

Rocco's

Fan Club

INSIGHT NEWSLETTER

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Words from the President of Rocco's Fan Club

Hello to all of ROCCO's Fans!

This summer has been hot, hot, hot and so is Rocco! He has been on the move all summer long while attending Berklee College of Music in Boston and will head to high school in the fall. He is having the time of his life staying in the Boston area. He has been able to spend time with one of friends who lives in Boston, and visit New Hampshire. Most of his day is consumed by his class schedule at Berklee, unusually starting at 9am and finishing at 8pm. But he is loving every minute of his time. He arrived home the second week in August.

Make sure to check out his website www.musicbyrocco.com to see photos of his Berklee experience.

Warmest Regards,
Betty LaBree
Fan Club President

Graduated from Middle School with High Honors

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Well, it's official! I graduated on June 20th, from the Voorhees Middle School in Voorhees. There were 410 students in my class. I was one of 21 students who was able to keep a "Straight A" average for the past three years attending the middle school. As most of you know, doing my school work is a top priority to me. If I don't do well in school than I am not able to perform at gigs. So I always make sure my homework is complete. I miss my middle school, everyone was so nice and I had a great experience being there for the past three years.

Now I am moving to high school

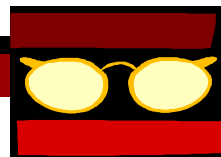
where I will attend Eastern Regional in Voorhees. I will have orientation for high school on September 1 and I have already auditioned for the Jazz Ensemble. I will be the featured pianist for the next four years - awesome!

I am looking forward to a relaxing summer and spending a few weeks at the beach when I return from Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Turn the page to read more on that story.



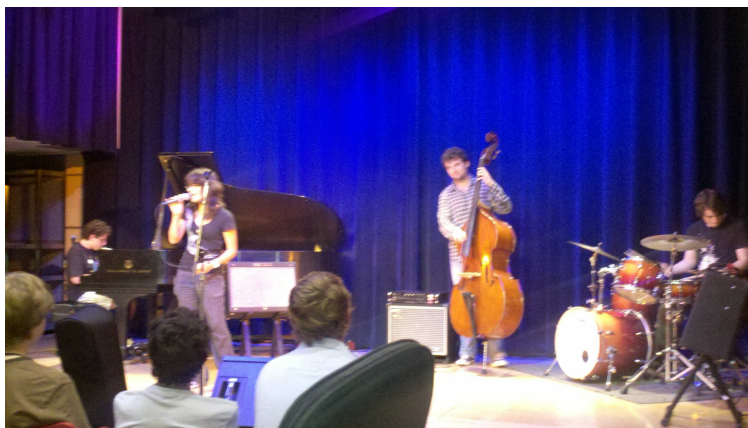
Graduation Photo: 2011



Berklee College of Music is a place where music is everywhere. Hi everyone, I am having the time of my life at Berklee College of Music attending a four week summer program in Boston. It is so awesome! I arrived in Boston on Friday, July 8th to get ready for the program at Berklee. I first met with an orientation and mobility specialist to help me get acclimated to the location of buildings and where my classes would be. Berklee owns 30 different buildings dedicated to music—how cool is that!

On Saturday, we had orientation to the program and were introduced to some of the faculty who played for all 1,100 students attending the program. I loved the acoustics in the Berklee Performing Arts Center, BPC, as they call it. The musicians all sounded so great.

On Sunday, each student had to audition to determine their placement in the program. Your audition is based on ability to sight read, which I can not do, so I was exempted from that process, composing (play with others), improvising and ear training. Out of 4



ship winner of a songwriting contest held by Berklee. As part of her scholarship she got to record her song. She had heard me play piano and asked if I would record with her in the studio. We rehearsed for two days and I played piano and drums for her song called, "I want to be in two places." You should check her out, she is really good, her name is Kate Diaz.

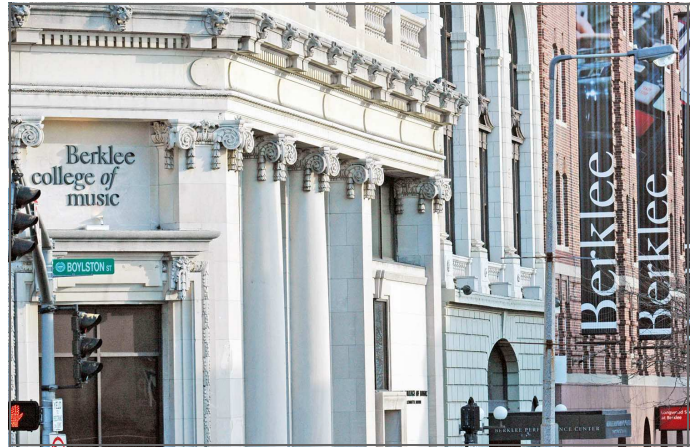




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I was asked to play piano for the Berklee College of Music, Presidential Council meeting in the RED ROOM located at Café 939. Café 939 is a café on campus run by the Berklee students and they book students and bands from the Boston area. The room is like a small cabaret with red walls and seats lined up like a theatre with lighting and a sound engineer. The members of this council are responsible for the funding sources that fund the summer program. I had an opportunity to talk about my experiences at Berklee and share how much I love the program.

Last year, Berklee embarked upon a new venture that offered blind and visually impaired students the opportunity to work with a blind professor and learn assistive technology for the music industry. There are currently six students attending Berklee College who are benefitting from the program. These courses have been so successful that the administration decided to offer the program in the summer. I am one of four students who are able to enjoy the benefits of the technology available and work with a blind professor who truly understands the challenges we face each day.



Opposite Page: Playing piano in a jam session, playing piano for the Presidential Council meeting in the Red Room. Listening to faculty speak about the summer programs in my new Berklee College T-Shirt.

Workstation with a MAC and PC computer attached to keyboard for assistive technology class, playing bongos in Drum Circle elective class.



Upcoming Performances

July	August	September
8 Berklee College of Music Boston, MA	5 Berklee College of Music Boston, MA	14 Berklee College of Music Concert with Lisa Hilton Boston, MA
19 Café 939 at the Red Room Boston, MA	8 Birdland Jazz Club New York City, NY	18 Bike the Basin for Retinal Research Newtown, PA
	30 Bucks County Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired Newtown, PA	24 Pennsylvania Derby at Philadelphia Park Bensalem, PA

A Few Words from SHARLA... My Publicist!



Here we are sending you another newsletter about Rocco and it always amazes me how there is so much great information to share. He always impresses me, too, because, once again, Rocco was given yet another award! This time his mom nominated him. Sometimes I do and other friends, and other times he is just found by the presenting organization, like when he got the Hands On Award from National Braille Press a couple years ago. In July, the very popular Star Ledger newspaper in North Jersey wrote about Rocco receiving the New Jersey State Governor's Jefferson Award! Reading about him in this high-circulation newspaper is so impressive, even though you'd think I was used to it by now! Of course, they honored him for his impact on Braille education in New Jersey and the continual growth of Blindness Awareness Month, which is expanding to 16 states with 23 more states pending! Unbelievable, don't you think? As always, I remain proud to be associated with OUR Rocco!

*Sharla Feldscher
Friend / Pro Bono Publicist*



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2011 Governor's Jefferson Award recipient: Rocco Fiorentino



For several months prior to the event, The Star-Ledger and The New Jersey State Governor's Office on Volunteerism accepted nominations which were reviewed by a panel of judges. Winners from across the Garden State were chosen for their exceptional community service and acts of charity.

In addition to Rocco Fiorentino's lobbying efforts to help blind and visually impaired children across the state of New Jersey receive additional Braille education services, Rocco has been on a personally crusade to increase awareness about the challenges facing blind and visually impaired people. He started a campaign in 2009 the state of New Jersey to recognize October as Blindness Awareness Month. To date there are 16 states who have officially proclaimed the awareness campaign with 23 states pending. Congratulations Rocco!