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QUEENS MUSIC TEACHER SENTENCED
ON CHILD PORN CHARGES

Receives Six Months In Jail And 10 Years' Probation

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Flushing resident employed at private music schools in Queens and Manhattan has been sentenced to six months in jail and 10 years' probation for possessing a sexual performance by a child – who was one of his 11-year-old male students. In addition, he has been ordered to register as a sex offender.

District Attorney Brown said, "Society depends on its ability to entrust its children to the care and safety of their teachers. The defendant in this case took advantage of an impressionable child who looked up to him for guidance. He then twisted that relationship for his own devious purposes. Hopefully time and therapy will help the child to recover from this sad experience."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Amos Duque, 25, formerly of 150-11 Horace Harding Expressway in Flushing, Queens. Duque taught classical guitar and piano at the Allegro Vivace Music School, located at 29-02 Francis Lewis Boulevard in Queens, and the Manhattan Harbor Conservatory, located at 1 East 104th Street in Manhattan. Duque pleaded guilty in April to one count of possessing a sexual performance by a child. He was sentenced today by Queens Supreme Court Justice Sheriden S. Roman to six months in jail and 10 years' probation. The judge issued a full order of protection to keep the defendant from contacting the child and ordered the defendant to register as a sex offender.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, while at the Allegro Vivace Music School, which is located in the basement of a church in the Auburndale section of Queens, on Saturday, December 20, 2008, Duque gave his cell phone to an 11-year-old male student and persuaded him – by offering him money – to go into the bathroom and take pictures and make a video of his penis. The abuse case came to light when the victim revealed what had happened to a close family friend.

The defendant's mother submitted a victim's impact statement to the court in which she said, "I just want to say that this whole thing has been a shock and a disappointment to me. I trusted my son to go to this school and learn from this teacher about music and only music. The fact that sexual behavior was incorporated into the lessons disgusts me... This is inexcusable. I can only imagine how far it would have gotten if we were not told."

The investigation was conducted by Detective John Phelan of the New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Arthur Hall, Commanding Officer.

Assistant District Attorney Lauren Parson, of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted on www.queensda.org