

Terra Sounds celebrates two-year anniversary with big plans for the future.

By Danielle Levsky



Since its inception in January of 2012, Terra Sounds has invited students of all ages and levels to experiment with and study music, arts, and languages within their creative studios. With Terra's two-year anniversary approaching on January 25, 2014, the school and recording studio have even bigger plans for the upcoming year.

Terra Sounds' range of music instructors covers just about any instrument of the students choice. Most recently, Dylan Andrews (drums), Beth Haines (voice), Julie Koidin (flute), and Doug Rosenberg (saxophone) have joined Terra Sounds' ever growing music team, giving students even more opportunities in their music learning experience. Dane Crozier (drums), started at Terra from the very beginning and is excited about his new, outstanding team members who contribute to Terra's "truly positive atmosphere for learning and expressing their art form."

"The school has such a unique and all-encompassing vision which values collaboration and artistic expression," Dane began. "The founders, Aleks, Matvey, and Andrey started with a wonderful network of friends and colleagues that held strong in support of their ideas for what the school offers. The approach has been very familial from the beginning, and that sense of family and community has continued to grow and strengthen. I am extremely proud to be a part of the team and look forward to another great year at Terra Sounds!"

Customers like Alla Model, whose two daughters take private guitar and voice lessons at Terra Sounds, has been very impressed with the school and its culture.

"The school is awesome! The staff is very professional, knowledgeable, and caring," Alla said. "I have seen great results with both of my daughters. Since we have started taking classes at Terra Sounds a year and a half ago, our schedules outside the school have changed a few times, and the staff at Terra have always found a way to accommodate all of our change requests. High professionalism, flexibility, and individual attention to each and every student is what sets Terra Sounds apart from other schools."



Along with expanding its faculty team, Terra Sounds has recently upgraded its recording studio, allowing students and professional musicians to take their recorded music and creative vocal work to new heights.

"We recently expanded our microphone collection with a number of industry-standard gems, such as the Shure KSM44A - great high-end microphones for recording vocals and acoustic instruments," said Matvey Kostukovsky, the Director of Audio Production at Terra Sounds, and one of the company's co-founders. "Earlier this year we installed an isolation booth, which helps with capturing quieter sound sources and provides superior separation when multi-tracking bands. It is exciting to see our students use these new resources and collaborate with our sound engineers to learn about audio production, create original works, and make demo recordings!"

Most recently, to kick off 2014, Terra Sounds hosted its Arts & Concerts Series Opening on December 14, 2013, featuring Aleks Di Roma's "unplugged" acoustic performance, and Sergey and Natalia Mavrody's gallery of over 20 years of artwork.

The north-shore residents will now enjoy a series of boutique style concerts, featuring top-notch, local and world-class musicians, and carefully selected artists to complement the performances. Terra's Concert Series will be accompanied by tastings of local wine, cheese, tea, and jams, making it a truly unique experience for the neighborhood.

Just this past November, Terra Sounds partnered with the Russian Jewish Division (RJD) and Jewish United Fund (JUF) and created the Jukebox Groove Project, a tribute to famous Jewish music greats, led by Aleks Romanenko, president and co-founder of Terra Sounds. The concert featured an interactive presentation of music, which highlighted the works of prominent Jewish musicians and composers of several different genres and time periods. Yet, the gem of this exciting project was the composition and birth of a new tune filled with citations from popular music pieces written by famous Jewish composers.

"The idea of recording an original track that would feature quotes of works by famous Jewish composers was something Matvey and I wanted to do for a while, and I am thrilled that this project is just about ready to come to life!" Romanenko said. "One of the most important parts of this project for us is the idea of introducing these incredible melodies to the new generation, kids who may not have heard them just yet. If we can get one kid to fall in love with the music of Gershwin, Bernstein, or Benny Goodman, I will consider this project a huge success."

"The Jewish music was outstanding," said Genia Kovelman of the RJD and JUF. "Aleks revealed the new music track and I found it inspiring. It is a true combination of great music, passionate and talented artistry and dedicated leadership. We can't wait to present it to the community."

During its Annual Music Festival in August 2013, Terra Sounds hosted the performance of a world-class musician, Alfonso Ponticelli and the Swing Gitan band.

"I really enjoyed playing at Terra Sounds. The venue is perfect for acoustic concerts and it was very cozy and comfortable." Alfonso said.

The audience enjoyed this uncommon experience of being able to sit just within a few feet away from the artist and the feedback the school received from concert attendees inspired the founders to continue this theme with the 2014 Art & Concert Series.



As part of its 2014 initiative, Terra Sounds is launching a new Early Childhood Education Program, called Simply Music Rhapsody, a music and movement program for young children.

"I am beyond excited to bring this program to Terra Sounds," said Deanna Varagona, who was recently brought on board to help expand the diversity of programs offered for young children. "It's so important to make sure that music is part of children's lives at a very early age. Many studies show that those children who have been introduced to music in early childhood outperform their peers in math, reading, and science."

Lastly, Terra's enthusiasm did not go unnoticed by national organizations who are excited to work together on a number of collaborative projects in 2014. From Northern Suburban Special Education District to offer classes to students with special needs, to national health club chains to offer children's educational programs while parents enjoy a workout, to high-end tea cafes--looking forward to throwing tea parties like never before--topped with music, art, and many other flavors. Moreover, multiple Chicago North Shore summer camps will be offering Terra Sounds lessons during the summer of 2014.

With past and upcoming events, Terra Sounds is celebrating its anniversary in spunk and style this year and is looking forward to making new friends and building a creative community.

Event Details:

Date: January 25, 2014, 6PM

Address: 924 Waukegan Road, Glenview, IL 60025

Tickets: Free Event for All Ages. **Suggested donations accepted for "The 2014 Art and Concert Series"**

This event will feature sample art, music, and language workshops, trial lessons, special offers, raffles, food, and fun! In addition, we will also be having a concert prepared by our students and instructors.

Please RSVP by calling (847) 737-1850 or emailing at customerservice@terrasounds.com. Visit the website <http://terrasounds.com/> to find out more about services, instructors, group classes, and information.

Terra Sounds is a new concept of dynamic education in music and creative arts for kids, teens, and adults. The school's faculty consists of some of the most talented musicians and artists in the Chicagoland area. From private lessons in music, arts, and languages to multi-disciplinary group classes, jam sessions, and recording services, the Terra Sounds experience inspires students of all levels to realize their full potential.

For more information, please visit <http://terrasounds.com/>