



# Musicians in the Making

Lessons and Classes by Linda M. Fields  
www.musiciansinthemaking.com  
609-750-0600



## Notes and News!

Spring 2009



### Important Dates

#### Registration for 09-10 school year starts soon

**May 1:** Deadline for saving \$ on enrollment in Nature's Music

**May 19 wk:** Spring Semester ends

**May 26 wk:** Make up week for any teacher cancellations

**June 8 – July 2:** Nature's Music for children Birth-5 Mondays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:15am. Information and enrollment forms are available at the studio or on our website

**Spring Preview a Success!** - We are proud to have hosted our Second Annual Musikgarten Spring Preview for area teachers on April 4. Twelve music teachers from the area especially appreciated the demo class of MitM children and parents. Mrs. Fields did a great job of presenting to the attendees, in addition to teaching the demo class. Thank you to the participants and to Mrs. Fields for always putting her heart into her work!

**COMING EVENTS: Spring Piano Recitals, June 7.**  
2:30 and 4:00pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.  
Come hear our piano students in their end-of-the-year performance!

**FEATURING our MUSICIANS IN THE MAKING:**  
Please see other side (Piano page) for information about exciting upcoming performances featuring some of our own, sharing their talents with the community.

## MUSIKGARTEN CLASS REPORTS

### Family Music – Mrs. Keurajian

Family Music is welcoming the Spring with fingerplays about the Robin and her nest. We are also visiting our pretend workshop and using our rhythm sticks to act out hammering, sawing, and drilling, complete with sound effects from the children. We have enjoyed playing patterns on the tone bars and are getting very good at singing back these patterns. Next week's lesson incorporates songs about kittens, including a play-along of "I Love Little Kitty" on the tone bars.

### The Cycle of Seasons – Mrs. DiGioia

The Tuesday morning Cycles class is enjoying the change of the seasons while we dance sing and play together. We planted sunflower seeds and sang "All around the Garden" acting out raking, digging and weeding as we sang. We are exploring what's happening in nature and pretending to be butterflies, birds and bugs. Some of our favorite family time activities are playing "Down Comes Johnny" and singing "Riding in a Buggy".

### Music Makers...

#### ...At Home in the World – Mrs. Kindervatter

The Monday evening Music Maker 1 class is a small but enthusiastic group. We are enjoying our new student, Abby, who has really added a spark of fun to our class! We continue our musical "exploration" of the great outdoors, moving from the woodlands and marshes to the meadows. The children are learning musical concepts, songs and rhythmic and movement activities about the animals, plants and flowers of a meadow environment. Currently, we are discovering that music is not only different sounds, but is sometimes also silence, which we call "Rests".

#### ...At Home in the World – Mrs. Fields

In the Wednesday 1pm class, all are matching pitch beautifully now, so we are able to sing and play patterns using "do-mi-so!" major triad tones. We love playing "Mouse Mousie" and "Steeple Bells" on tone bars! Soon we will see the symbols for these patterns – our first experience with pitched notation.

#### ...Around the World – Mrs. Fields

We have started Germany unit, the last one in this two-year course. We learned that Bach's 324<sup>th</sup> birthday was March 21, and Handel's just a few weeks earlier. Listening to an excerpt from Handel's Water Music, we were able to identify some very advanced rhythms – "easy" said one student!

#### Musikgarten at The Cherry Tree Club – Mrs. Thompson & Mrs. Fields

At this free preschool for homeless children, the students have been eagerly embracing the sounds and experiences of Spring, singing, listening, dancing and acting out songs and stories about subjects like baby animals and gardening. It has been especially rewarding to note the progress the children have made in echoing rhythms and tonal patterns and also the growth in language acquisition by not only the younger students of the class but also the second-language learners.

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## Piano Notes 🎵 and News! Spring 2009

### Important Dates

- May 1:** Deadline for entering the Composition contest
- May 1:** Piano Interview sign up: Music Maker Yr. 2 students
- May 15:** Piano Interview sign up open to the public
- May 21:** Ms. Thompson's classes and lessons will NOT meet.
- May 25:** Studio closed for Memorial Day
- June 2-6:** Make up Week #2
- June 4:** Piano recital rehearsals at Prince of Peace church
- June 7:** Spring Recitals at 2:30 and 4:00pm
- June 8 & 9:** Piano Placement Interviews
- June 9:** Summer Piano lessons start
- June 15 – July 2:** Piano Prep camp (Mon & Thurs 4:30pm)



**Festival News:** Many students from our studio participated in one or both festivals this year: Piano Teachers Forum and New Jersey Music Teachers Association. We are very proud of all of them! Congratulations to all winners of the Blue Ribbon (PTF) and to those that got the highest (Excellent) ratings (NJMTA).

### FEATURING our MUSICIANS IN THE MAKING:

- Intermediate student **Chloe Hoag** has a starring role in "The Perils of Paul," a musical at Allentown Presbyterian Church (<http://www.allentownpresbyterian.org/music.php>). The performance is part of her weekly R.O.C.K group annual spring event. Community performance is Friday, 5/15/09 at 7pm; Church Service performances are 8:30 and 11:00 am Sunday, 5/17/09.
- Faculty member **Lauren Thompson** will be playing the Prelude from Bach's English Suite No. 2 in a minor as The New School for Music Study presents the last concert in their Faculty Recital Series, Sunday, April 26, 2:00 p.m., at Princeton Theological Seminary. The recital will highlight composers included in the Frances Clark Library.

**What About Summer?** Summer lessons are available for currently enrolled students. Fall 09 Beginners should save Mondays and Thursdays at 4:30, June 15-July 2 for Piano Prep Camp! For more info visit our website or look for the brochures in our studio!

**Camp Albemarle** on the campus of the American Boychoir School in Princeton is a wonderful music camp for both boys and girls, ages 7-14. Campers can board, or be daycampers. [www.americanboychoir.org/pdf/Brochure\\_all\\_pages\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.americanboychoir.org/pdf/Brochure_all_pages_FINAL.pdf)

### PIANO CLASS REPORTS

#### Beginners – Mrs. Kindervatter

The Beginner piano class has learned so much since September. They have gone from learning music by rote and graphic notation to being genuine music readers! We have been focusing on ties, upbeats and quarter, half and whole rests in music. They will also begin work on their pieces for the June 7th recital, which will be assigned soon. I encourage the parents of these children to be involved as much as possible in supporting your child's practice of this piece, since it will be the first-ever big recital for most of them and they will be much more relaxed if they are secure and confident of their music. I will be introducing a "points for practice" challenge after the holiday, where I will tally the amount of practice check marks on their activity sheets (one point for each mark), with the goal of reaching 1500 pts. as a class by the recital.

#### Advanced Beginners – Mrs. Thompson

The Advanced Beginner class, which meets twice a week, has recently started Music Tree 2B. Students are working on Major tetra-scales, the interval of a 6<sup>th</sup>, and triplet rhythms. This semester the class is working on a Practicing Challenge, in which they earn points for every day they practice and for completing their written assignments.

#### Intermediate Repertoire – Mrs. Thompson

The focus for this semester in Intermediate Repertoire Class has been performance preparation for upcoming piano festivals and recitals. Our technique has centered on Major tetra-scales, and our rhythm activities have concentrated on compound meter. The class continues to work on special compositions and projects on the composers featured in the *Piano Explorer* magazine.

#### Advanced Repertoire – Mrs. Thompson

Spring piano festivals and recitals have been a high priority in this more advanced bi-weekly repertoire class. This semester, the students are counting 4-part rhythm ensembles and reviewing their scale technique. The class has been studying theme and variations form, listening to composers such as Liszt and Mozart, and this study will culminate in a class composition: *Theme and Variations on the tune Simple Gifts*.

#### Performance Class – Mrs. Fields

In March everyone who entered a spring piano festival got a blue ribbon &/or the highest rating – congratulations! We're looking forward to the May 6 Master Class with Phyllis Lehrer, Westminster Choir College faculty, on recital pieces. That evening we will also hear performances of any Composition Contest entries.