

## Camerata New England: Excellence and Outreach



Above left, the members of the Camerata New England quartet, playing in the spring concerts. Right, cellist and teacher Linda Galvan of Camerata New England.

Camerata New England, the professional chamber music ensemble of the Upper Valley, is moving to its new location for its spring concert schedule in April and May. They will now be at the Unitarian Universalist Church, on Rte 5 in Norwich, VT. “The acoustics are wonderful,” explains the group’s general manager of logistics, Carlos Galvan. “And the folks at UUC could not welcome us more warmly!” The collaboration will make many things possible for Camerata, including hosting receptions following their concerts.

Camerata New England is a blissful blend of outstanding professional musicians, concerts and outreach to both audiences and music students. The music instruction program is in the Lebanon schools, and is funded through gifts to Camerata New England. Cellist Linda Galvan teaches interested students as young as 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and the first class of students in the program are now sophomores in the high school. Instruments are provided free of charge for students who have the initiative and commitment to fully engage in learning the instrument. Parents are also involved in supporting their children by providing the structure and encouragement for intensive learning and practice.

One of the students in the program has moved to Middlebury, VT, but continues to come for music lessons with Galvan. “We’ve found some students who are tremendously talented, and some for whom it is a good experience,” Galvan explains. “For now it’s a cello program, but we’d love to add violin. Most of the kids would never have found their interest or abilities without the program.”

The program provides the cellos, the bows,

the cases and the music for the kids. The instruments are on loan to them as long as they’re in the program.

Three of the program’s former students now have new cellos and have donated their old ones. Thus the generosity that flows through the program, donors, teachers, students and community, is exceptional.

This commitment to helping spread the love of chamber music and performance permeates the concerts Camerata New England gives as well. Evelyn Zuckerman, the exceptional pianist of the group, notes that their concerts include music that is familiar and easily accessible to the audience, and, “We like to include music that is perhaps more modern and dissonant, so the audience comes to know, recognize and enjoy chamber music that is more contemporary,” Zuckerman explains.

At the beginning of the concert, Zuckerman gives some insights on the music. “There is never any lecture, but in this way, the concerts

are a collaboration with the audience,” Zuckerman concludes.

Camerata New England also takes their concerts to other towns. In their spring series, they will perform in Colebrook, Woodstock, Berlin and Norwich (in their new home!). The group collaborates with other organizations, too. Last fall, Patricia Norton taught a class in the Dartmouth OSHER program that introduced the materials on Clara Schumann and Fanny Mendelssohn that were the centerpiece of women composers in Camerata’s fall concert series. Zuckerman and Galvan visited the class, answering questions about process and demonstrating techniques with their instruments.

The carefully selected programs, from outreach to student instruction, thus spread the musical joy of the distinguished musicians that present the concerts. Camerata New England is an exceptional program in the Upper Valley!

—Sarah Rose



The Yamato Drummers come to Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth, on Wednesday, February 24th at 7 pm.