



Orange  
County

Los Angeles  
County

Conejo  
Valley

Outer  
Cities

**November 15, 2014**

**Hello JCM Students, Coaches and Teachers,**

**Welcome to our 2nd Newsletter of the Season!**

**Students:** Are you getting ready? By now, each group should have ordered their music and started learning it. Students need to confirm the repertoire assignment with their private teachers and ask for help on bowings, fingerings, etc. Your first rehearsal should be scheduled. If you have any concerns, remember your JCM Directors are here to help!

**Calling Organized Student Leaders:** We need students to lead the JCMSSA program in each branch! If you are very involved in community service and possess phenomenal leadership skills, apply ASAP to hold a board position in your branch! See the **JCMSSA** section below for more details.

**The JCM Challenge:** Dr. Susan Boettger nominates 2 JCM groups to do the JCM Challenge... please see the video below, posted on Facebook. Students/Parents: Please **LIKE** Junior Chamber Music so that you can follow the JCM Challenge!

**From the Top with Christopher O'Riley** will feature JCM's own Clemens Quartet on Sunday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m. on KUSC *fm* 91.5. Find out more about the quartet in Gina Coletti's article (below) in our **LA Director's Corner**.

**Coaches in Concert:** Upcoming performances include those by Andrew Cook, Robert Thies, Jacob Braun, Haroutune Bedelian and Lorna Griffitt.

**Happy Practicing!**

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### **JCM - STUDENT SERVICE ALLIANCE**

Last year, the Orange County Branch began JCMSSA, an outreach organization within JCM that organizes community service performances in local retirement homes for students to earn service hours (similar to MTAC's MSSL). These performances occurred every month throughout the season, and were great ways for JCM's young musicians to give back to their communities as well as practice performing with their groups!

This year, JCMSSA (Junior Chamber Music Student Services Alliance) will be implemented in all three JCM branches! There will be a student board in each branch consisting of a Branch Coordinator, Secretary, and Activities Manager (more details of the job descriptions are in the application.) **To apply, [click here](#). Board applications are due no later than November 21!** Please email any questions to [jcmssa.online@gmail.com](mailto:jcmssa.online@gmail.com).

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## LA DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Gina Coletti



### **JCM's own Clemens Quartet to be broadcast nationally the week of December 1 on *From the Top!***

I had the pleasure of catching the Clemens Quartet before a rehearsal last week to talk to them about their experience as a featured guest on *From the Top*, a national radio show hosted by Christopher O'Riley. This wildly popular radio show "celebrates the amazing performances and captivating stories of extraordinary young classical musicians" as described on the show's website.

The Clemens Quartet is comprised of KJ McDonald and Jason Corbin, violins, Patrick Marsh, viola and Alex Mansour, cello. The quartet was formed originally "randomly" through JCM but their chemistry and ensemble seemed to work. "The group have many things in common: all four are energetic, love new music, are composers themselves, and most importantly are passionate about chamber music and it's wonderful social aspects" explained Lorenz Gamma, their coach. After their original cellist graduated, Alex came on board. They have bonded through their experiences competing in the Fischhoff Competition, from their years with JCM and "eating pizza for 45 minutes straight" before rehearsals, according to their coach.

When talking with the quartet, one immediately notices that they speak with a unanimity of purpose and passion that one can only imagine is mirrored in their playing. The *From the Top* taping took place at the University of Connecticut in front of a large live audience of over 1000 people, but the sizable audience did not seem to phase the seasoned quartet. They said it really felt like another concert to share the music and try to connect with the audience. They played Bartok Quartet and really wanted this music to come alive and to share the story of the music with the audience. Their coach Mr. Gamma added, "the group's playing reached a new level of precision after everybody on the show realized that on the radio

you can't rely on your good looks... "

Prior to the taping, the quartet performed outreach concerts at local schools, which was a highlight of their trip. They came away with a new perspective on the connective power of music that they wish to develop in their future performances and in outreach to underserved communities. They also enjoyed immensely the chance to meet the other performers on the show and to share ideas about how they can better convey their passion for music to their audiences.

The Clemens Quartet name is taken from the real name of Mark Twain--Sam Clemens. When in Connecticut they also had the chance to visit the Mark Twain House and Museum. "The Clemens Quartet were at the Clemens' house!" Kyoko McDonald, mother of KJ explained.

This segment of *From the Top* featuring the Clemens Quartet will air nationally the week of Dec 1 and is distributed by NPR. Check your local listing for airtimes.



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### COACHES IN CONCERT

Robert Thies and Jacob Braun perform with the Thies Consort tomorrow - Sunday, November 16th at 3:00 p.m. <http://www.palosverdes.com/sbcms>

Andrew Cook performs with the Vista Trio on Sunday, November 23rd at 4:30 p.m. <http://www.gccmf.org/#section-concerts>

Haroutune Bedelian and Lorna Griffitt perform together on Saturday, December 6th at 6:45 p.m.

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# JCM

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