

Musicians in the Making

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



Notes and News!

Winter 2010



From the Director:

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe the fall semester is nearly over. We've seen such exciting growth in the students since September. Be sure to read the class reports for details. I hope one of your New Year's resolutions is to continue what you started. Consistency is one of the most important things a young child can experience, and also one of MUSIKGARTEN's strongest teaching philosophies. We encourage all currently enrolled families to continue what you started by re-enrolling for the next semester. Those seeds planted last fall will be nurtured and fertilized in the spring. Wait 'til you see what amazing things your child will be doing by summer!

Important Dates

Linda Fields

January 17-23: Semester break (makeup week)

January 24: Spring semester starts – don't miss out!

January 18: MLKing Day: studio is open

February 11-17: Presidents' Weekend – studio is closed

March 29-April 4: Spring Break

COMING EVENTS: **Musikgarten Spring Preview** brings prospective teachers to our Plainsboro studio! Saturday, April 10 from 10:30-11am, come and be part of the Teacher Training Demonstration Class taught by our own Mrs. Linda M. Fields. Children ages 0-5 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 in April.

MUSIKGARTEN Delivers! is a resource for parents, by brain science educator, Dr. Dee Coulter and Musikgarten author, Dr. Lorna Heyge. Twelve areas are addressed, with tips for each age. An excerpt: "How many times do we say to a child 'Just sit down and listen!' ... Children need to move so that they become well acquainted with their bodies in order to learn how to hold still! Children need quiet listening... to be able to tune in to individual sounds"

Want to learn more? Email Linda Fields and she'll tell you how you can obtain these valuable writings to read and share!

MUSIKGARTEN CLASS REPORTS

Family Music (Tuesday) – Mrs. Keurajian

This class is enjoying lots of fun songs and fingerplays about animals. This month we are singing about the turtle. The children are getting quite good at playing the resonator bars and love experimenting with the Cymbal and Guitar. The children in this class are beginning to vocalize much more to each other. They seem to enjoy the jingles and rhythm stick play.

Family Music (Thursday) Mrs. Keurajian

This class is also enjoying lots of fun songs and fingerplays about animals. This month we are also singing about the turtle. Class favorites continue to be scarf play to "cuckoo" songs and anything with jingles. Children were introduced to two new instruments, the Cymbal and Guitar. This class loves to dance and move.

The Cycle of Seasons – Mrs. Keurajian

This class has an active imagination. They love to act out walks in the snow, snowman making, and hot chocolate drinking. Whatever the story, they are in on the fun without hesitation. This class is practicing duple and triple patterns as well as matching pitches in both major and minor keys with success. They are also learning listening skills and have demonstrated their ability to listen and pick out specific animal sounds.

Family Music – Mrs. DeGioia

The new season of winter is bringing some amazing changes to our Family Music class! Our littlest students are now crawling, making our class time an absolute joy! Songs like "Jolly Sailors" and "A Ram Sam Sam" are class favorites. They are all responding and reacting with such excitement to the music, activities during the class. The introduction to new instruments, such as the triangle and guiro, keep the children mesmerized. They have such a look of wonder as they touch the instruments and feel the vibrations of the music they are hearing.

The Cycle of Seasons – Mrs. DiGioia

Our Wednesday morning Cycles class is ready for winter with lots of fun songs and activities. We're dancing, playing sensory games like "Prickly Tickly", and using our imaginations with "Crystal's Drum Story" or "The Tortoise and the Hare". The children are making continued progress with echoing rhythm and tonal patterns. They really enjoy playing instruments such as drums and rhythm sticks along with the songs we sing. Some of their favorite songs are "Hop Along, Mister Hare", "Wake Me, Shake Me" and "Looby Loo".

Music Makers...

...At Home in the World – Mrs. Fields

These young students can now read and write four rhythmic patterns! We celebrated Beethoven's Birthday in December, listening to some of his music as we used our new knowledge of dynamics (piano and forte).

...Around the World – Mrs. Fields

As we celebrate the AmerIndians, our Hoop Dance includes a four-part chanting ensemble with pairs of students holding their parts securely – awesome! We are also adding syncopated percussion parts to Canoe Song, one of our favorites.

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Piano
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From the Director:

Dear Parents,

The budding pianists at Musicians in the Making have had a strong start to the teaching year. It was my delight to meet with many of you and to hear so many fine performances during the December Parent Classes.

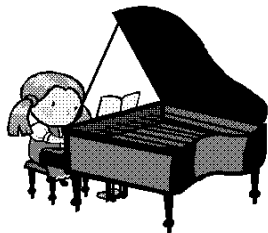
I am pleased to know that several students will be participating in the upcoming Spring Festival events. These events are wonderful performance opportunities and I am confident that the students will all put forth their best practice for these events.

honey barker
Important Dates

Do you study with Victoria Chow?

- Please be sure to attend your group classes now!
- Private Lessons resume 1/17.

January 18: MLK Day -- studio is open
February 7 & 14: NJMTA 2010 Spring Festival
February 11-17: President's Weekend – studio is closed
February 20 & 21: NJMTA Performathon
March 13: PTF Spring Festival
March 27 & 28: PTF Festival Honors Recitals
March 29-April 4: Spring Break
March 28 and April 5-10: Snow/MakeUp Days
April 11 & 18: NJMTA Spring Recital Auditions



You are invited: Our very own, piano teacher Mrs. Laura Klein, will be having her Spring Recital and you are invited! Come and enjoy her performance on Saturday, February 27th at 4pm at Westminster Choir College, Williamson Hall, 101 Walnut Lane, Princeton.

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PIANO CLASS REPORTS

Beginners – Mrs. Topham

This class has completed their first piano book, Time to Begin! These students now know all the white notes on the piano, intervals through a fifth on the staff, and some dynamics and articulation. As they move into Music Tree 1 students will enjoy playing some familiar tunes as well as learning new ones. They will begin to use all five fingers in both hands and learn the names of notes on the staff. But most importantly, these students will focus on listening to the sound they are making and the mood of the music that they are creating!

Advanced Beginners – Miss Chow

What an exciting wrap to the first half of the year! Musical jeopardy was so much fun in both revealing what the students' learned in just a couple months and also providing parents/students an opportunity for teamwork! The highlights: "who's your private piano teacher?" and "no dinner for you!" This coming year brings a new book: Part 2B as well as new concepts like scales, triplets and 6ths. I am excited to continue journeying with the boys in the new year! With enthusiasm and musical cheers for 2010!

Intermediate Repertoire – Mrs. Topham

These students have mastered the 12-bar blues! They really enjoyed showing off their improvising skills to their parents in December and can create a jazzy boogie or mournful blues song whenever they feel like it. They will continue their study of 20th Century music in 2010 by exploring chance music and new ways of making sounds on the piano. They will also continue to improve their aural skills by practicing dictation every class and their theory skills by working with the circle of fifths. This class is also realizing that as the music gets harder, more practicing is required so they, with their parents, have made a resolution to practice more and keep a record of it!

Advanced Repertoire – Mrs. Topham

This class has increased their musical knowledge by successfully working with interval and chord inversions. They have also internalized syncopated rhythms and accompanying with chords and their inversions. This class has also increased their musicality by exploring compositions inspired by art and nature. They have shown their musical sensitivity by composing beautiful pieces about the month of November, and by learning several new pieces in different musical styles. In the upcoming year they will combine all their knowledge and creativity by studying and creating compositions inspired by literature, especially poetry.

Performance Classes – Ms. Lehrer

Thank you to all the parents for coming to the performances in December and for supporting your children. It was great to hear the progress that each student made from the November performance classes and fun to have an informal performance with parents there to share in the experience. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next class.