



# The Acorn

Prairie Oaks School of Music - Your Home for Music and Community

[www.pocmusic.org](http://www.pocmusic.org)

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Spring, 2010 Volume III

**Spring Greetings from the Prairie Oaks School of Music!** Soon the winter will begin to overstay its welcome, and through the months of February and March we will begin to crave spring! It may feel far away, but remember it will be here before you know it. Please read on for important events and other spring-related things to keep in mind...

## From the Director's Desk

by Aaron Marx

### Welcome to Spring Semester!

Happy New Year from myself and everyone else at Prairie Oaks! We have officially left the "aughts" and there has never been a better time to be a part of our school. As we continue to grow into this new decade, I hope you will make yourself aware of everything that we offer, as often I find that even families who have been with us for a while are not aware of the full extent of our current offerings. Our website, [www.pocmusic.org](http://www.pocmusic.org), is a great place to do this, and I encourage you to check frequently for upcoming events and course offerings you may have missed.

In 2010 we are pleased to welcome new faculty serving at both locations. See the article on page 2 for details. We know that both of our new faculty members will contribute wonderfully to our community of music.

My congratulations to everyone who participated in the Holiday Recitals. I was delighted with the performances in both locations and hearing all of them further impressed on me the value of the work that we do and the expertise of our skilled and caring faculty. Thanks also to all who donated non-perishable items to our food drives. I was very proud to deliver so much to the Salvation Army this holiday season.

Please read on for information about exciting upcoming events and programs. No matter who you are or what you play I am confident that you will find something to participate in this spring in addition to your regularly scheduled classes.

Once again, accept my wishes for a happy and healthy 2010 for you and your family, and as always it is such a pleasure to have you in the Prairie Oaks Family. May it be a year of growth, love, and prosperity for all of us!

# What's New

## **Student Achievements**

Congratulations to all students who performed in the Holiday Recitals held in Marshfield and Stevens Point. Please put the next concert on your schedule:

**Stevens Point: June 5, 2010 at 1:00 pm at The Church of the Intercession**

**Marshfield: June 6, 2010 at 1:00 pm at The Chestnut Avenue Center for the Arts**

Please keep us posted of any events or concerts your student participates in so that we can recognize their achievements!

## **New Faculty!**

**Welcome Tom McComb and Kira Morrissey**

We are thrilled to welcome both of these highly experienced and talented individuals to our faculty roster. Kira will be serving students in Stevens Point through instruction in both voice and piano. We are also planning to have her conduct our choirs in the future. She has taught choir at Pacelli High School and has extensive experience teaching voice and piano privately. Tom McComb is Central Wisconsin's premier guitar instructor. Currently holding positions with UWSP and the Wausau Conservatory of Music, we are very pleased to welcome him as instructor of guitar in Marshfield. Welcome Tom and Kira! We know they will both feel at home with our students and families at the Prairie Oaks School of Music.

## **DAY OF DRAMA!**

DAY of DRAMA will be held at the Prairie Oaks School of Music in Stevens Point on Saturday, March 20. Join Drama Teacher Miss Amber, for a 2 hour workshop where you are the star! Miss Amber will lead all participants through improvisation and character exercises, and a short production featuring all involved. Time and cost TBA, but it will most likely be in the afternoon. Watch the website and mail for details.

## **THE 100 DAY PRACTICE CHALLENGE!**

Prairie Oaks Students have an unique and educational opportunity to participate in the 100 DAY PRACTICE CHALLENGE this spring! In your registration packet you will receive a calendar that will require an adult's signature verifying that the students either practiced or listened to teacher-approved music every day for 100 days. All students who practice for 100 days in a row starting on February 1 and ending May 11 will be invited to a special party featuring ice cream, games, prizes, and an awards ceremony. If you would like to participate in the 100 DAY PRACTICE CHALLENGE ask your teacher for a registration packet at your next lesson.

## **POSM Faculty Member to Perform in Concert**

Tom Jaworski, our highly accomplished piano specialist in Marshfield, will give a recital this semester. Tom will perform great solo piano works by Bach, Haydn, Beethoven, Chopin and Ravel. He will perform the program at the Chestnut Center Avenue of the Arts in Marshfield at 2:00pm, Sunday, April 18th. Stevens Point date, time, and location TBA. These performances will be sponsored by the Prairie Oaks School of Music. All families are encouraged to attend, support Tom, and enjoy some fantastic music making.



## **Important upcoming events**

Be sure to mark these exciting upcoming events in your calendar:

### **Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra (CWSO)**

-Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 pm

-Sunday, Feb. 28 at 4:00 pm

**Featured Artist: Mathew Agen and Rachel Brandwein, duo harpists**

Pieces on the Program:

Overture to Barber of Seville, Adagio for Strings, Concertino in Ancient Style for Two Harps, Mozart Symphony No. 41 in C major, K. 551

### **DAY OF DRAMA!**

Saturday, March 20

Prairie Oaks School of Music, Stevens Point  
Time TBA

### **Tom Jaworski Piano Recital**

-Sunday, April 18, 2:00pm, Chestnut Center for the Arts

-Stevens Point Performance TBA

### **Marshfield Mother's Day Art Fair**

-Sunday, May 9th, Marshfield Senior High School

## **All POSM students invited to perform at Marshfield Mother's Day Arts Fair**

The Prairie Oaks School of Music will take part in the annual Mother's Day Art Fair held at Marshfield Senior High School. This year the fair will be held on Sunday, May 9th and will feature a juried art exhibition and musical performances from various area musicians. All Prairie Oaks students are welcome and encouraged to participate in our performance at this event. Watch the website and mail for further information about the Mother's Day Fair in the near future.

## Practice tip of the season

**"Only practice on the days that you eat."**

Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, founder of the Suzuki Method, sometimes told his students that they should only practice on the days that they eat or, in other words, every day. Can you imagine going to bed without eating anything? The path to playing an instrument well necessitates a similar attitude towards practicing. Practicing can be done in a number of different ways: short bursts of 5-10 minutes, listening while doing homework, putting in a good 30 minute focused session (always satisfying), giving home concerts for friends and family, and on and on. There's no wrong way to do it; just make sure that you do it today! Can you think of more ways?



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## Spring Wishes

from the

*Prairie Oaks  
School of Music!*

