

MUSICIANS IN THE MAKING

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

Musikgarten

Notes and News!

Fall 2010



From the Director:

At the start of a new school year, I like to encourage MUSIKGARTEN parents to cultivate the important art of Observation: What types of music appeal to your child? Does she prefer singing... or dancing? In what situations might he try to move his body and use his voice at the same time? Thinking about these sorts of things as you observe your child in music class and at home will help you understand your youngster, and may inform future decisions. So enjoy those precious moments of interacting with your little one, and rejoice in the amazing things you observe!

Linda Fields

Important Dates

November 4 & 5: 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 21 - 27: Thanksgiving week – studio is closed

December 19 – January 1: Winter Break

January 16 – 22: Make up week

January 23: Spring semester starts

COMING EVENTS: Mid-Semester Specials are available now, and registration for the Spring semester starts in November. Familiar with our **Early Enrollment Earnings** plan? Register early and earn real dollars! Look for the green “Early Enrollment Earnings” box in our brochures and on the 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. Eng

Family Music has been going well. It's a nice mix of old and new families which always is helpful for establishing the routine. The kids are great. We've had vocalizing at the end of songs and many “again and agains”. Overall it is a great start to the new semester and I'm looking forward to making music with the families.

The Cycle of Seasons – Mrs. Eng

Cycles is also going well. We experienced our Week 3 Magic this past week, everyone stayed in class the entire time and I was only asked a few times when Mommy was going to come in. The children are enjoying the pretend play we have had a herd of horses and a bale of turtles. (A bale is a group of turtles). We've begun to practice vocalizing with simple repeated phrases of animal sounds. I'm excited to watch the children become more independent and explore their voices.

Music Makers...

...At Home in the World – Mrs. Fields

The children in this class have reached two major milestones: reading/writing symbols which represent sounds, and creating a 2-part rhythmic ensemble. Early experiences with graphic notation will lead soon to decoding actual musical symbols. And successfully fitting one part (being played) into another part (being heard) shows growing rhythmic security.

KCCNS – Mrs. DiGioia

Our classes at Kids Corner Cooperative Nursery School are off to a great start! We are enjoying MusikGarten's, The Cycles of the Seasons program with the focus on Autumn for the October and November sessions. The children are singing, playing and dancing to songs like ‘Hop old Squirrel’ and ‘What Can We Do On A Nice Fall Day’, listening to poems like ‘Fall of the Year’, and are learning to echo rhythm and tonal patterns in small groups. They love to play with the rhythm sticks, jingles and egg shakers throughout the class and use scarves for our free dance.

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Piano
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Fall 2010

From the Director:

Welcome families! We are all looking forward to another exciting year of piano studies at Musicians in the Making. I hope you have all embraced our PHD (Practice Hard Daily) incentive and are encouraging your child to complete 100 consecutive days of practice!

Honey Merkel
Important Dates

November 4 & 5: 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 21 - 27: Thanksgiving week – studio is closed

December 2 – 9: 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 12 -- 18: Make up week

December 19 – January 1: Winter Break



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UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS:

NJMTA Festival: February 20 and 27

NJMTA Performathon: February 26 & 27

PTF Festival: March 12

PIANO CLASS REPORTS

Beginners – Ms. Chow

We have gotten off to a great start! Thank you for encouraging your students to practice hard! We are working on reading seconds and thirds and I hope to finish the primer book around the New Year. Please continue to encourage your students to use their practice steps, counting outloud and keeping their eyes on their music (not their hands). Thanks for the great work! We're having an awesome time!

Advanced Beginners – Mrs. Topham

These girls remember a lot from last year and are well on their way to mastering eighth notes, major and minor 5-finger patterns, and accompanying tunes with tonic and dominant. Each class begins with singing, dancing, and most importantly—accompanying. We are continuing to work on note naming and recognition as well as reading skills with fun games and even blindfolds!

Intermediate Repertoire – Mrs. Topham

The boys in this class love to play the piano! It is great to hear the pieces they have prepared to perform each class, and even more exciting to hear their comments on the performances. We have begun introductory dictation with success, and are working on accompanying a melody with chords. Each month we will also discuss and play a game about the composer from the Piano Explorer—Hector Berlioz is up next.

Advanced Repertoire – Mrs. Topham

This class is learning about forms from the Classical time period. We've started looking at a Clementi Sonata and will soon be composing our own. The other project for the year for these students is learning all major and minor scales. Each class we cover a new scale and will have a celebration when everyone has completed them all.

Performance Classes – Mrs. Lehrer

This year's performance classes are gearing up for some exciting competition! Students are preparing scales for monthly classes worth points in technique, musicality, and overall execution of performance – each student who participates will earn points during the year; the student with the most points by the final performance class will be named the Scale Champion of the year at the June recital (one winner per class). So students, pull out your metronome and start playing those scales! And good luck – we're excited to be a part of your progress!