



Musicians in the Making

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

Musikgarten

Notes and News!

Winter 2009

Important Dates



Spring semester starts the week of January 25!

Registration Deadline: January 19

January 18-24: semester break for Musikgarten (makeup week)

January 19: MLK Day: Please note that the studio is open!

February 12-18: Presidents' Weekend – studio is closed!

April 6-12: Spring Break

Soon: Information about Summer Music Camps!

COMING EVENTS: Musikgarten Spring Preview

brings prospective teachers to our Plainsboro studio!

Saturday, April 4 from 10:30-11am, come and be part

of the Teacher Training Demonstration Class taught by

our own Mrs. Linda M. Fields. Children ages 2-4 with

a parent will receive a special gift for participating. Let

Jasna know you're interested by March 1.

FEATURING your MUSICIAN IN THE MAKING:

Please tell us about any musical events that involve

your family or someone in your family! We would love

to publicize it in our next newsletter coming out the

week of April 19!

MUSIKGARTEN CLASS REPORTS

Family Music – Mrs. Keurajian

This class is enjoying lots of fun songs and fingerplays about animals, especially dogs and puppies. Our creative musical play involves jingles, drums and hoops. We have been practicing our major and minor tonal patterns and are getting quite good at duple patterns. This group is full of joy and love of music.

The Cycle of Seasons – Mrs. Keurajian

Can you purr like a cat? Can you bark like a dog? The Tuesday morning Cycles class is having fun vocalizing animal sounds and experimenting with animal movement. Can you make a drum sound like rain? This group loves to explore new sounds on the drum and rhythm sticks and is getting quite good at echoing more complicated duple and triple patterns.

The Cycle of Seasons – Mrs. DiGioia

Our Wednesday morning Cycles class has been so much fun! We have enjoyed lots of songs and activities about everything from the working on the farm and going to the fair, to bugs, birds and pets. The children are doing a wonderful job with their tonal and rhythm patterns and are always excited to have a turn echoing along. Some of our favorite songs are "Wake Me, Shake Me" and "Here We Go Looby Loo"

Music Makers...

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

The Monday evening Music Makers one class continues to be an enthusiastic and engaged group. They have learned so much! The class was introduced to the Orchestral family groups this semester. They also learned dynamic markings for piano, forte, crescendo and decrescendo and had practical experiences using them in listening, songs, with percussion instruments and in vocal exercises. They have been practicing reading short rhythmic patterns, and writing them too!

...Around the World – Mrs. Fields

In our newest unit, (AmerIndians) the Year 2 class is getting familiar with the sounds and notation of minor. Hoop Dance (including a 16-name Tribal Chant!) is becoming a favorite, we can sing Canoe Song with a 3-part instrumental accompaniment, and we are learning beautiful hand-motions to Land of the Silver Birch.

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

The Cherry Tree Club, a free preschool for homeless children, has had "MusicTime" since November. We have listened to and imitated birds, bugs and animals; used our names in Whoops Johnny!; sang and danced with hoops to Here We Go Looby Loo. Many are already echoing accurately!

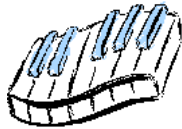
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Piano
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Important Dates



Do you study with Victoria Chow?

- Please be sure to attend your group classes now!
- Private Lessons resume 1/18.

January 19: MLKing Day -- Please note - the studio is open!

February 12-18: President's Weekend – the studio is closed!

March 8 & 15: NJMTA Festival

March 14: PTF Festival

March 28 & 29: PTF Festival Recitals

April 6-12: Spring Break!

April 5 and 13-18: Snow/MakeUp Days

Soon: Information about Summer Piano Program!



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PIANO CLASS REPORTS

Beginners – Mrs. Kindervatter

The Beginner Piano class has finished their first piano book, *Time to Begin!* These students are off and running, learning to read notes on a staff, discovering and using Landmarks notes as tools to find new notes. They will also begin to learn basic skills of improvisation at the piano.

Advanced Beginners – Mrs. Thompson

This class of enthusiastic students is working through Part 2A in the Music Tree series and will be beginning Part 2B in the coming weeks. Students have mastered many new concepts, including major and minor five-finger patterns, use of the pedal, and rhythms using both 8th notes and dotted quarter notes. The class is beginning to learn how to accompany melodies with tonic and dominant tones, a functional skill used by musicians of all ages.

Intermediate Repertoire – Mrs. Thompson

A bi-weekly program that focuses on performance skills, this class includes students who are on their way to or through The Music Tree Part 3. Students play repertoire for one another and make comments and suggestions following classmates' performances, showing that they are not only good performers but good listeners as well. The boys and girls also enjoy rhythm ensembles, sight-playing games, and ear-training activities. A highlight of the class is learning about composers featured in the *Piano Explorer* magazine.

Advanced Repertoire – Mrs. Thompson

This more advanced bi-weekly repertoire class also places a high priority on performance skills, typically from The Music Tree Part 4. The students not only play expressively but also make valuable, often very insightful comments after hearing their peers play. Favorite activities include rhythm ensembles, sight-playing games, and ear-training activities. This exciting semester culminated with a performance of the class members' original compositions, each one representing one of the four seasons. The pieces were written after listening to Vivaldi's "Four Seasons."

Performance Class – Mrs. Fields

January 21st we will go to Matthew Mahoney's house to view *Note By Note*, a documentary about making a Steinway Piano – the only piano still made entirely by hand. Thank you, Mahoneys! This will be our last time together as one group; February 4 we split into 5:30 and 6:30 classes.