



# Musick Notes

May 2010  
Homestretch

---

## Issue at a glance:

- Berlin Trip
  - More Performances
  - Beginning Band/Orchestra
  - What's up ahead
- 

My beloved family and friends,

The last month has been full of events, but the year is finally winding down to a close. Thank you so much for your prayers and encouragement throughout this first year! For more stories from the month, visit my blog: <http://musickfamily.net/jill/blog/>.

## Berlin

April 30-May 2 was the orchestra field trip to Berlin, the capital of Germany. Four students (two girls and two boys) and two chaperones (a math teacher named Dr. McCormack and myself) attended.



*Our first sight: the Brandenburg Gate!*

The trip was a wonderful experience. I was very nervous going into it, hoping I had remembered all the details, but it went as well as it could possibly go (despite the

delayed return flight and a sleep-walking student)!

The trip gave the students an opportunity to learn some music history, hear a professional orchestra concert, bond as a group, and bless others by performing concerts.

We played at a Christian school and a church in Berlin. The church appreciated the music so much they gave us 50 Euros! My students started discussing what to do with the money, and of course the first thought was "Ice cream!" I was really proud of them, however, when they decided they wanted to put the money to a more meaningful cause. Part of it will probably still go to some ice cream, but you'll have to read my next newsletter to find out where the rest of it will go!

The field trip gave me some really great opportunities to talk with the students about meaningful issues, such as decisions about the future. I had a couple late-night conversations that made us tired the next day, but they were definitely worthwhile! The students really bonded, and I was able to get closer to each one. They are already talking about next year!

## More Performances

After barely having arrived back in Kandern, we had several more performances! There was a goodbye party for our director, Tim Shuman, the Wednesday after we had gotten back. That Saturday, we played at an outreach breakfast at the German church. The next week, I played violin at the Staff Appreciation Dinner (along with Katie Roberts on flute and Suzanne Morton on piano). The next day, the orchestra went to the nursing home and performed chamber music.



*K.K. and J.K. play a duet for the attentive audience.*

That Saturday, the female students and I played some background music for the music department head Suzanne Morton's bridal shower.

That was our last performance until the Spring Concert. Whew! The students can breathe a sigh of relief as they actually have time to do their piles of homework now!

## Beginning Band/Orchestra

Next year, Katie Roberts and I are starting a beginning band and orchestra program for students who have never played an instrument before. We have sent out information to the parents and have been

making phone calls. It's tough to tell at this point how many will be able to commit since several parents of would-be players are moving away, but I have at least 5 students who will definitely be involved. There should be more who join in the fall. Hopefully this will eventually contribute to a bigger and more stable high school orchestra program!

## What's Up Ahead

June 6 – Spring Concert

June 7-9 – Finals

June 11 – Graduation

June 28 – I fly into Chicago O'Hare at 2:15pm (Zurich to London to Chicago)

August 1 – I return to Germany!

## I ask that you pray for the following:

- **Praise** God for the way the students bonded on the Berlin trip.
- **Praise** God for blessing me with a wonderful first year of teaching, full of growth and excitement.
- **Pray** for the students as they say farewells, both to the seniors and to students whose parents' work is taking them away from BFA next year.
- **Pray** for the beginning orchestra and band that Katie and I are starting at BFA next year.

God bless you all!

~Jill Musick

