



#5—JUNE 22, 2009

www.maritimeconservatory.com

DIRECTIONS

FROM JANET HULL, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT janet@maritimeconservatory.com
& CYNTHIA CREASER, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION cynthia@maritimeconservatory.com
MARITIME CONSERVATORY OF PERFORMING ARTS, 6199 CHEBUCTO RD, HALIFAX NS B3L 1K7

"Above all...love what you do!"

Last issue we were promoting the fund-raising **Cabaret** on May 4. It was close to a sell-out, the performers on stage and roaming amongst the tables were superb, the food was yummy and we made just over \$6000. Come next year!

We have released the **Academic Calendar** for 2009-10. It now has photos and extended bios of our highly-qualified (and good-looking) Faculty. They are impressive! It's on the website, or real copies are available from the Office.

Convocation was held on June 18. Several students showed why they were scholarship winners as they performed music and dance. Read our Valedictorian's wisdom, below and see photos at www.maritimeconservatory.com.

So, what are you doing this summer? This summer we will freshen up the campus by patching and painting the hallway and washroom walls—with volunteer labour. Can you help? Want to "adopt-a-washroom", or ten feet of hallway? We'll supply all paint and equipment, and you can join us for a day or a job. We'll have fun! Otherwise, we're using the summer to catch up and gear up. It's not too late to enroll in some of our **Summer programs**. Check our active website for details. Come by and see us. Our door is always open.

VALEDICTORY

by **Ria Kim**, recipient of the **Benedict Wong Cup**, awarded at Convocation to the MCPA student who has best shown love and dedication in learning all aspects of his/her discipline.

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, students and teachers. I am very honored to have been asked to speak to you tonight. When I was a young girl in Korea I wanted to learn to play the piano. I started taking lessons when I was five years old. I chose the piano myself when I went to the store with my parents. I started learning from great teachers in Korea, but I used to dislike to practice. Father encouraged me, by bringing me to a piano competition where senior students competed. The students inspired me; I said, "Dad, some day, I am going to play just like they do." I think that was about the time I started enjoying practices. Also, I participated in competitions every year until when I graduated from primary school. In Korea, junior high school classes used to last until 4:30 pm and high schools used to last until 10 pm. However, during weekends I always used to practice.

When I was seventeen years old I came to Canada to go to school. I was placed with a host family and I was so excited when I saw they had a piano. I really wanted to keep playing. I was very lucky that my new family also loved to listen to me play. After I was settled in high school I decided I wanted to continue with my piano lessons. Friends of my host family suggested that I apply to the Maritime Conservatory for lessons. I was so pleased and happy when Oksana [Zotova] accepted me as a student. Oksana took care of every single bar and every single note of my music playing. She used to talk about the background stories of Rachmaninov concerto, partitas by Bach. She also gave me tips so that I could create different tones and colors when I played notes. Everything she taught me was valuable and I have been learning how to use those skills well. With those skills, I have practiced for months and took part in the last two NS Kiwanis Music Festivals. Thanks to Oksana and people who supported me, I was invited to play in the Rose Bowl for both times. Also, I have met many talented young musicians as well as great music teachers in universities.

During my last semester in grade 12 I began to think about going to university and what course I would pursue. I thought of perhaps studying law or maybe medicine. But my love of music won out and I applied to study music at Dalhousie University. I was accepted into the music program in March.

I am very much looking forward to the fall and entering the music program at Dalhousie. After studying for four years in Dalhousie, being a music teacher or a professional concert performer are definitely things that I consider doing as my career if possible.

To all the students here tonight I would like to leave you with a few thoughts. Music is wonderful. It is fun, it is interactive and it gives pleasure to yourself and those around you. Practice hard and always strive to improve. Above all...love what you do! You never know where music will lead you. The best of luck to you all next year.

I wish to thank the Maritime Conservatory and their teachers for all their support and encouragement. I especially want to thank my teacher Oksana for sharing her knowledge and talent and helping me become a better pianist. I would also like to wish her the best of luck in her future as she leaves the Conservatory [to move to Montreal].

Join and be the difference!

The MCPA Association is a group of friends, parents and alumni of MCPA who meet and organize events to help support scholarships, bursaries and prizes given at Convocation and at other times. The MCPA Association aims to maintain a social connection with Conservatory friends. Events such as fundraising dinners, auctions, wine and cheese parties, lectures, card socials and recitals are enjoyed by our members. The Annual General Meeting & Dinner is held in June—this year on Tuesday June 23. Membership in the MCPA Association is a wonderful opportunity to donate your time and energy with like-minded friends, to ultimately benefit students at MCPA. New members are welcome. Individual membership is \$10 per year, Family is \$15. Mailing address: MCPA Association, 6199 Chebucto Road, Halifax B3L 1K7

For more information call 453-5033 or 422-3775.