



VIOLA

Internet Uses

by Annette Caruthers

A few years back I wrote a short piece on resources available on the Internet. Since then, the Internet has become an entirely different influence and resource for musicians. Students are now able to submit applications and even audition online!! Parents and teachers do not need to drive to the local store to find sheet music or strings, and everyone can find fabulous performances of pieces they are studying on YouTube. It's a different world out there, and I love it!

The immediacy and low cost of using the Internet are real advantages over the old familiar ways. Here are a few things I've found useful for my studio.

YouTube. Now owned by Google, this is the original "Broadcast Yourself" website that anyone can use free. I have a student just beginning the Telemann *Concerto in G*, and I wanted to see what is available on YouTube that might be good for him to use as an example. By entering Youtube.com in my web browser, and then entering "Telemann Concerto in G + Viola" in the search box on the YouTube site, I turned up 47 videos of performances of the various movements of the concerto! One very professional duo was performing it as viola solo with guitar accompaniment, which really makes the viola line easy to hear. Another set of several videos is of a middle school orchestra performing it, which would give a student a great idea of what can be accomplished at their own age. A few videos are of poor quality, but most are good, and many are very professionally produced, with professional performances.

By lazily searching various terms I have found several artists I didn't know of, great performers, all available free and fabulous! Anna Serova is shown playing Vieuxtemps' *Capriccio per Viola*, Pierre Lenert is shown playing the Paganini *Perpetual Motion*, Maxim Vengerov and Yuri Bashmet performing the Mozart *Symphonie Concertante*, etc. Do check it out.

Another item I have searched for is

studio policies. This one I researched on Google, and in a matter of minutes came up with very comprehensive policies posted online by studio teachers of many different instruments. We can pick and choose which policies might work best for us, but we don't have to invent everything from scratch ourselves, and I find it helpful to be able to tell a parent, "This is common business practice," when explaining something they hadn't been aware of previously. I have also posted my own policies online for parents and prospective families, which helps my studio look more professional and allows people to really think about the commitment they are making when they sign on for lessons. I am using Wordpress.com for my postings. This is a free blog site that I find easy to use. My information is at Annettemusician.wordpress.com and I have posted a resume, policies, links I find useful and interesting...with more to come. I hope to add soon a listing of books for young music students, as some parents have asked for this. I will look at books I have in my studio, and check BN.com and Amazon.com, where I know I can look inside the books they have in stock, as well as some of the larger music providers, to choose my recommendations.

Summer camps are also posting *all* their information online now, and it is very easy to compare offerings and decide which meet your students' needs. Some, including the local Stringwood, even allow a student to submit their application and audition materials online!! (Check out Stringwood.com.) And there is the well-known YouTube Symphony we all probably received emails about recently. It is an actual orchestra that will play in Carnegie Hall. They posted everything on YouTube, and had interested musicians download for practice the music needed for the audition, then submit their videos via YouTube instead of flying to New York City for an audition. As I am writing this, viewers can watch the audition videos and vote for the best players!! I am expect-

ing more auditions via online submission will become the norm, due to the high cost of live auditions.

Teaching tips are available, as are practicing tips, and even actual master classes. Many major artists, if not all, have their own websites, many with video performances posted. Just search on Google for the terms you want, and see what comes up. If you're not happy with the results on Google, try Metacrawler; it often gives slightly different results. I could fill this magazine with information, but part of the fun of using the Internet is finding things for yourself.

Last but certainly not least, is buying music and strings online. Many of us and our students lead busy lives, and if we can save a drive to get something, it can be well worth the small shipping charge we pay. It is easy to search known sites for just what you need, or search Google and see what comes up; and many sites also will show other similar items you can browse through online, complete with photos of a few pages from inside the covers. A few sites even allow you to create a list of pieces you might want to consider buying in the future, that they save for you to return to later.

This is not at all a complete view of what can be done online, but I hope it will spur readers to do some new checking and creative browsing.

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