



# Musick Notes

January 2010  
New Beginnings

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My beloved family and friends,

Happy New Year! My second semester at BFA is now in full swing. For stories from Christmas break and the beginning of the semester, be sure to read my blog at: <http://musickfamily.net/jill/blog/>. Here are the highlights of what's new this semester:

## Orchestra

There are now 7 students in orchestra! Going from two kids to seven is a huge increase. Praise God for tripling the orchestra in size!

We are doing fun things this semester, including orchestra hoodies, a field trip to Berlin, and several performances in the area. The kids are eager to learn, and I'm excited to see how much they will progress this semester.



*S.S. and I wore our hoodies on the same day*

The sense of belonging in a group like orchestra can be very strong. I hope to see the orchestra kids' relationships develop and strengthen.

## Private Lessons

Music Festival is coming up. During one week of the school year, all the private lesson students at BFA perform two solo pieces for a judge from outside the school. The judge gives the students some suggestions to improve their playing, and a few students are selected to play at the honors concert at the end of the week. This festival is a good motivation for the students. I am seeing more consistent practice times with my students!

## Study Hall

This semester I have 7<sup>th</sup> period study hall with about 20 students. Since it is no longer 1<sup>st</sup> period, I will not have a time slot for devotions, and with the larger group it will be harder to build relationships with the students. Last Friday, however, I did play a game of Apples to Apples with the kids. It will be interesting to see how this semester's study hall turns out!

## Kandern Band

I am no longer playing tuba in band. They found a bassoon for me! I am borrowing it from a person in Schliengen (a nearby town), so I hope to be able to play in a concert with Schliengen's community band as well.



## MK Struggles

The life of an MK is fascinating; most know several languages and have lived in different parts of the world. Yet the pressures of being dragged around to wherever their parents are called can create some tough situations for these precious kids.

One of my youngest students, M.F., is in 3rd grade. I'm his 3rd violin teacher in 3 years! The life of an MK is one of constant transition. M.F. has been hesitant to open up to me. How long will it be before he has to have yet another violin teacher? Why should he make himself vulnerable by sharing his childhood hopes and dreams if I will disappear after a year?

One of my high school violin students, J.K., struggles in some of his classes because English is not his first language. In Korean History class, however, he discovered that he could not keep up with the advanced Korean because his is at an elementary level. He speaks two languages, but is academically fluent in neither.

My cellist, S.S., was going to buy a new cello, but could not because her parents are going to send her sister to BFA next year instead. Money is tight as an MK. My heart breaks for the financial limits of my students!

All of the students at BFA have experienced struggles in their backgrounds. BFA is a place where all of them can identify with each other. It often feels more like home than any other place simply because there are others who are going through the same situations.

## What's Up Ahead

Feb. 7 – Music Recital  
Feb. 26-27 – Candle Light Dinner  
March 3-8 – ACSI Honor Strings in Budapest  
March 13 - Schliengen Band concert  
March 15-19 – Music Festival

## I ask that you pray for the following:

- **Praise** God for the students' interest in orchestra and for the 7 in it now!!!
- **Praise** God for the encouragement of friends here in Germany.
- **Pray** that God would give me wisdom in planning all the activities of the semester, especially the Berlin field trip.
- **Pray** that the stress level would not get too high as I am balancing so many concerts and events.
- **Pray** that God would stay first in my life, especially when the to do list seems overwhelming.

God bless you all!

~Jill Musick



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