

# Blanton News

Blanton School of Music | Digital Newsletter | November 2009 | Athens, GA  
www.blantonschool.com | 706-534-9945 | "Everybody Can Learn"

## IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Performance Notes
2. Christmas Schedule
3. "Broken Road" Update
4. News About the Blanton's
5. Resources

### 1. Performance Notes

- Congratulations to Laura's piano students who participated in the AMTA Sonatina Festival: Aidan Brown, Sofia Villalobos, Samantha Harvel, and Emily Harvel. Amazing music was played and heard by all.
- Recently guitar-student David Stiles put together a band for Friday night "Fifth Quarter" at Prince Avenue Christian School. The band rocked the gymnasium with modern worship tunes and a little pop/country, opening their set with You Belong With Me by Taylor Swift.
- Supporting Stiles' band at the sound board was guitar-student Jason Shivar, who also attends PACS.
- Lefty-guitarist Nate Squires just landed the lead role of Danny Zuko in OYP's upcoming performance of "Grease", taking the Oconee County Civic Center stage beginning January 8th.

*[If you've got performance news, please let us know, so we can include it in the next Blanton News Issue.]*

### 2. Christmas Group Parties/Jams

We are trying something new this year!

In lieu of their final lesson for the semester, during the last week of lessons **December 14-17**, students can sign up for a Christmas Party Class. They'll perform a few songs

for each other, review some musical concepts together, and do a little jammin' too! Research shows that group experiences are highly motivational for students. The only draw back is that the parents have to wait 'til May for a "real recital".

Laura's piano classes are set for Monday at 5, Tuesday at 4, Wednesday at 6, Thursday at 7.

Chris's group classes will be Monday at 4:30 and 7, Tuesday at 4:30, Wednesday at 5:30, Thursday at 6:30.

As you begin to know your holiday schedule, please reserve a class. It does not matter which day of the week your regular lesson is, you can sign up for which ever Christmas Class best fits your schedule for the week of December 14-17.

### 3. "Broken Road" Update

As many of you know, Chris played Bass Guitar this summer with local country band Broken Road. He was recently offered a professional full-time touring contract with them. After a great deal of thought and prayer, Chris decided that he is not ready to give up teaching all of his amazing students. The band was a little sad, but totally understood.

Broken Road will be playing at The Morton Theatre in Athens on Friday, November 13th, with special guests Ben Ratliff Band.

For Broken Road's latest, visit [www.brokenroadcountry.com](http://www.brokenroadcountry.com).

### 4. News About the Blanton's

- Since June, Laura has been serving as Membership Chair on the

executive board of the Athens Music Teacher's Association. Through AMTA, music teachers and their students can participate in local music festivals and competitions.

Laura served on the executive board of directors at the state level, for the Georgia Music Teacher's Association's 2007-2008 term.

- In support of his "Fireside Christmas" CD, Chris is currently booking Acoustic Christmas Shows to play seasonal tunes in local coffeehouses and restaurants.

The 13-track album is a relaxing collection of holiday favorites recorded by Chris and his acoustic guitar, with a little 'mouth trumpet' and harmonica. Copies of the CD are now available in the basement for \$10/each, and he'll even autograph it at no extra charge!

Let Chris know if you'd like him to play at a particular location near you, then tell the manager of said location to e-mail [chrisblanton22@gmail.com](mailto:chrisblanton22@gmail.com) or call 706-534-9945. Thanks!

If it's been a while since you've heard any 'Chris Blanton' music, head over to one of his music sites: [www.reverbnation.com/chrisblanton](http://www.reverbnation.com/chrisblanton), [www.indieheaven.com/artists/chrisblanton](http://www.indieheaven.com/artists/chrisblanton), [www.myspace.com/chrisblantonband](http://www.myspace.com/chrisblantonband)

### 5. Resource: Free Online Music Learning Program

[www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net) is a great tool for training your ears and eyes to recognize the basic elements of music: keys, clefs, intervals, chords, and more! Give it a whirl sometime.