

# The Virtuoso String Teacher

## A Two-Week String Pedagogy Retreat

July 29 – August 12, 2014

### DEVELOPING THE STRING PLAYER FROM INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED

#### The Violinist

*from Bach A Minor Concerto to Mendelssohn Concerto*

#### The Violist

*from J.C. Bach Concerto to Walton Concerto*

#### The Cellist

*from Marcello Sonata to Saint-Saens Concerto*

## CONTENT OF THE RETREAT

*6 Hours of Workshop Each Day*

### Resolving the Common Dilemmas

#### I – What to Teach

- The optimal order of etudes and pieces to form technical/musical coordination
- Little-known strategies to develop precise L/R coordination
- Developing *macrotechniques*; Developing *microtechniques*

#### II – How to Teach It

- Forming a musically coordinated vocabulary of body actions
- Designing musical solutions to technical problems
- Sensitizing the ear to listen for expectation & fulfillment
- Awakening the intuitive musical mind
- Training the eye to scan for musical patterns

& A new way to teach intonation

#### III – Practice Teaching It

- The whole is greater than the sum of its parts
- Integrating the body, the heart and the mind
- Overcoming the resistance to change

PLUS great food, private comfortable accommodations, and a beautiful environment and collegiality, as usual.

## Read these Endorsements

by the teachers and trainees who attended previous String Pedagogy Retreats:

*“What an incredible week! I learned many strategies and techniques to use with my students, and - much more importantly- a wonderful way of approaching their growth as musicians.”*

Daniela Pierson, Conductor,  
Musicopia String Orchestra  
& Private Studio Teacher, PA

*“To feel the cohesiveness of the group in the common aim of becoming more effective teachers will have a memorable impact on my teaching.”*

*“I cannot wait to present the Sevcik to my students.”*

Beatrice Stanley, Co-Chairman,  
Houston Young Artists Concerts  
Houston Music Teacher’s Association,  
“Teacher of the Year”, 2005

*“Burton Kaplan is a truly inspirational teacher in that he insists upon playing from the heart and from the imagination as the primary goal. His well thought out approach to technique is within the context of this goal. Mr. Kaplan’s unique way of getting the musician to locate her music-evoked emotion in her body achieves astounding results within a relatively short period of time.”*

Dan Rouslin, Professor of Violin,  
Willamette University, Oregon

*“Burton Kaplan is a gold mine of valuable information on teaching that you won’t find anywhere else. So many excellent ideas were imparted, from overall concepts to fine details that you can apply to any level of teaching to immediately raise the level of your students’ understanding and playing.”*

Sherry McCarthy,  
Genesee String Quartet  
& Private Studio Teacher,  
Rochester, NY

# THE DAILY SCHEDULE at the 2014 String Pedagogy Retreat

- A. **MORNING:** Burton Kaplan teaches the student helpers; video analysis by the group.
- B. **EARLY AFTERNOON:** Viewing and discussion of videos of participants teaching their own students; or review of participants teaching a student helper. This will include strategies to improve teacher-student communication and enhance student motivation and practice skills.
- C. **LATE AFTERNOON:** The “nuts and bolts” of teaching two pieces each day. (26 pieces during the entire session – the list will be offered in advance)
- D. **EVENING:** A technique workshop each day in which we cover:
1. Refining the basic skills to transform an intermediate level technique into an advanced technique. This will include specific exercises for refining of bowing and left hand techniques and their mutual cooperation, i.e., coordination. A list of specific etudes will be provided in advance.
  2. Unique strategies for awakening refined coordination of the body, eyes and ears.

Note: The actual order may vary, but each subject will be covered each day.

*“The lecture/demo on teaching vibrato was inspiring. Burton Kaplan is my secret weapon.”*

Valerie Dimond, Viola,  
Dallas Symphony

*“Being a student helper at the String Pedagogy Retreat was an amazing experience. I learned so much about expression, technique, and how to create powerful and beautiful bowings. Thank you Burton!!”*

Livie Krys, Trainee,  
9th grade, Toronto, CA

*“Magic Mountain Music Farm worked magic on my mind and my way of thinking. It was THE best musical experience that I have ever had.”*

Eleanor Wieser, Trainee,  
9th grade, Toronto, CA

*“After staying at this retreat I was able to feel the old sensation of excitement that I used to experience when I was just a beginner student.”*

Ronan Brooks, Trainee,  
9th grade, Minneapolis, MN

Cost: \$ 2,460 all inclusive (\$2,245/tuition, room and board, \$85 Application Fee, \$130 Chef Surcharge)

Please print out, fill in, and mail to:  
Magic Mountain Music Farm, Burton Kaplan, 817 West End Avenue, #11E, New York, NY 10025

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in attending **The Virtuoso String Teacher**.  Please let me know when this session is filling up.

I am ready to sign up for **The Virtuoso String Teacher**.  I have enclosed a check for \$85 to cover the application fee. Make check payable to: Magic Mountain Music Farm and mail to above address.

On a separate page please express the teaching dilemmas which concern you most.

I would like you to forward this notice to the following string teachers: