

Classic
Patrick Lui will teach
Catawba this fall
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TIME Out!

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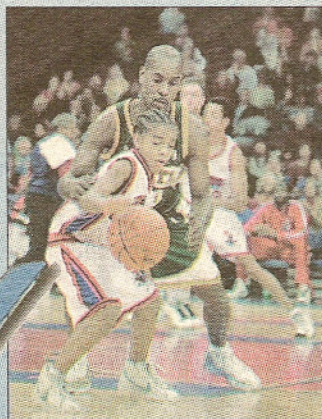
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A heart for children

Community Music Program now has classical guitarist

By **KATIE SCARVEY**
Salisbury Post

Many people in our community know about the excellent piano instructor their children can get through the Community Music Program at Catawba College. They might not be aware, however, that guitar lessons are available from a classical guitarist with a very impressive resume.

Patrick Lui of Winston-Salem teaches group and private guitar lessons with Catawba Community Music this fall.

Lui, who has been teaching guitar since 1985, is an accomplished classical guitarist. He won the Hong Kong Guitar Festival and was a semifinalist in the Tokyo International Guitar Festival, one of the most prestigious guitar competitions in the world.

Lui, 37, started playing guitar when he was 16. He earned an undergraduate degree from the South Carolina School of Music and a master's degree from Arizona State University. His solo and chamber music performances have taken him to America, Canada, Japan and Hong Kong.

In teaching, Lui focuses on younger children; he likes to catch them before they've developed any bad habits.

As he puts it, he likes to start "from scratch." "Within a short period of time, they show a lot of development," Lui says.

His students start as young as 6, much younger than guitar students of the past have traditionally begun to play the instrument.

Guitars now come in all sizes and can be found with nylon strings, which are better for young hands.

"Even a 6-year-old can find a correctly-sized instrument," Lui says.

"It's very important that parents show an interest, especially in the beginning," adds Lui, who recommends that parents accompany their young children to their lessons.

Students who have classical guitar as a foundation find that it's easier to move to acoustic guitar than the other way

around, Lui says. Learning good technique early is important because once habits are in place, technique is hard to change.

"I enjoy my students a lot," says Lui, who is enthusiastic and personable. "It's very fulfilling to see them excited about learning."

Several of Lui's current students have won major prizes in the past two years. Three of them went to Columbia recently for the South Carolina Guitar Festival. One of his 10-year-old students won the elementary school division, a division won last year by another of Lui's students. Another student also won first prize in the middle school competition.

For the past two years, his students have also won the elementary school division of the Columbus State University Guitar Symposium.

A former student, David Buck, was a semifinalist in the Guitar Festival America Competition, one of the world's most prestigious guitar competitions.

Besides teaching in the Community Music Program, Lui teaches private lessons to Catawba College students, and the school's music department now features a guitar major.

Professor Frank Koonce of Arizona State University has called Patrick Lui one of the most promising musicians of his generation who also possesses a rare gift in teaching. Professor Susan Nylor of Reinhardt University has said that his live performance "touches the heart and soul of music."

While Lui plays classical guitar, he is quick to explain that his repertoire is more modern than one might expect and includes many different styles.

"The guitar is not a traditional classical instrument, so composers are more willing to explore the possibilities," Lui says. "There has been so much new music composed in the past 30 years."

Catawba Community Music Director Julie Chamberlain is excited that Lui is part of her program.

"We feel fortunate to have such a qualified and experienced guitar instructor, especially one with a heart for children," she says.

Lui will perform a concert



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK LUI

IMPRESSIVE RESUME: Patrick Lui will teach private lessons this fall at Catawba College. He has performed in Canada, Japan and Hong Kong.

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14 in Tom Smith Auditorium at Catawba College. The program is free and the public is invited.



A semester of class guitar through Catawba Community Music (14 lessons) is \$190. A semester of private lessons is \$210 for 30-minute lessons; \$315 for 45-minute lessons and \$420 for 60-minute lessons.

Catawba Community Music

also offers classes in piano (individual and class), music and movement and children's chorus.

For more information about guitar instruction or other Catawba Community Music classes, call program director Julie Chamberlain at 704-637-4106 or 704-637-4345.



Contact Katie Scarvey at 704-797-4270 or kscarvey@salisbury-post.com.