure are just enough to cover the program's operating expenses. Music Adventure is seeking sponsors to help make this experience accessible to more young people. Please contact us if you would like to help. Contributions of all amounts make a difference. We are grateful to generous individuals who contributed to the scholarship fund in 2010. Contributions made out to Spannocchia Foundation (and mailed to Spannocchia Foundation, P.O. Box 10531, Portland ME 04104) and clearly designated "**Music Adventure Scholarship Fund**" are tax-deductible since the Spannocchia Foundation is a nonprofit organization.

Do you know someone interested in attending Music Adventure?

Music Adventure is a small program. Our program depends on word-of-mouth publicity so if you know someone that might be interested, tell them!



For more information, visit www.musicadventure.org

or contact program directors, Eric Dahlin and Jaroslaw Lis.

Eric: dahlin@musicadventure.org (860) 989-5176

Jaroslaw: lis@musicadventure.org (860) 270-9629

Find Music Adventure on Facebook where we post the latest news, pictures, and fun links for aficionados of music, travel and Italian culture.