

7/9/20 CI Music Hour Recap

Dear all,

Last Thursday, our guest Austin Hammonds, a composer and Saxophonist discussed the acoustics of classical Saxophone, led listening exercises and played a few tunes for us. "Rock Me!" by B. Cockcroft is one of the pieces Austin played, which was fun to listen to. With quite unusual playing techniques, the Saxophone can almost sound like a percussive instrument. I am adding the links to Youtube videos of the full piece by two different players: [here](#) and [here](#).

We discussed that Saxophone is not a very common instrument in the classical orchestra. Invented in the mid 19th century as an outdoor military instrument, the Saxophone was incorporated into the classical music world in the early 20th century by composers, such as Ravel and Mussorgsky, in pursuit of creating a new sound. Still today, the Saxophone remains less common in the orchestra and a Saxophonist is often expected to be able to play Clarinet as well.

In a listening exercise, Austin played a note in two different techniques: a pure tone vs. a note with overtone, adding a hint of another note. The group could easily detect the differences in lower notes in scale, but higher notes were less accessible. Also, in an octave exercise, we learned that the alto Saxophone's entire upper half of the register is hard for CI users to appreciate.

Our next guest is Chrysa Kovach, orchestra organizer and music teacher. She will lead a workshop on music fundamentals with listening exercises. Please take a look at the [attached PDF](#) that Chrysa provided to prepare for the workshop. She emphasized particularly the first page and the last page (solfege hand signs). Chrysa has joined our music hour a few times. She is currently pursuing her MFA in Community Music in USC's Thornton School of Music. Her bio and picture are included in the bottom.

All the best,
Juri

Chrysa Kovac

**Bio of Chrysa**

Chrysa Kovach is the Orchestra Coordinator for the Colburn School's Community School of Performing Arts and is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Community Music at the University of Southern California. Prior to her position with the Colburn School, Kovach held development and grant writing positions with the Santa Monica Symphony in Santa Monica, CA, and with the W.O. Smith Music School in Nashville, TN.

Kovach enjoys conducting and currently serves as the Principal Guest Conductor of the Music City Brass Ensemble. She is also the founder and past music director of the W.O. Smith Community Orchestra, a volunteer ensemble dedicated to presenting educational concerts and collaborating with local composers.

Kovach performs as a flutist with the Santa Monica Symphony and the Vicente Chamber Orchestra, and is a former member of the Orchesterverein in Vienna, Austria. Kovach graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2013 and was a recipient of the Blair School of Music's Richard C. Cooper Award for campus-wide leadership in music.