

Notes from the Other CoEditor: A Revealing eLetter

Chris Trinidad

Subject: Summer
From: Chris Trinidad <ct@iridiumrecords.com>
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To: BCMEA Colleague

Dear colleague,

Hey! How's it going?

Well, it's been a month since the last journal came out and Karen and I have been working at a feverish pace to get this journal completed, to the press, delivered, and on your paws before the end of our school year.

Well, perhaps some are looking to get away from thinking about music teaching or music making over the break. Some of us will **reconnect** with our musician-selves and try to contact those leaders to let them know we'd be available to sub for gigs. Maybe we'll take out the dusty old acoustic and start on that singer/songwriter album we've been planning for a while. And, yet, there are some of us who won't give up. We will **read** through books and articles, attend workshops, or seek private lessons to find that new teaching strategy or new metaphor that can help explain a particular music concept. Whichever way we decide to spend our summer, let's make sure to **recharge** mentally, physically, and for some, spiritually, so that we can come back with new zeal and the same zest that we music teachers are known for.

Well, I need to **remember** to "chill out" this summer. Yet, it seems like it's already planned out. Two days from now, I'll be heading to Washington, DC to attend the Sacred Music Colloquium at the Catholic University of America. For two weeks, I look forward to being immersed in Gregorian Chant and **Renaissance** Polyphony. The second week, I will be studying chironomy with Professor Scott Turkington and hanging out in DC with sidetrips to the Smithsonian, the White House, and other notable places. When I get back, I will have missed the Vancouver International Jazz Festival. But that's okay. There will be another one next year. After a few days of **recovery**, I'll be guiding jazz combos and teaching private bass guitar lessons at the South Delta Jazz Workshop. The following week, I'll be working up two nagging projects: mixing and mastering a triple album of modern jazz that has been sitting on my hard drive for the last three years [including one album that features my high school band teacher on drum set!] and getting started on my master's thesis. Another summer highlight will be a **road trip** to Oregon with a few fellow choral conductors to check out the ACDA Summer Institute with Leslie Guelker-Cone and **Rollo Dilworth** in August immediately after the **Rajaton** concert at the Chan Centre. Between all of this will be freelancing and session gigs. Did I mention that I needed to "chill out?"

Which leads me to ask the question, "why?" Why subject myself to more music study? Why engage in more music making after a whole school year of music teaching? Why can't I just "chill out?"

Well, music is fun. I love everything about music. I love the intellectual and conceptual side of music. I am a fan of music and musicians making music. Listening to Pat Metheny, **Radiohead**, the Bach Cello Suites, or the West Coast Mennonite Chamber Choir on disc takes me to different times and places. Checking out Zapato Negro at the Jazz Cellar in Vancouver and getting to gig and **record** with Cuban drummer Gilberto Moreaux is a trip [and a huge learning experience!]. Whether they are **rehearsing** a choir or conducting a concert, I love watching my colleagues in action [and **reaction!**] because I learn so much in the process. And, correct me if I'm wrong, but aren't having fun and loving music the top two **reasons** that we got into teaching music in the first place?

Well, if I'm not singing a tune, practicing my **ratamacues**, or figuring out a hipper two-five lick on my bass guitar, then the day just wouldn't be complete. So, this summer, in **reality**, is about **reacquainting** with music. By doing this, my own form of **renewal** will take place.

Well, before you write me off as a music obsessed nutcase [you probably already did that after **reading** the last journal!], this summer, I'll promise to head out to the beach to watch the fireworks with friends, to drive to **Richmond** to visit my family more often, to go for **runs** around the block, and to **ruminare** the deeper meaning of existence [hey, I can't help it!] with a glass of fine **red** wine in my **right** hand and a view of the Fraser **River**.

Well, now you know about my summer. Onto this edition of the journal.

What you'll find in this issue is an eclectic assortment of articles that will invite you to **recollect**, **reflect**, and **reconnect** along with the **resting**, **relaxing**, and **reenergizing** over these summer months.

Until next issue, be ... **well!**
Chris



*Chris Trinidad loves alliteration and **reverses** the eighteenth letter of the Latin alphabet.*

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