



Students perform a concert at the Vivaldi Church in Venice.

La Dolce Vita

ON TOUR IN ITALY, YOUNG MUSICIANS MAKE MUSIC
AND LASTING MEMORIES

IN HONOR OF Barrington Youth Symphony Orchestra's 10th anniversary, Director Ron Velleuer wanted to do something special for his young musicians. Going on tour in Italy seemed like the perfect way to commemorate the occasion. Students performed at ancient churches with amazing acoustics to enthusiastic audiences of tourists who were also present to view the ornate architecture and artwork inside. Since Barrington area schools had the same spring break as Deerfield High School, where Velleuer is director of orchestras, he decided to take all his musicians on an international adventure, to experience *la dolce vita*: the good life.

Velleuer planned a lovely mix of compositions by Italian and American composers for the students to perform at each concert. Combined, the two groups made up an orchestra of 60 musicians. Many of their families, including Velleuer's wife Holly, who runs Barrington Music Institute with him, and three of their children, joined them on tour.

Shortly after arriving in Milan on the first day of their "2019 Musical Tour of Italy," the orchestra headed to Cremona to visit the Stradivarius Museum for a lesson in the artistry of violin making, a peak at dramatically lit displays of \$12 million violins crafted centuries ago by local families, and a look inside the museum's auditorium, acoustically designed for recitals.



The Barrington and Deerfield orchestra members perform at Saint Agnes Church in Rome.

“As a teacher, this tour was really about the students,” Velleuer says. “We packed in art, architecture, culture, monuments, ruins, concerts, clinics, and wonderful food.”

AN AWE-INSPIRING EXPERIENCE

Their first concert was on Sunday, March 24, in Venice at Vivaldi’s Church, where centuries ago, the famous composer played his compositions for the very first time. In honor of the occasion, the students performed Vivaldi’s “Concerto Grosso in D Minor” and movements from “The Four Seasons”. The concert had Heather Walser, mother of 14-year-old violinist Quinn, in tears at times, because her daughter grew up playing Vivaldi’s literature. Violinist Thomas Parrish could relate. Playing the solo to Vivaldi’s “Spring” in the composer’s church made Parrish, who has played violin since age three, determined not to let nerves get in the way of his performance. “I stayed calm and played it like I always have,” he says. At the end of the concert, the orchestra received a standing ovation. “Ron is a tough director,” Walser says. “But the kids want to play well for him. He holds them to a high standard, and they live up to it.”

A walking tour of Venice following the concert included a Venetian glassblowing demonstration, a view of the Rialto Bridge, and a look at the intricate mosaics on the walls and ceiling of Saint Mark’s Cathedral.

In route to Florence, the orchestra stopped at the Bologna Philharmonic and watched Maestro Roberto Abbado’s symphony rehearse Mussorgsky’s “Pictures at an Exhibition”. They also listened to a special performance of Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto by a prodigal 17-year-old pianist and participated in an eye-opening one-hour clinic with the Maestro.

A STAND-UP PERFORMANCE

The orchestra received yet another standing ovation after their performance at San Filippo Neri Church in Florence. While there, the musicians explored the area’s fine art, saw a leather-making demonstration and, in the evening, the students who were up for it headed to a disco with their chaperones for karaoke and dancing. Early the next morning, they visited Rome for a walking tour of the Colosseum and the Forum.

The following day, they performed a concert at Saint Agnes Church. “The acoustics were fantastic,” Velleuer says. “It’s mesmerizing how beautiful it sounds.” Afterward, they toured the Vatican, Saint Peter’s Church, the Sistine Chapel, and Trevi Fountain.

On their last day, they saw the Spanish Steps, had a tasting at a gelato factory, toured the Catacombs of St. Callixtus, and enjoyed being part of the audience at an evening concert, a tribute to the Three Tenors.

By the flight home Saturday morning, everyone was “appropriately tired,” Velleuer says. Still, he was most happy about the friendships that were formed between members of the two orchestras, strangers who came together for a shared experience. “I would do it again,” Parrish says of traveling with BYO. “Before the trip, we were all acquaintances, but after the trip, we are all super good friends and hang out together.”

Melanie Kalmar is a freelance writer specializing in business and human-interest features. When she’s not writing, she enjoys spending time with her family.



The students were offered a one-hour clinic with Maestro Roberto Abbado. Jim Velleuer (on left) and Roberto Abbado join the students.



Austin Velleuer performs in at the Rome concert.



Priceless violins were seen at the Stradivarius Museum.

Barrington Youth Symphony Orchestra

Auditions

Sign-up online for appointment
BarringtonMusicInstitute.org

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CELEBRATE SUMMER WITH CULTURAL EVENTS AT BARRINGTON'S WHITE HOUSE

Barrington's White House presents its first Summer Cultural Season of events! We kicked off the summer on June 20 with a wonderful performance of "Old Time Radio Shows" by the TesserAct Theatre Company, and below are our remaining featured events for the summer. Barrington's White House is located at 145 W. Main Street in the heart of downtown Barrington. Go to www.barringtonwhitehouse.com/events for tickets for all events.

CHRIS WALZ BLUEGRASS PLAYERS

Appearing at the Barrington's White House

4th of July Open House

Thursday, July 4, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. (after parade)

Free, Open to the Public, Light Refreshments

Stop by after the parade for a historic tour and to listen to America's musical story by acclaimed bluegrass multi-instrumentalist Chris Walz and his players. Chris toured as Woody Guthrie and performed at music haunts like Buddy Guy's Legends and the House of Blues. This Old Town School of Folk Music teacher brings Bluegrass and folk legends to life.



THE ECLECTIC ART OF JILL FUNK

Honoring the Founder of Barrington's Kaleidoscope School of Art

Thursday, July 18, 6–8 p.m.

Meet Jill Funk and view the life's work of this multi-faceted artist and Kaleidoscope founder. From clay sculpture to mosaic, from oils to pencil drawing, Jill's work is rich with color, fantasy and the beautiful human form. Dedicated to sharing the joy of art, Jill enjoys enriching students' lives at Kaleidoscope. Live art demos, music, and auction.



AGNES KRUEGER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS RECITAL

Tuesday, July 23, 7:30 p.m.

Refreshments at 7 p.m. Concert at 7:30 p.m.

Hear some of Barrington's emerging musical stars! These gifted student musicians and vocalists earned scholarships to continue their musical education and explore their talents through the Agnes Krueger Memorial Scholarship. Registration is recommended.



SUMMER FEATURED PERFORMANCE: "CHAPLIN'S SMILE"

The Extraordinary Music of Composer Charlie Chaplin, Featuring Philippe Quint, Violin, and Marta Aznavoorian, Piano

Sunday, August 18, 7:30 p.m.

We know Charlie Chaplin as a silent film star, but few realize that Chaplin composed nearly all of the music accompanying his films. In honor of Charlie Chaplin's 130th birthday, a collection of Chaplin's works has been carefully curated and newly arranged for piano and violin by violinist Philippe Quint, in collaboration with two arrangers.

You can now hear these beautiful and mostly forgotten pieces performed by internationally acclaimed and multi-Grammy nominated artists Philippe Quint and Marta Aznavoorian, who returns to Barrington's White House and her hometown.

STEPHANIE BLOCK VIOLA RECITAL

Friday, August 23, 7:30 p.m.

\$20 Adults / \$10 Students

Complimentary Reception

Praised as "exceptionally talented" and "a virtuosic performer," Block is a first-year Viola Fellow at the New World Symphony and has performed as a Chicago and international soloist, orchestral musician and award-winning chamber musician. In our intimate ballroom, this Barrington native performs works by Beethoven and Zimbalis alongside Chicago native and Juilliard pianist Natalie Nedvetsky.



SAVE THE DATE | 2019-2020 SEASON OPENING NIGHT FEATURING THE LINCOLN TRIO: Saturday, September 14

Join us this fall for "Opening Night" at Barrington's White House! We'll celebrate the kick-off of the 2019-2020 cultural season with a black-tie fundraiser featuring the Grammy-nominated Lincoln Trio, preceded by an intimate cocktail reception. The internationally renowned Lincoln Trio features Desirée Ruhstrat, violin; David Cunliffe, cello; and Barrington's own Marta Aznavoorian, piano. All proceeds from this gala evening will support cultural events at Barrington's White House. Opening Night tickets will go on sale July 1, 2019.



Painting the Town *En Plein Air*

THE VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON'S Barrington Cultural Commission and Barrington's White House announce "Paint the Town Barrington!" for a 3rd annual plein air painting event. Plein air is a French phrase meaning "in the open air" and describes artists painting outside with the subject directly in view. Plein air artists aim to capture the nuance, essence, and spirit of a landscape or other subject outdoors.

Many of our local historic buildings and homes date from the 19th century. Plein air artists are invited to capture the picturesque scenes from Barrington's historic downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. Barrington residents, art enthusiasts, and visitors to the Barrington area can enjoy the opportunity to spend time with the artists and view their process as they paint. Join us for a wonderful week and Saturday evening celebration of the works of artists painting from life "en plein air" in our charming village!

Event Details: Paint the Town Barrington! begins on Monday, Oct. 7, 2019 and concludes on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019. On Saturday, the event culminates with a Show and Reception at 5 p.m. at Barrington's White House. Prizes and awards will be presented at that time. Paint the Town Barrington! coincides with Barrington's fall Wine Walk which takes place on Saturday, Oct. 12. For more information, visit www.barringtonwhitehouse.com.



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Musician Anne Harris instructs actor Reese Harley in "The Musician".

Barrington's Independent Short Film Festival's Winner

MARK SCHIMMEL'S "THE MUSICIAN" OFFERS AN ENCHANTING LOOK AT KINDNESS AND HOPE

THE BARRINGTON CULTURAL COMMISSION and Catlow Theater owner Tim O'Connor teamed up for the third Barrington Independent Short Film Festival. Winning first place was "The Musician" by writer and director Mark Schimmel. We spoke with the filmmaker to learn more.

How did you come to the idea of the film's subject?

Several years ago, I produced and directed, "Sweet Home Chicago" for chicagostreetmusicians.org (<http://markschimmel.com/project/000041/>). I worked with then-unknown talent, Crystal Bowersox, who later became known as runner-up on "American Idol". When filming, I thought, "What if she was really famous, posing as a busker?" This inspired the first draft of the script.

When was the filming and what were your locations?

I filmed in July 2018. The City of Chicago Film office and Office of Cultural Affairs offered great assistance. I filmed in Ward Park, Planetarium Park, Clark Street Bridge, and on a Wendella Boat.

What was the biggest thing you learned on this project?

My biggest ah-ha moment was recording the entire film without recording any location sound as I intended to make a silent movie. Every sound element in the film was manufactured in a studio.

What are your goals for the film?

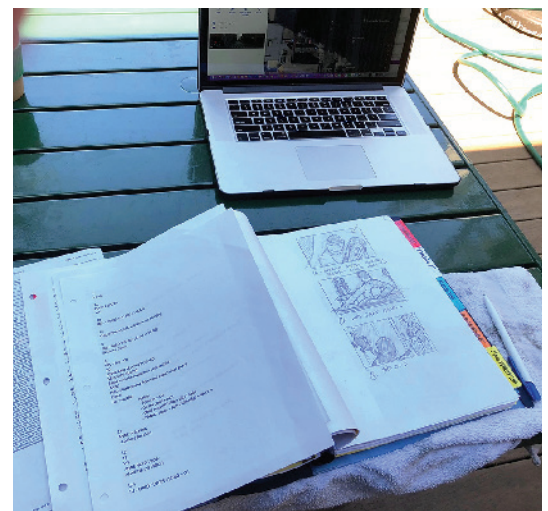
My goals are to inspire others with the film. "The Musician" is about forgiveness, mentoring, and inspiring hope—one song at a time. I want this film to serve as a calling card for me, the talent, and the crew. Already, Reese Harley, who plays the child, received talent representation as a result of this film. I also know Anne Harris has used the film and trailer to help promote her career.

How can people contact you?

Send inquiries to: schimmelmark@comcast.net. Also, visit online at www.markschimmel.com.



Anne Harris and Director Mark Schimmel.



Director Mark Schimmel's script and storyboards.



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