

Bridge to Music Stories

Daeschel started playing the cello during Musicopia's first *Bridge to Music* year at Meade School in North Philadelphia (the 2005-06 school year). She really wanted to try the violin, so during the 2006 *Bridge* summer camp, her dynamic teacher, Carol Kapstein, started her (or basically Daeschel taught herself with help from the other students) to play the violin. She was in heaven! It was a great incentive for practicing the cello. Carol pledged to find a way for Daeschel to continue both instruments during the 06-07 school year. At the end of camp, Carol said if the school had an extra recorder, she would give it to Daeschel, who was extremely excited. One day, Carol was teasing her about playing all three instruments and Daeschel said, "What do you expect, I'm a musician." It made Carol feel so good to have fostered that identity in her student.

Currently, in the 2007-08 school year, Daeschel is still madly in love with playing music and wants to play every instrument. She continues to play the violin and the cello and was involved in the Meade summer music program in 2007. She will most likely be starting private lessons at Settlement Music School's Germantown branch in the Fall of 2007.

Another Meade student, Isaiah, also started playing the violin in the 2005-06 school year and learned the cello during the 2006 summer camp. The violin is his favorite; when he started the cello, he found that he improved a lot on both instruments. He became more physically comfortable with the violin, his sight-reading improved in two clefs and his use of the bow became more fluid. Carol was impressed, because he was the only student his age and level in the summer camp, so he was on his own and not surrounded by friends from the school year. He still gets a little scared when presented with new material and with new challenges, but he has stuck with it, has learned new repertoire and gained confidence.

Isaiah is doing incredibly well these days. He participated in Musicopia's 2007 *Gabriel's Music* Summer Camp and is playing in the South Philadelphia *Gabriel's Music* Saturday Orchestra. He never misses a rehearsal, even though he has to traverse the length of the city to get there from his home in North Philadelphia. His parents have become very involved in his musical career. They are incredibly supportive, and he may be in the Temple Saturday music program starting in the fall of 2007. His teachers are delighted with his progress and his extraordinary commitment.