



Remembering Melissa Crusler

The CMS family has lost one of its dearest members. We are truly saddened by the passing of Melissa M. Crusler, who taught voice at CMS from 1982 until her death on December 20, 2013.

Melissa was a fascinating blend of talents. A member of Mensa, the organization for people with high IQ, she was fluent in German, conversed in Latin, Russian, Italian and French, and sang in Spanish and Polish. She earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from the University at Buffalo, where she performed in the Opera Workshop, UB Orchestra and String Orchestra. She later studied voice pedagogy and viola at Indiana University Bloomington.



*Melissa Crusler (seated)
with student
Jennifer Fitzery*

Melissa performed many opera roles, including her work with Opera Sacra, and served for many years as alto soloist at Buffalo's Central Park United Methodist Church under the direction of Paul Homer.

As impressive as Melissa was, she was also kind, compassionate and unassuming. Because of her good nature and gentle spirit, Melissa's students adored her. Many remained under her tutelage for decades.

Melissa leaves a legacy of excellence and the camaraderie that only music can create. It is wrong to say we will miss her, because we already do. Rest easy, dear friend. Your song lives on, always.

Meet our front desk team

Bethany Perl works at the front desk at various times throughout the week, while also working 20 hours a week as our new coordinator of marketing communications. This is her second tour of duty with CMS. She has a degree in design.

Shana Lee has been with CMS since 2009. She'll continue working on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, as well as every other Saturday.



Perl Lee Badzinski Brough Hooser

Mike Badzinski is now working at the front desk during the day on Tuesdays and Fridays. He's a musician with a strong academic background in early childhood education.

Andrea Brough is now working on Wednesday and Friday afternoons and evenings, and every other Saturday. She's a musician with great customer service and arts-related experience.

Leta Hooser has joined us for various daytime shifts, Monday through Thursday. A retired addictions counselor, Leta is working at CMS through the Senior Community Service Employment Program. She'll be providing office support.

Marcy Competition

The 23rd annual Marcy Scholarship Competition will be held Saturday, March 22. This is a chance for students of all ages to compete for \$100 scholarships to CMS. The entry form and details are on the back of this newsletter. Applications must be received by March 15. Why not give it a shot?

Bolster and upholster

With spring on the way (we hope!), we've been sprucing up our Elmwood building. If you can assist with cleaning the upholstery on our waiting room chairs, please contact Erin Waite at erinwaite@cms-buffalo.org or 716-884-4887, x104. Thanks!

Spring It On!

One day. One person. One gift can make a difference! Join us on March 20 for Spring It On, Buffalo Niagara's 24-hour online charitable event. Support CMS and its music therapy programs by visiting www.springiton.org/fundraise?fcid=297206 anytime on March 20!

Upcoming Recitals

Sign up at the front desk!

Friday, 3/14—7 PM	St. Patrick's Day Recital	Elmwood
Friday, 4/11—6:15 PM	Adults Only Recital	Elmwood
Friday, 4/11—7 PM	Student Recital	Elmwood



23rd Annual Marcy Scholarship Competition

Saturday, March 22, 2014

Entry Form

Eligibility

- CMS vocal and instrumental students of all ages and levels (with teacher's permission)

Auditions

- Saturday, March 22, 2014 (mid-morning-afternoon)
- CMS Elmwood Site (415 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo)
- Three CMS teachers will serve as judges

Audition Requirements

- Two contrasting pieces or movements. At least one must be memorized.
- If total performance time is more than six minutes for youngsters or more than eight minutes for teens/adults, please omit repeats or verses.

Categories

- 7 years old and under
- Ages 8 - 11
- Ages 12 - 14
- Ages 15 - 18
- Ages 19 and older (adult)

Awards

- \$100 in CMS scholarships will be awarded in each age category, at the judges' discretion.
- All judges' decisions are final.
- Judging will be based on musicality/interpretation, technical accuracy and stage presentation.

Student Name _____ Age on 3/22/14 _____

Instrument *(write "Voice" if you are a voice student)* _____ Teacher _____ Years of Study _____

Audition Piece # 1 _____ Composer _____

memorized not memorized

Audition Piece # 1 _____ Composer _____

memorized not memorized

Do you have any requests for the time of your audition on Saturday, March 22? _____

For those students needing an accompanist, please check one:

I will have my own accompanist.

I need CMS to arrange for an accompanist. *(The music in the correct key for the accompanist must be submitted with this form, or earlier. Faxed music will not be accepted.)*

Please Note:

- All pieces composed/arranged with piano accompaniment must be performed with the accompaniment.
- Audition pieces may not be changed after this form has been signed by the teacher and submitted.
- You may not repeat a piece that you performed in a previous Marcy Competition.

Teacher's Signature _____ Date _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

(Parent/guardian must also sign if the auditionee is under 18 years of age.) _____ Date _____

Firm Application Deadline (with all appropriate signatures): Saturday, March 15, 2014

Please return this form and music for the accompanist, if appropriate, to:

Executive Director, Community Music School

By mail: 415 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222

By email: info@cms-buffalo.org | Or by fax: 716-884-7529

You will be notified of your audition time by Wednesday, March 19.

Winners will be announced on Monday, March 23, 2014.