

8/20/20 CI Music Hour Recap

Hello all,

Yesterday, we had another wonderful presentation from Chrysa Kovach, who is currently pursuing a Masters of Music in Community Music at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. Chrysa shared a brief background of her experience as a musician, music teacher, and ensemble organizer. Before coming to USC, she founded and directed the W.O. Smith Community Orchestra, based in Nashville Tennessee. She currently serves as the Orchestra Coordinator for the Colburn Community School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles, and performs as a flautist with the Santa Monica Symphony and the Vicente Chamber Orchestra.

During our meeting, Chrysa explained the role of the conductor, demonstrated basic conducting patterns, and introduced various conducting styles. We observed several musical examples, such as a clip from Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring," in order to identify some challenges that conductors face. Factors such as the sheer size of an ensemble or a particularly complex time signature make the role of a conductor even more essential for keeping an ensemble unified.

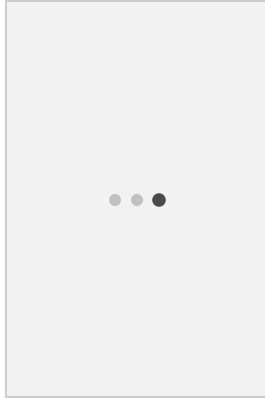
Chrysa also taught the group how to conduct in the basic 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 time signatures and expressed the importance of signifying a clear downbeat and upbeat. We enjoyed observing various conducting styles through musical excerpts, such as Strauss' "Radetsky March" lead by Austrian conductor, Carlos Kleiber. As a group we made observations of various conducting styles, ranging from the use of grand and emotional gestures to the use of more humorous and lighthearted gestures, as demonstrated by Kleiber.

We ended the music hour by singing and conducting along to "Happy Birthday," which we learned is in 3/4 (for those of you who want to continue practicing their conducting skills!) Below you can find Chrysa's Powerpoint presentation and conducting resources.

Next week, we are very excited to host Pepe Barcellos, a DMA student at Georgia State university, who will introduce us to Brazilian music! Pepe's primary instrument is the guitar, which is called *violão* in Portuguese. He will be playing a variety of Brazilian rhythms including *samba*, *bossa nova*, and *baião*. He will also showcase several Brazilian percussion instruments including the *surdo*, *tamborim*, *agogô*, and *caxixi*.

Please find Pepe's bio below:

Pepe Barcellos



Brazilian guitarist, composer, and percussionist from Rio de Janeiro, Pepe Barcellos has released two albums of original songs and has composed music for film, theatre, dance, and animation. A well-known music educator, he has taught at The British School in Rio for eight years and at Escola Americana do Rio de Janeiro for four years. Since 2003, Barcellos has been traveling the world leading Brazilian music workshops. France, Germany, Sweden, Italy, the United Kingdom, Bermuda, and the USA are some of the places where he has been teaching. In 2015, he was an artist resident at World Heartbeat Music Academy, where he performed with a group of young British musicians at the Speaker's House in the House of Commons, The All England's Tennis Club and at the Brazilian Embassy in London. In 2017, Pepe spearheaded a captivating flash mob at Southside shopping mall in London (available at: <https://youtu.be/LsTmMCdw6Xw>). In Atlanta since January 2019, Barcellos is a Ph.D. student in Teaching and Learning at Georgia State University and a part-time music teacher at Atlanta International School.

Wishing you all a great weekend and week ahead!

Julianne Papadopoulos & Chrysa Kovach