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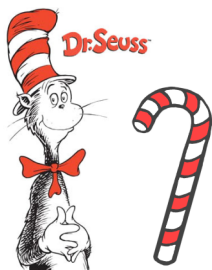
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WORLDVENTURE



A semester in review

I look back on this semester with a heart full of thankfulness. It has been an incredibly full and rich time. Personal life, ministry and school work all combined into a busy but fulfilling semester, full of adjustment yet excitement.

Home: I live in the same green house with a new roommate, Emily Kelly. She likes running too! This semester the black Lab Shadow lived here, so we exercised her a lot.

High School Orchestra: It was a great semester with top-quality musicians and dedicated students. We performed Vivaldi's 'Winter' at the Christmas Concert!

Intermediate Orchestra: Last year's beginners moved up to join this group, creating a mixed level ensemble. They are all enthusiastic and continuing to progress.

Private Lessons: I shared my private lesson students with Marit Swanson, the new string teacher. She also is teaching the beginning orchestra – it's a blessing to have her here!

Guitar Class: My first semester teaching guitar was a blast. The kids learned guitar quickly, and we had great discussions about leading worship and other topics.

Beginning Band: Also a first for me - It's a small group this year: one student learning flute and one on trumpet.

Community Band: Tuba was boring me, so I switched to oboe and then flute this semester in Stadtmusik Kandern.

German Small Group: Our new leader Thiemo keeps our discussions focused but lively. My language skills have improved so I can participate more now.

BFA Small Group: I co-lead a small group of junior girls with my roommate Emily. These girls are precious and fun!

Senior Class Rome trip: This was an exciting time of bonding and good discussion with seniors. Their growth is evident!

Seussical the Musical: (see next page for more on this one)

Christmas Concert: A big success – all the groups performed well, complete with a finale of combined choir and orchestra!

Currently Reading:

- *A Soprano on Her Head* by Eloise Ristad
- *The Courage to Teach* by Parker J. Palmer
- *Treffpunkt Apfelkiste – dismal unterm Weihnachtsbaum* by Elke Thiesies
- The Bible



Currently Playing:

Violin Works:

- *The Lark Ascending* by R. Vaughan Williams
- *G Major Sonata* by L. van Beethoven
- *A minor Partita* by J.S. Bach

Seussical the Musical

The big project of this semester was *Seussical the Musical*; I directed the pit orchestra. After a rough first rehearsal in September, I wondered how we would ever pull off a performance.

Somewhere in the 2 months between the first rocky rehearsal and the performance, the mystery of transformation occurred. The indecipherable notes became melodies, and the confusing rhythms gelled.

The highlight was in the first performance when one of the singers waited an extra measure to start singing, and the entire orchestra spontaneously added a measure to stay with him. The audience had no clue!

Growth and transformation happen slowly, but there come moments when we can look back and see how far we have come. This Christmas, I can look back at the 2 students in my first orchestra and praise God for the 20 in the pit orchestra and the incredible Christmas concert playing Vivaldi's *Winter* with the High School orchestra!



Another year to come?!

I originally planned on staying only 2 years here, and this is my third year at BFA. Yet I am prayerfully considering extending my time here to include the 2012-2013 school year as well.

Two other members of the music department will be gone next year in order to remain within compliance of the German social security laws. With these people leaving, I feel that my role here is vitally important in creating continuity for our music students. I also continue to have joy in my work and see BFA as a good fit, so I intend as the Lord wills to stay on next year as a music teacher at BFA, in whatever roles needed!

Thank you for your encouragement these past 2 and a half years. You have blessed me and many MKs through your support! Would you be willing to partner with me next year?

Prayer Corner

Please pray for....

- Support for next year
- Safe trip home & back
- Next semester!

Praises:

- Successful *Seussical* performances
- a God-glorifying Christmas concert
- Deepened relationships with students



What's Up Ahead

- Dec. 15 – I fly home for Christmas!
- Jan. 10 – Classes resume