

2015

December

Caspar 12/2015

Survey Comments:

"Very beautiful."

Dimock 12/2015 Concert

Survey Comments

"You guys rock! I wasn't thrilled on coming to concert and you completely changed my mind on classical music. The passion that you ladies and gentlemen put into the music I loved to watch. I would definitely love to see you in concert again. Being in a program for the holidays is hard and you made it a little better. Happy holidays to you and your families! Thank you!"

"My mother was a big fan of Mozart. The music never really interested me then and after. But until I watched you all playing and listening to you play. It was very relaxing."

"I truly, truly enjoyed the music."

"Thank you to everyone for coming to Dimock and putting on this concert. Your kindness to us means so much! Especially this time of year. Christmas is tough. The holidays are tough, and every one of you lifted my spirit. Thank you! You all did an amazing, wonderful job. Your music is just as beautiful as you all are."

"I think that the musicians were amazing!! and I want to thank them for taking time to come out and play."

"I would just like to thank you all for performing for all of us ladies. I love music, and I appreciate the explanations of the music before playing (rain/wind) etc. Enjoy your holiday and happy new year!"

"I would love to see them again!"

"It was very good and thank you again for coming out. Have a merry Christmas, hope to see you in the new year. Please don't forget us on January 3rd, 2016!"

"Great music in a tough time of year."

"Makes me want to go to more concerts. It was awesome! Thanks."

"Thank you so much! You guys are awesome! Merry Christmas!"

"I thank you for the gift of music. Happy holidays!"

"Thank you! My daughter is on my mind and she was telling me in her letter how much she loves music and this brought an idea. Lessons for music and song. Thank you, it's beautiful."

"Amazing!"

"Thank you!"

"I liked listening to my peers sing and I thought the musicians were very friendly and warming. Thank you!"

"You're all amazing! We are blessed to have been fortunate enough to hear and experience your gifts of music. Thank you all!"

2015

"Thank you, merry Christmas!"

"Awesome!"

"You were just what I needed. Thank you!"

PSI Men's 12/2015

Quiet group kept to themselves mostly.

One man walked in and said "Oh! Classical music!" and made lots of positive comments.

One guest took a picture during the Vivaldi.

One man kept smiling to himself, and at his hands.

Nice conversation with one guest who remembered Beethoven from elementary school and wanted to talk about it.

One Syrian gentleman and his friend who was Lebanese recognized the Fairouz song and were very happy about it.

On the way out, one man said to another "That was pretty good!"

Survey Comments:

"I love rock and roll, but the classics I have always been in love with... even opera."

"Please come every week, thank you."

"Music soothes the soul. Peace & love to you."

PSI Women's 12/2015 Concert

Notes from the concert:

Quite a few people studying the program beforehand.

One guest who declares she loves the violin and is clearly entranced paying close attention and moving to the music.

One guest walks through, dances a bit to the music and smiles.

One walks around and conducts.

Lots of smiling and clapping after the Torelli.

Some get very involved in the discussion of the Nutcracker.

We have a dancer with a cane! Very tuned into the music and grateful.

One woman dances with her friend. Another dances on her own, a few soloists. One clearly had

dancing lessons as a child.

One short comment"

She's good!"

One standing ovation.

The women sweeping up stopped and smiled at the music.

Another woman knew one of the pieces from when she was an actress, and sang many of the

carols.

Lots of response to Sleigh Ride.

Survey Comments:

"Just come back, love it!"

"Need to come more often if you can. I like the instruments, and I like the musicians' spirit and

rhythm."

"It's good for you."

2015

"Loved the music."

"The Vivaldi was great. Reminded me of my childhood, listening to the Vivaldi channel."

"I've enjoyed the music very much."

"I didn't know this was scheduled, so this was a pleasant surprise."

"I loved the Vivaldi. Reminded me of growing up, listening to my father play that. Thanks!"

"You all were very wonderful, and very professional in your music. I really enjoy the lady in the red shirt. Thank you so much, you make my night and day for tomorrow. Very good."

"I'm really glad you came today and I hope we will come back again. Thank you"

"I think your playing is peaceful, it gives me pleasure. My favorite song at Christmas is O Holy Night."

"I love you!"

PSI Shattuck Concert 12/2015

Survey Comments:

"You guys brought life to the shelter and the instruments. It was like you were talking to us through the music. You brought us so much holiday cheer. Everything about this made me feel Good warm and unexplainable. I could feel your passion for the music through the instruments. You showed so much professionalism, I could see that this was serious, not some sort of joke, and it showed your love for the music. It was amazing, and there are really no words for it."

(transcribed from a man who had experienced a stroke and could not write)

"Excellent evening."

"Very good."

"I've got a master's degree in engineering and this is my first experience with homelessness. Great job. Your Christmas music is certainly the most Christmas us guys will get! Thanks so much!"

Waltham Concert, 12/2015

Survey comments:

"Just wanted to thank y'all for bringing back some very young and fond memories. Thanks!"

"Thank you."

"Excellent"

"My eyes were closed but my ears were open. Very nice work."

November

Caspar 11/2015

"I really enjoyed the music. it was very beautiful and very relaxing. Thank you very much."

"You were great!"

CDC Waltham 11/2015

"Very well played! Thanks so much!"

"When you first started, I said to myself 'Oh no, not this crap. What's better, outside or this?' I'm so glad I chose this because you two ladies were fantastic. PS, this is coming from the ears of a metal head."

"Very nice, thanks!"

2015

"Soothing!"

"Nothing but aggravating times for homeless people today, since 7:45 this morning. Everyone needed to come in here and hear this music."

The man who said this also told the musicians that he thought he should have stayed out on the street once he realized they were playing classical music, but to his surprise he found the music very soothing as well as uplifting. He became grateful for how his feelings of frustration melted away as he listened to unfamiliar music.

Dimock 11/2015

"Great!"

"Awesome!"

"Beautiful!"

"It made my day better."

"We love when you perform!"

"Loved how she explained the music and her enthusiasm."

"You guys make a great team! Thanks for your time."

"Thank you."

"Thank you, you are lovely ladies."

"Thank you, I think this was very nice."

PSI Harrison Men's & Women's 11/2015

"Great music!"

"come back!"

September

Caspar Shelter, 9/2015

"Love classical, Vivaldi, Wagner, Kronos Quartet, Beethoven, etc."

"I really love this type of music. You people should come up here more, because the band would bring a lot of happy faces. Thank you so, so much for all of this."

CDC Waltham, 9/2015

"Thank you for your time and talent!"

"Requests: 1812 Overture, Moonlight Sonata, Moon River, Moon Dance, Charlie Brown Christmas, Beethoven's 5th, Sweet Caroline, Shipping Out to Boston"

"I felt okay about everything, it was relaxing and makes me feel good."

"Nice music, thank you!"

"Sorry, not my kind of music."

Dimock Shelter, 9/2015

Survey comments:

"Always wonderful to hear them."

"Loved it! Thanks for coming."

"Would love to hear some music from musicals or Fantasia. Would like to have the marimba back. Loved the quartet, excellent job!"

"Excellent. Would love to hear pieces from the operas Carmen, Faust, or Tales of Hoffman."

"I really enjoyed it. Thank you for coming. Ever heard of 2 cellos? I wonder how they make them sound like guitars? (Electric)"

"Loved it! I liked the last piece you played."

"Thank you."

2015

"Thank you so much, it was beautiful."

"Thank you so much for coming. I loved the concert, it was really relaxing."

You are the best! You all play like you were born with those instruments in your hands. Eases the mind."

"Thanks for sharing your amazing gift and talent!"

Women's Lunch Place, 9/2015

"My granddaughter used to fall asleep to classical music. She went right to sleep. I love music, I am happy because it reminded me of my granddaughter."

"I enjoy music, as soon as I saw the musicians!"

"Absolutely beautiful."

"No time to answer your questions on reverse but... I was a student of the violin in my teens and twenties, for ten years, and played in a string quartet at college (no performances, however...) and though homeless, I still enjoy music. Your wonderful group today thanks SO much."

"They were excellent, the music was so good. I want them to come back, soon."

"Would like Mozart."

PSI Shattuck, 9/2015

"The music is very soothing, makes me feel like I can feel the music emotionally. I had a lovely time, thank you so much."

August

Caspar, 8/2015

Survey Comments:

"[I liked] the variety that you played."

"More Mozart!"

Dimock, 8/2015

30 guests, totally engaged

2 people asked for autographs, 3 tried the violin after the concert

Survey comments:

"You guys are great! You play lovely music for the poor and hopeless. May God continue to bless you!!"

"Y'all did a wonderful job. Great listening to you, really enjoyed it."

"Great job, thank you!"

"Wonderful."

"Really fascinated by musicians."

PSI Women's 8/26/2015

Survey comments:

"Great! I love the dance. Love and thank you!"

PSI Shattuck, 8/2015

During the concert:

"It makes me so happy"

"Please come more often"

"I like it very much"

2015

Women's Lunch Place, 8/24/2015

Survey comments:

"I thank you very much for the music and your time as well. Can't wait to see you again next month."

"I came into the Women's Lunch Place today for the concert."

July

Women's Lunch Place, 7/27/2015

Survey Comments:

"Thank you, really enjoyed."

"Thank you for Bach!"

"It makes me feel like I want to dance."

"It made my day."

A very thoughtful, transgender woman, who happened not to be very interested in the music, said:

"Some of the people here are depressed. The music soothes them."

Shattuck Shelter, 7/2015

Comments during the concert:

Joseph said, "Music is hope," after he came up to the front of the room and tried the marimba. "I want you to go back to Pittsburgh and declare this a win!" He was very interactive, looked musicians in the eye.

Music is hope

Music brought him to a whole different place.

Taught Erin how to tango.

Do you like this one? "I like them all!"

When you play music, I see pictures and make up the story to go along.

That composer is a little nuts.

I like the way it mellows out.

Thank y'all, I appreciate it.

Survey Comments:

"Best music yet! Nothing but pure joy! Thank you so much!"

"I like it very much, it makes me very happy. The musicians are proficient and professional.

Classical music is not easy, I like it very much. I feel very relaxed."

"Marimba solo was very mellow. The way she went in and out of it was really good."

PSI Women's, 7/2015

Comments during the concert:

"The marimba sounds like raindrops dancing on a tin roof."

"It sure is better to hear sounds like that music than swearing and everyone yelling at Each other."

Survey comments:

"I think you sound great together"

2015

PSI Men's, 7/28/2015

Survey comments:

"Very cool experience. Aspiring percussionist."

"Good music, thank you for coming. God bless you."

"very soothing, I appreciate hearing them."

Dimock Center, 7/2015

Survey Comments:

"The music captured my emotions and transformed rage to peace. Thank you."

"May god bless you. Keep up the good job."

Caspar Emergency Shelter, 7/27/2015

Comments during the concert:

One of our regular "fans" at Caspar was very excited to see Jennie and the marimba. "I've been asking for Jennie all year. Yay, you brought her back!" "All the way from Pittsburgh," said Jennie. Cheering from the fan.

One gentleman, seated in a wheel chair, asked, "Are you the same people that came before, played a string quartet? I showed the video I took to my sister. She watches it all the time. She said, I like that show!" He recorded the entire concert.

Mazas Suite: Jennie and Rebecca demonstrated the Rondo theme, explained what a Rondo is,

conversation about a theme that comes back over and over.

"Our "fan" tapped his foot, grinning widely during the Mazas.

"I feel happier than a pig in dung after that piece!"

Jennie explained how the Telemann Canonic Sonata works.

"WOW!" after the first movement.

Bach Inventions: "I'm going to Pittsburgh to hear her play more," said one guest, gesturing towards Jennie.

"I like the tempo!" of the last Bach Invention.

Peters "Chant" for solo marimba

"It felt like an organ, sounded like an organ piece."

"I loved watching you play that!"

Tchaikovsky Three Songs

Waltz: "Made me feel like I wanted to dance."

French Song: "They stole that music from the Jewish quarter," said the woman who thought the marimba solo sounded like an organ.

German Song: "Awright!"

Survey Comments:

"I had a lousy day. You probably saved someone with this concert. Music is a universal language like math. Do you have a website? I'm going to Google it right now. When are you coming back?"

"Life saving."

"Very moved"

When speaking with some of the guests at the end of the concert one man said that even though a lot of people were outside he felt that the music really made a difference in the environment at the

shelter and that people were listening even if it didn't look like they were listening.

One man told me that the music brought tears to his eyes because it moved him so much!

2015

June

Shattuck Shelter guest quotes 6-22-15

Before the performance

"Quiet down folks!" One guest to the other guests as Julie and Rebecca were preparing to start.

During the performance

"Awesome awesome... That was nice I like that... wow."

"Ahh awesome, wow."

"It's a decent sound I like it. Beautiful."

"Oh my goodness...wow that was nice!"

"That's amazing how do you know the right keys listening to her sound? You sound amazing."

"Yes beautiful, my!"

"Wow that was nice."

"Can't beat that, Can't beat that."

"Wow, unbelievable."

"You're amazing it's like a bass!" (To Rebecca on her violin)

"Just don't leave!"

"Oh my goodness. Beautiful."

"Reminds me of a cartoon."

"Wow...unbelievable I'm telling you. I'm on fire!"

One shelter guest was so moved while listening to Fuch's piece that he began to cry.

Guest's were interested in learning from Julie and Rebecca, they asked questions about the style of music and harmonies within the music. They leaned in, captivated by what the performers were able to teach. Comments:

"The music was good!"

"Please come again!"

Pine Street Men's and Women's Inns, 6/2015

Comments during/after the concert:

"Let's do this!"

One woman shook hands with the woman next to her.

Guests were smiling, leaning back and relaxing.

Two women were intently listening, leaning on each other.

(In response to "How does it make you feel?") "Lovely, absolutely lovely," "Happy, soothing, alive," "Makes you want to party!"

Several "thank you"s.

Two women listened with their eyes closed. One woman moved her fingers on her pregnant belly.

"Woohoo!"

"Very soothing."

"Uplifting."

"Love the ending. Sounds like a water drop: 'shh'. Very soothing."

"Nice."

"Very good"

"That was sweet, yeah!"

"What year was that?"

"I used this to put my granddaughter to sleep"

2015

One woman curled up on a chair, sleeping.

"Sounds like from an old Alice & Wonderland"

"You play so well together!"

"Oh wow, very beautiful. That was great"

"Sounded very militant." "He had been through 2 world wars by then." "I'm still thinking of the film, suspense Vertigo."

"I didn't want to miss this."

"My daughter played the violin."

One man conducted and pretended to play piano.

"The way you played off of each other-- in a dance style."

"It was like they were at a ball. Like two lovers in the distance."

"Like someone wants someone else to dance, or they didn't know they could dance so they stepped up."

"Unease. Dramatic thoughts just running through your head."

"Insecurity. Not sure where you want to go."

"Like you're trying to grasp a little bit of something. Or someone's wishing they had someone to share something with."

"Maybe I'll get into more classical as I get older."

"Like Alfred Hitchcock."

Survey Comments:

"I liked the music!"

"I thought it was great, and relaxing!"

"Thank you so much for the uplifting experience of hearing and feeling you play!"

"It was awesome, thank you!"

Survey "I did a few music festivals (choral) when I was young. I never got to be a judge before, so you're my unwilling volunteers. Good concert. Violin: doesn't like being introspective? Needs to stop shying away from parts of music just because she doesn't like them. Viola: likes the sweeping statements stringed instruments are capable of? Somber player. Work on tempo consistency. Thanks!"

"Thanks for being here!"

"I love music of all kinds! Music that is played by musical instruments, that is. You made my day! Your performance made me feel and think about life and my situation. I'd love to see you again! An invitation to one of your concerts would be greatly appreciated!"

Dimock Center, 6/2015

Survey Comments:

"It was a wonderful learning experience. Also a nice break from the day to day schedule. It sounded amazing. Thank you."

"Thank you for reminding me of the love of classical music. It was very enjoyable...like watching a mini movie clip."

"The concert was a very positive experience. Especially enjoyed being taught some new things about the violin and viola. The instrumentalists were so passionate and endearing."

"I just go out of the hospital today. I had a hard, busy week and a day with [medical] tests. It was beautiful to hear such lovely music."

"Thank you Ladies! Great job! We enjoyed it a lot!! I like the Joplin Rag song, it made me feel warm inside."

2015

"Thank you for the nice break and entertainment. You both are very talented. This was like music therapy for us!"

"Plucking awesome!"

"I like hearing any info about the musicians or time period."

"Very talented, thank you!"

"Great job!"

"I was extremely tired before I got here but now I feel more energized and at peace."

"I enjoyed it very much. Come again!"

"Play some bluegrass next time! Great job, thank you!"

"The music was lovely, and so was the ladies' company and time. Grateful for their service."

CDC Waltham, 6/2015

Survey Comments:

"This was very enjoyable and relaxing. It really helped me to clear my mind. Thank you!"

"I really enjoyed the concert. Thank you and come again!"

May

CDC Waltham, 5/21/2015

"I have really enjoyed these [concerts]".

"It is very relaxing for the mind"

"I liked the rhythm of that one!"

PSI Shattuck Shelter, 5/18/2015

Survey Comments:

"This is a brief escape from the dehumanizing culture of a shelter, and the joy the musicians express is a true gift of nature. Thank you so much."

Dimock Center, 5/21/2015

Survey Comments:

"Loved it as always."

"Great job!"

"Thank you very much for this experience, you guys played excellent! We all enjoyed it very much."

"It was great!"

"Thank you, fan of baroque."

"Awesome!!!"

"Thank you both for coming. I really enjoy your performances. Come again soon! :)"

"That was great, thank you!"

"I loved it."

Caspar Emergency Shelter, 5/22/2015

Survey Comments:

"Very soothing."

"Thanks for your time!"

"Great job! More violas!"

2015

Women's Lunch Place 5/22/2015

Survey Comments:

"Keep it up, great job!"

"Thank you! That was an incredible performance! I had a lot on my mind and when I walked in here I was immediately transformed!"

"Thank you so much for taking time out of your day to come perform and educate me (us) about classical music. I thought it was beautiful, calming, and very enjoyable. You played wonderfully and made my day. Thank you!"

"I enjoyed the concert, it was calming and it made me feel good. I love how into it the musicians were, I could tell they were enjoying playing as much as I was listening."

"Thank you so much for taking time for me and company!"

PSI Men's 5/19/2015

Survey comments

"I've got really bad ADHD. Listening and watching the music helped me to focus and stay calm. Thank you, thank you!"

"It's a good and unusual experience for most. I enjoyed it."

"Watching made me appreciate it more. Watching them play mesmerizes you. I thought it was awesome!"

"Great program! Good mix of familiar and unfamiliar, both in terms of composers and pieces!"

April

PSI Shattuck, 4/13/15

Survey comments:

"Loved interacting with the musicians, thank you!"

PSI 4/15/2015

Survey Comments

"As a fellow musician, drummer/percussionist...much needed and life performance made my day. Also the string quartet was amazing in timing. A caesure (timely pause) was in sync in my opinion. Sincerely, Daniel."

"Fantastic. Love violins & cellos & string instruments. Thanks"

"Juan Luna like the music, god bless you all."

"Mozart and Beethoven ROCK!"

Dimock Center, 4/16/2015

Survey Comments:

"You did a good job, thank you. God bless and keep up the great work."

"Makes me want to fight, in a positive way."

"I heard you in December 2013, and there was no cello. The music was beautiful tonight, and thank you so much for coming here to play for us."

"I closed my eyes to see what it sounded like You all played so harmonious together that I could not differentiate the instruments. It was wonderful."

"The whole concert was so beautiful, it made me cry."

"Being in recovery, this hour of music is exactly what I need to get out of my head. Thank you."

2015

CDC Waltham, 4/16/2015 2pm

Comments during the concert:

"You're extraordinary!"

"It sounds like the angels are singing. It's so beautiful."

"You know those people that go up in front? (conductor) I want to be one of those. I bet I could, too."

"You guys play so beautifully together, and it's amazing. It's making me cry."

"I was in drum and bugle corps, and they had no flutes, just horns and drums. I did it by ear. It's a lot harder that way. The French horn was my favorite thing."

"Music is my life. Music kept me alive. I went through some hard times, and if it wasn't for music, I wouldn't be here. I love classical music."

"That was beautiful."

"You guys really get into your music, it's unbelievable."

"The way you guys play, I see the love in it."

"Thank you very much."

"That was terrific."

"It made my day."

Caspar Emergency Shelter, 4/17/2015

Survey comments:

"Great music, have seen you play before twice. Happy to see you again. Great job."

March

Dimock Center, March 12, 2015

Comments:

-Reminded me of the Titanic (Telemann)- I can just picture the ballerinas, and different things.

It's nice, it's relaxing.

-The music told a story, like a love story. Started out sweet, then there was suspense, and then there was a happy ending.

-Reminds me of Old Westerns, like when they are in the saloons and ballroom dancing.

-I thought of those voiceless movies in black and white, with the man with the moustache. Their mouths are moving but nothing is coming out and the music was very fast.

-It had a lost-in-the-woods kind of feeling. Like Snow White.

Afterwards:

-One guest's mother used to listen to a lot of classical music, but she hadn't listened to it for awhile, and she didn't know what it was but there was something about it that was very emotional and she enjoyed it a lot.

-Another guest asked about the opera, had never seen an opera and now really wants to go to

one. Will look up the Mozart opera on YouTube. She has two kids who both play instruments.

She played flute when she was young but didn't keep up with it. One of her kids is working on the Hungarian Dance (Brahms) and that the teacher was Hungarian as well. (based on listening to the Bartok).

-Someone asked if she (Rebecca) was famous, and asked for an autograph in case she becomes famous.

2015

Quotes from Surveys:

- I was very, very grateful. God bless, keep up the good work.
- I think that you all are great. Keep up the good work. I truly appreciate the group. You all are doing wonderful work and I am truly grateful that you all do what you do. May God keep blessing all of you. And please bring the singer back
- Please keep coming back, I'm very very very happy. You made my day.

CDC Waltham, March 19, 2015

- "The music was played beautifully and was very relaxing and soothing. I liked learning about the different instruments and pieces. It's great that you came in the center to play live music. We really appreciate it. Thank you so much."
- "I felt that this group did an AMAZING job. The way each can play their instrument and come together to tell one big story. I was TRULY touched and wish they would come by more often."
- "Before: cold from outside, 11 degrees.
After: Like I'm in a coffee house or having lunch at Longfellow's Wayside Inn."
- "Very good. Broke up the day. Really relaxed."
- "Excellent show. Very good music."

January

CDC Waltham, January 29, 2015

- "Thank you very much for your time."
- "Very nice!"
- When asked what they enjoyed most about the concert, a shelter guest replied, "It's real."
- "You play very nice music, very nice on the ear."
- After hearing the Milhaud Sonata for Two Violins: "That was beautiful. It's going to make me cry. A good cry."
- "My son plays the violin, and I want him to teach his son"