



HELLO CELLO

YEAR OF THE DRAGON

Gong Hay Fat Choi! Chinese New Year was celebrated on January 23, 2012. The Chinese zodiac calendar names each year after an animal, and this is the year of the Dragon!

To celebrate Chinese New Year, I had the pleasure of performing the first movement from Bright Sheng's *Seven Tunes Heard in China* at the January Cello Café. This was written for the world famous cello virtuoso, Yo Yo Ma.

Coming from a mixed ethnic background, I am fascinated by music that bridges the gap between East and West.

In the stunning film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, contemporary classical composer Tan Dun created a gorgeous soundtrack which explores that same idea. In this soundtrack the cello plays an important voice, expressing the underlying emotions in some of the most poignant

scenes. Yo Yo Ma is the featured cellist in this soundtrack. Tan Dun's interest in mixing of East and West creates a fascinating hybrid of musical styles. Aside from the magnificent soundtrack, Tan Dun also created a cello concerto, based on the thematic material in the film. Check out it out:

Tan Dun: *Crouching Tiger Concerto for Cello and Orchestra* ([here](#) performed by Andre Gaskins)

Next Cello Café
Sun Feb 26:12pm
Fromagerie Elgin

Reminders

Please note that there are NO lessons or rehearsals on Family Day (Mon Feb 20).

Your payments for Term 2 (January — March Break) should now be in!

Gentle reminder to everyone to bring your cello journal to every lesson.

Safety:
Please be careful in the driveway and entrance way. It can be slippery out there!

Instrument Care:
Remember to humidify your cello and keep it away from extremes of temperature. *Never* leave your cello in the car.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

The start of a new year can be so inspiring. It's a brand new year, and a fresh page!

Here are a few new ways to think about you and your cello.

My cello is my voice. You are a singer! Except your instrument is your voice. Imagine how you would sing your music, and see if you can recreate that with your cello. Your music will sound more natural, and will reach out to your listeners more effectively.

Be a cello master. In order to achieve mastery of your instrument, you must

approach it like a master. A master knows that discipline and focus are the best tools to hone their craft. A master does not skim the surface, a master goes deep.

Create good habits. The best way to break bad habits is to make good ones! Start with a steady practice schedule. This time is for you and your cello and *nothing else*. It will be tempting to steal this time for other things in your life, (usually something banal like homework or laundry!) but be strong! Do not compromise! This is *cello* time.

Be your own teacher.

Your lesson time with me occurs only once a week, in some cases once every two weeks! The rest of the time, you must be your *own* teacher. What kind of a teacher do you want? A negligent teacher, who lets you go days without practice, or avoids your technical exercises? A cruel teacher who, no matter how much progress you have made, will insult you and degrade you? Or do you want your teacher to be inspiring, helpful, patient and kind? YOU can be your own best teacher!

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Feb 4, 8m — 5-Penny New Music Concerts.**
www.5pennynewmusic.ca
- **Feb 18, 7:30pm — North Bay Symphony Orchestra**, North Bay. www.northbaysymphony.org
- **Feb 19 — SBSQ in North Bay!**
This delightful chamber music concert is a fundraiser for the NBSO's string retreat for amateur string musicians.
- **Feb 20 — Family Day:** No lessons
- **Feb 26, 12pm — Cello Café** at Fromagerie Elgin. FREE admission! Invite your friends and family!

Mark Your Calendars:

March Break:

March 9-16 NO lessons/rehearsals

Kiwanis:

March 23—April 4, 2012

RCM Exams:

Registration deadline: **March 6, 2012**

Theory Exams: May 11-12, 2012

Practical Exams June 11-30, 2012

Jorane plays La Slague:

May 12, 2012

www.laslague.ca

FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 5-Penny New Music Concerts
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 NBSO
19 SBSQ in North Bay!	20 Family Day: NO LESSONS	21	22	23	24	25
26 Cello Café at Fromagerie Elgin	27	28	29			

JANUARY CELLO CAFÉ

January Cello Café featured some very special guests. First Nick Ross, violin, played a duet with me by Handel. Then Myriam Valley and I performed a flute and cello duet by Canadian composer Alice Ho. (We'll be playing it again at the 5-Penny New Music Concert on Feb 4th!) The real treat was the very first public performance of a new duo — Max Kasper and Danielle Braney! These two lovely ladies performed the *Sarabanda e Aria* by Evaristo Felice dall'Abaco. Next Cello Café: Sun Feb 26, 12pm

"MUSIC IS POETRY OF THE AIR."

- Jean Paul Friedrich Richter

A. Lee HELLO CELLO!

