

THE MUSIC STAND
Signature Syracuse Jazz Ensemble
ON TOUR!

APRIL 11
College visit to SUNY Potsdam School of Music—Potsdam, N.Y.
Students in grades 8-11 were offered a tour of the music school, dormitory, as well as the opportunity to attend music classes and rehearsals.

APRIL 25
Cherry Valley High School—Cooperstown, N.Y.
Students traveled to Cherry Valley High School of the Springfield School District to spend the day visiting, rehearsing two numbers with their high school jazz ensemble, and perform at a school assembly for their junior and senior classes, staff, and faculty. Syracuse School District Superintendent Lowenguard gave special permission to Signature students for the day off to travel and perform!

MAY 13
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation—N.Y. State Fairgrounds
Performance at the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation "Race for the Cure." This breast cancer fundraiser held annually on Mother's Day will feature the music of the Signature Jazz Ensemble as the thousands of runners prepare for their early Sunday charity walk/run.



Left to Right: Danielle Evans on bass guitar, Mr. Ford, Marie Spoelstra, and Scott pose with Darryl Watkins, Michael Issac on drums, the Jazz Ensemble saxophone line

Signature Syracuse is a unique non-profit organization that puts musical instruments in the hands of inner-city youth. To study music seriously requires a large fiscal commitment, which can limit students without access to discretionary income. Signature Syracuse was founded in 2000 to address this disparity. Music industry sponsors and area residents donate instruments for students to use and take home. Additionally, well-qualified instructors provide free private after-school lessons to middle and high-school students. This past fall semester, five Signature participants, members of the Nottingham High School Class of 2005, entered college to pursue careers in music.

For more information, please contact:

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SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT
United Auto Workers
of America
UAW Local 624



This month's spotlight thanks the United Auto Workers Local 624 for their generous contributions to the Signature program. Thanks to UAW, Signature was able to make a great showing at the Bookfair in January.

For more information about UAW, visit www.uawlocal624.com

ARE YOU REGISTERED FOR SIGNATURE MUSIC CAMP YET?

The renowned 2006 Signature Summer Music Camp at Ithaca College is filling up quickly. Reserve your spot today!

Call 315-478-7840 for details

ISSUE 2
APRIL 2006



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Scoring Big with a Basketball Halftime Gig

The Signature Jazz Ensemble Played for the Hoops for Peace Tournament



April 26—The **Hoops For Peace** non-profit organization invited the Signature Syracuse Jazz Ensemble to perform a few high-energy numbers at the Manley Field House at Syracuse University, giving a lively musical kick to the annual basketball tournament for Syracuse city middle-school students.

Hoops for Peace is a six-week tournament that culminates with the annual competition at SU's Manley Field House that determines the official **Hoops for Peace** winner. The goal of **Hoops for Peace** is to support the youth of Syracuse in considering higher education opportunities and encourages young students to start thinking early about pursuing a college degree. The Syracuse Inner-City Rotary Club sponsors the event and 2006 marked its fourth year running. It has grown each year and approximately 10 non-profit organizations and more than 80 student basketball players were involved.

In addition, Syracuse University co-sponsored the tournament, with donations of time and funds from The Big Event, a community service event sponsored by OrangeSeeds, a leadership training program; the Student Association, the SU student government; and The Division of Student Affairs, an administrative branch of Syracuse University.

SU students were eager to join the middle-schoolers in

action. Members from *The Daily Orange*, the independent daily newspaper, interviewed the students for their game-time hustle. *CitrusTV*, the SU student-run television station, held teaching workshops with the competitors, showing the middle-school students how to run a camera (and be in front of it!).

The day was extra special for the members of the Jazz Ensemble - they met and interviewed the main star of the event, Darryl Watkins of the 2006 Syracuse Men's Basketball Team. Though his 6-feet-plus-size body towered over the Signature students, they were eager to introduce themselves to Watkins, and snagged a picture for their memory books. Watkins also signed autographs for the Signature Syracuse students following the game.

By the end of the day, it was clear that the Signature Syracuse Jazz Ensemble impressed the crowd of over 300 people. Manley Field House echoed with cheers from the entire audience for the players - of both basketball and musical degrees. 🎵



Star Utter on alto saxo-



~photos and text by Hannah Fessler

Signature Jazz Ensemble players Danielle Evans, Ruth Hooker, Kiarah Evans, and Greg White with Darryl Watkins of the SU Basketball Team

Life After Signature

Two Signature Grads finish their first year at SU's Setnor School of Music



Jenny Knight

April 2006—As the 2005-2006 school year draws to a close, it is the perfect time to reflect on two students who will be finishing their first year in the Setnor School of Music at Syracuse University.

When Jenny Knight and Eveny Parker graduated from the Signature program and Nottingham High School in June 2005, they were eager to continue their music education at the collegiate level—

especially at SU, which accepted only 36 new students into the Music Education department in fall 2005.

Both Jenny Knight, a 18-year-old flute player, and Eveny Parker, an 19-year-old tuba player, say that Signature helped them believe they could pursue music in college.

"One day as we were driving to an event, Mr. Ford turned and asked me if I was going to college for music. I was a sophomore in high school. It was the first time I felt like I could one day be good enough to do it," Jenny explains. "And now, I'm here."

Jenny was involved with Signature for four years playing the flute. Through the program she was able to experiment with other instruments such as the saxophone and drums. Signature also gave her the instruments to practice in her home. Her favorite explorations included playing in both a jazz ensemble and marching band. "My high school [Nottingham High School] did not have a marching band. Signature gave me a chance to be in one," Jenny tells. Jenny will try out for the SU marching band this summer and will hopefully join the band

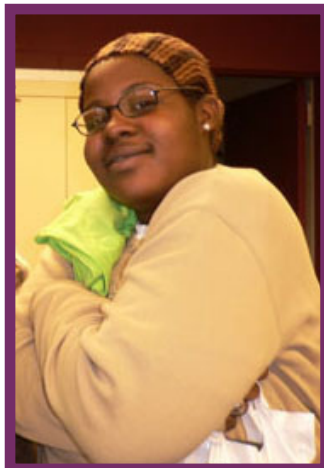
at sporting and entertainment events beginning next fall.

On the other hand Eveny tried out for the SU marching band last summer, made it, and experienced the rush of marching in a collegiate band for the first time at the SU football game on September 4. "I came out right by the student section, looked up to see thousands of people, and all I saw was orange. It was the best feeling." A feeling Eveny may not have reached without the support of Signature growing up.

Eveny started the program in her summer before eighth grade, attending Signature Camp in the summer and Signature Syracuse during the school year. "The public schools do not accommodate kids that want to do music seriously. But at Signature, the kids that are there, they want to do it. They want to be there. They want to put forth the effort. They want to practice," she explains. "It was nice to be in a setting where everyone is at the same place as you."

"After a while, music became the only thing that I did," Eveny tells. "I went to Signature practice every Saturday at 9 a.m. and I would not let anything come in the way of playing music. That's how I knew it had to be my life."

Both Jenny and Eveny are excelling at SU. Eveny continues to volunteer at Signature and has become a student-teacher. When Eveny graduates, she dreams of playing in an orchestra that records a movie soundtrack and eventually become a college professor of music. After Jenny graduates, she wants to become a high school music teacher and one day, play in an orchestra. 🎵



Eveny Parker



T R E B L E n o t e s

"I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for in the patterns of music and all the arts are the keys of learning."

Plato

Music is beating computers at enhancing early childhood development: music training, specifically piano instruction, is far superior to computer instruction in dramatically enhancing children's abstract reasoning skills necessary for learning math and science. Learning music at an early age causes long-term enhancement of spatial-temporal reasoning.

Frances Rauscher, Ph.D., Gordon Shaw, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, 1997



NEXT ISSUE

- Signature Music Camp SNEAK PREVIEW
- Staff Laughs: teacher Q & A...
- Sponsor Spotlight: meet the people helping future music makers!

Look for these and more in our next issue – available May 2006!



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BIG EVENT= BIG DEAL!

Syracuse University reaches out to Signature for a community service day

March 25—Volunteers from Syracuse University sprinkled themselves all around the city on this day, an annual event called "The Big Event." The event is an initiative that engages SU students in non-profit community organizations for one big day of student-to-city service. Syracuse University adopted this program just last year, a way to say "thanks" to their surrounding community, to become one of the approximately 50 universities or colleges across the nation who participates in The Big Event each year.

More than 300 students from SU visited over 15 sites for the event, sponsored by SU's student organization OrangeSeeds, a leadership training program. The OrangeSeeds/Big Event coordinators selected Signature Syracuse as one of their sites that day, offering to help paint walls and hammer nails for a redecorating day with gusto.

The group of five students selected to work at Signature had their work cut out for them taking on two big projects to be completed in less than six hours. The students included engineering graduate student Payal Azad, freshman political science and magazine major Zac Cummings, sophomore advertising major Jenna Stump, sophomore public relations major Meghan Coyne, and freshman political science major Eric Morrissette.

They were excited for their two-part assignment. First, they had to repaint executive director Dick Ford's office. Then, they installed a gallery, showcasing portraits of Signature students for a wall of fame.

At halftime - or three hours into the project - the SU students were officially welcomed by a few Signature student visitors. Demmeco Scott, 13, and Michael Issac, 16, came to see the progress and drummed a few beats for the SU students in the process.



Painting Mr. Ford's office

Alexander Jackson, 13, also came to help. The eighth-grader stunned volunteers with his accurate painting ability and they were convinced when he told them it was not his first time painting - that he might even go pro. Together, students and volunteers made the interior of the headquarters truly shine.

By the looks on the volunteers' faces, smiles and laughter, it was evident that they were proud of what they had accomplished. Mr. Ford even beamed with the finished work - a bright, renovated office and student headshot gallery. Not to mention, the volunteers received an extra treat - while working at the Signature site, they learned about an aspect of the community that they would not have known about otherwise.

The Big Event was a success for Signature, Syracuse University, and everyone who participated. 🎵

~Jenna Stump



Alex Jackson joins the painting squad