

# *ASTA/NJ Chamber Music Institute at Kean University 2009*



## *Student & Parent Testimonials*

- ❖ **"I had a wonderful experience at ASTA/CMI 2009. It was the best and most beneficial summer camp I have ever attended, and the most I have ever learned! Thanks to you and everyone involved. "**
- ❖ **"This past August, my son attended CMI for the first time. I heard about this program from his private teacher a few years back, and always kept it in the back of my mind. First, let me say I sent several e-mails to many of the staff prior to Steven attending asking all kinds of questions, especially dealing with sleeping arrangements, supervision, etc., as he was never away from home for that long without parental supervision. Those e-mails were always answered in a timely and reassuring manner.**

Second, I know he had a great time as I only heard from him perhaps two times during the week, and they were very brief phone calls. And the **first thing he said to me when we came for the concert on Saturday was "I want to come back next year," with a big smile on his face.**

The facilities at Kean were quite nice and seemed to fit well with the size of the program. **The staff were unmatched by anything I've ever seen. The Saturday performance by the students/staff was phenomenal. I would say his overall experience was a positive one and gave him a different perspective on life. Being away from home, supervised (but on his own), playing music with musicians who wanted to be there and who were matched with his experience level, and having fun doing it.**

He plans on returning next year, so I'm looking forward to seeing what you have in store for the program. Thank you for having this program and allowing these kids to have this wonderful and unique experience, and for all that you do to make this happen."

- ❖ **"My son had an amazing time at the chamber music camp! Before the CMI he would only really practice his bass before an audition. Since the CMI experience, he has been playing bass non-stop!! He loved his instruction and thought the faculty was excellent. Thank you so much for running this excellent program!!**
- ❖ **"I was a violist for Session One of CMI 2009. I had never been to a sleep-away camp and this was a phenomenal first for me! Kean University was just great! I absolutely loved the food that was served during the week. For a college dorm room, ours was actually good and clean! I did like the one day where we could switch electives because we got a feeling for all the different aspects that other students had chosen to study. CMI has given me so many fantastic memories that I'll never forget!"**

- ❖ I wanted to take a moment to write you in regard to the ASTA/NJ Chamber Music Institute (CMI) at Kean University 2009 summer program. **My son had the honor of being invited to participate in the program this summer and had an outstanding time. Not only did he learn a great deal (the final concert made me cry for the achievements made in just one week's time), but he had the chance to bond with youth and adults who place value in classical music.**

My son, like many youths, is often torn between the many activities that life presents him...music, sports, and of course academics. It is challenging to make these choices, especially when our society as a whole tends to favor sports over arts. **I truly appreciate that Kean University holds the arts in such high regard, offering such rich and diverse visual and performing arts programs at the precollege level. Programs such as CMI allow our young people to deepen their own studies of and contribution to fine arts.** These offerings also demonstrate to these youths that **they are not alone - nor among a dying breed - in treasuring their pursuit of these arts thus encouraging their continued interest and dedication.**

Thank you for sharing your beautiful campus with teens like my son. **Kean University's beautiful facilities and outstanding Concert Artist faculty were a discovery for us.** We look forward to attending future events at Kean University and are hopeful that our son will be back next year for ASTA/NJ CMI 2010 at Kean University!

- ❖ **"Thank you so much for all your help and guidance at CMI this year. It was a great experience and needless to say , I had a lot of fun. I hope to come back and see you next year."**
- ❖ **"I thought the ending concert was excellent; they had obviously worked hard and it showed. All around a great experience. Thank you."**
- ❖ **"My son had an excellent week at the ASTA/CMI camp, and the concert was incredible: a good variety of music and so well-done."**
- ❖ **"I would like to thank you and CMI team for a wonderful program my son participated on. It was a wonderful experience for us as parents seeing a lot of talented kids playing their instruments with such passion. My son now feels more confident in his playing after having participated in the CMI 2009 program."**
- ❖ I just wanted to share my experience with the ASTA CMI program for this past summer. I attended session II and **it was my first time doing the program, and I absolutely loved it. The staff was wonderful, friendly, easy to get along with, and fantastic musicians who related so well with everyone in the program.** The facilities were great also; nice dorms, great food, and awesome rehearsal rooms in the CAS building as well as the incredible opportunity to perform in the gorgeous Kean Hall. **I will definitely be attending again next summer -- hopefully for both sessions this time -- and look forward to another great summer. It couldn't have been better!**