



Musick Notes

September 2009
Whirlwind!

Issue at a glance:

- Erich's Wedding
- Orchestra
- Private Lessons
- Study Hall
- Kandern Band
- What's up ahead...

My beloved family and friends,

The last month has been a whirlwind – so much has happened, I cannot fit all of it into my newsletter. Be sure to read my blog at: <http://musickfamily.net/jill/blog/> to see all of the stories that this newsletter cannot cover.

Erich's Wedding

At the beginning of the month, I flew home to Chicago for my brother's wedding. I am happy to have a new sister!



The entire weekend was far too short, although by not sleeping much I managed to give myself a few extra hours of time with family and friends. It was exhausting, but worth every minute.

Orchestra

The orchestra has had a slow start. The scheduling issue could not be resolved, so there are still only 2 students in orchestra

class. Next semester there should be more, but for now the orchestra is a duet.

My fear is that the students who are signed up for orchestra for next semester will decide not to take the class because they do not want to be in a small orchestra. In the past, the string kids met every Tuesday morning before school and spent time in small ensembles and in a large group. The hope was that the large group could be moved into the school day as orchestra class. They liked the big group from last year, but if they think it will not work as a class, they will drop out.

To prevent this from happening, I will try to have the non-orchestra students play with the orchestra students in a couple concerts. This will give them a glimpse of what orchestra class could be if everyone joins. Next semester we may have the orchestra meet every other day so the students do not feel like it is such a big time commitment (compared to last year). For now, though, I am giving the two girls in orchestra the best experience possible. I love working with them, and I hope that they will not give up on orchestra!

Private Lessons

I have 13 private lesson students: 9 violin, 1 viola, and 2 cello. Most are in high school,

but I do have one elementary school beginner and two middle school students. As I build relationships with the students, I enjoy the variety of personalities and hope that one day soon they can all be in orchestra together!

Study Hall

A couple days before school started, I found out that I would be on duty for first period study hall. It is a relaxing way for me to prepare for the day. As a first-period teacher, I have the responsibility of leading the 10-minute “homeroom” time, in which I give a short devotional. We are currently going through the book of Ephesians and praying for each other’s prayer requests. We have had some discussions, and some students are excited about God, while others are tired of hearing the same story that they have heard their whole lives.

I am reminded daily that my job here is not just to teach music; it is to care for “the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made [me] an overseer” (Luke 20:28). I feel blessed and humbled to have the opportunity to contribute to these students’ spiritual development.

RA Subbing

In addition to study hall, I also interact with students at Haus Bad Riedlingin (HBR for short) every other Monday night when I substitute for the RAs. I help with lunch preparations, students’ homework problems, and laundry. It is a good way to get to know the students on a more personal level.

Kandern Band

To get into the German community more (as if attending German church wasn’t enough!) I joined Stadtmusik Kandern, the

community band. Rehearsals are every Thursday night, and we had our first performance at Budenfest, Kandern’s yearly festival. Though I would prefer to play bassoon in band, there is currently no bassoon available, so I am playing tuba instead.

What’s Up Ahead

On October 25, I will be taking the orchestra girls on a field trip to a concert of the Basel Kammerorchester (Basel chamber orchestra). My birthday (October 29) is the same day as Herbstmesse (fall festival), in which the entire BFA community goes to Basel and rides bumper cars among other things. Julie and Laura (two student teachers from Cedarville), Katie (music teacher), and Rachel (my roommate) and I will be flying to London for that weekend to do a bit of sightseeing.

I ask that you pray for the following:

- **Pray** that the orchestra would thrive and that students would not give up on it before it has a chance to start.
- **Pray** that God would give me guidance as I build relationships with the students in study hall and the dorms.
- **Pray** that BFA would bless the German community
- **Praise** God for making my transition smooth through the solid friends I have made here in Germany.

God bless you all!

~Jill Musick

