

MUSICIANS IN THE MAKING

Musicians in the Making

MUSIK
GARTEN and Piano Instruction
West Windsor & Plainsboro, NJ
www.musiciansinthemaking.com 609-750-0600

Musikgarten

Notes and News!

Fall 2009



From the Director:

Our MUSIKGARTEN program is thriving! With two locations, seven classes, and students ranging in age from barely 6 months to 6 ½ years, we are seeing babies light up when they hear their name sung; toddlers try out emerging language skills; preschoolers identify and imitate farm animal sounds; early elementary children match pitch and read basic musical notation – all in just the first few weeks! Kudos go to our two energetic teachers, Jen DiGioia (Miss Jen) and Carolyn Keurajian (Mrs. K), along with Jasna in the office, for their enthusiastic work to kick off the year.

Linda Fields

Important Dates

November 5 & 6: All classes and lessons will meet as usual even though the schools are closed. Please let your teacher know if you are not planning on attending.

November 22 - 28: Thanksgiving week – studio is closed

December 20 – January 2: Winter Break

January 17 – 23: Make up week

January 24: Spring semester starts

COMING EVENTS: Registration for the Spring semester starts in December. Familiar with our **Early Enrollment Earnings** plan? Register early and save money! Look for the green coupons or go to our website.

FEATURING your MUSICIAN IN THE MAKING:

Please tell us about any musical events that involve your family or someone in your family by December 20. We would love to publicize it in our next newsletter coming out in January.

MUSIKGARTEN CLASS REPORTS

Family Music – Mrs. Keurajian

The Family Music classes are a joy to teach. The children are starting to interact with each other more as well as become familiar with the class routine. The children love Humpty Dumpty and Diddle Diddle Dumpling, as well as playing along with the music using sticks, jingles and drums. We have been practicing our major and minor tonal patterns and the parents are doing a wonderful job modeling for the children. These children are full of joy and already have a love of music.

The Cycle of Seasons – Mrs. Keurajian

Can you “cock-a-doodle doo” like a rooster or “moo” like a cow? The Cycles class is having fun vocalizing animal sounds and taking make-believe trips to the MacDonald’s Farm and the County Fair. By using creative imagery and simple instruments we are acting out stories, and exploring sounds and sights that occur in the Fall of the year. The children are also beginning to sing patterns in both minor and major keys as well as duple and triple patterns. This class is delightfully engaged and learning quickly.

Family Music – Mrs. DiGioia

We have really been enjoying this special class time together. Songs like “Humpty Dumpty” and “I’m a Rolling” are class favorites. All of the children are one year old or younger; they are all responding and reacting to the music, activities and instruments in the class and it’s wonderful to see. The moms are singing, playing along and truly enjoying this magical time with their children.

The Cycle of Seasons – Mrs. DiGioia

Our Wednesday morning Cycles class has welcomed the season of fall with so many fun songs and activities which include things like working on the farm, apples trees, going to the fair and falling leaves. The children are also making lots of progress with echoing rhythm and tonal patterns. Some of their favorite songs are “My Little Rooster”, “Go round the Mountain” and “Hop Old Squirrel”. The children also really enjoy the imaginative story times and the listening games.

Music Makers...

...At Home in the World – Mrs. Fields

This class is growing accustomed to the new routine of a bit longer class than they’ve had in the past. The children have enjoyed reading and writing graphic notation (pictures representing vocal sounds), including various combinations of sounds which are connected, detached, high and low.

...Around the World – Mrs. Fields

The children love a singing game, “Who’s That Tapping at the Window”. They are all able to recognize rhythms from the song on cards. After a brief “tour” of England, we are now studying music and stories of Ireland, even dancing a jig! Scotland and Wales are coming up, to complete our British Isles unit. AmerIndians will be next!

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Piano
Notes and News!

Fall 2009

From the Director:

Dear Parents,

An exciting year of piano studies has begun at Musicians in the Making. Our very talented, enthusiastic and dedicated staff - Linda Fields, Victoria Chow, Kristen Topham, Laura Klein and Suzanne Lehrer - is off to a strong beginning in all of their classes and private lessons. This is sure to be a very successful year of study for all of our piano students. I hope you will have taken the opportunity to join your child's private lesson teacher for Parent Observation Week as a time to meet with staff and to discuss how best to help your child in their home practice. I am looking forward to meeting many of you during our Parent Classes in December! Please watch for upcoming details about Spring Festival performance opportunities. The due dates for participation in these events will be November 30th.

Honey Merkel

Important Dates

November 5 & 6: All classes and lessons will meet as usual even though the schools are closed. Please let your teachers know if you are not planning on attending.

November 22 - 28: Thanksgiving week – studio is closed

November 30: Deadline for entering Spring Festivals

December 3 – 10: Holiday Parent Classes – open classes for families to attend and enjoy the performances (**Beginning** piano parents: please bring \$3.00 exact change for flashcards.)

December 13 -- 19: Make up week

December 20 – January 2: Winter Break



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PIANO CLASS REPORTS

Beginners – Mrs. Topham

These girls are off to a great start as they learn to play the piano! So far we have learned how to sit correctly and use our strong fingers and free arms to make loud and soft sounds on the piano. We have explored quarter, half, and dotted half notes and how they feel in our bodies and at the keyboard. We will soon discover how they fit into time signatures and will be reading intervals on a staff. Our most exciting project, though, is the Haunted House composition that the whole class will be playing the Thursday before Halloween.

Advanced Beginners – Miss Chow

What a great start to the new year! We are moving along in our classes - learning about eighth notes, pickup notes, major/minor patterns and perfect fifths! Since the group already knows each other so well, the social dynamics are great and the kids are eager to play for each other. Please continue to encourage your students to follow their assignment sheets and to use the practice steps to aid them in their practice sessions! Looking forward to a great year!

Intermediate Repertoire – Mrs. Topham

These girls are challenging themselves to name notes as quickly as possible. Each time we meet, we time how long the note-naming quiz takes to complete and already their time has decreased! They are also learning to be good performers, listeners, and even teachers as they help each other progress in their piano skills. They are well on their way to learning a complete 12-bar Blues pattern, and are also studying the 20th-Century compositional technique of Pointillism.

Advanced Repertoire – Mrs. Topham

These students are discovering that art has inspired composers throughout time to create music. So far we have heard Robert Starer's representation of colors on the piano and will soon explore Baroque and Romantic compositions that were inspired by art. They are improving their harmonization skills as they find the correct chords to play with tunes, and of course, they love to perform for each other!

Performance Classes – Mrs. Lehrer

The first of the monthly performance classes went well. It was wonderful to meet the students and to hear them play. In both classes, students were prepared and enthusiastic. For the next class, students should be ready to share something from the Piano Explorer magazine that he/she found interesting. I will also expect to hear a scale and an triad pattern along with the prepared piece.