

MUSICIANS IN THE MAKING

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

MUSIKGARTEN

# Notes and News!

Fall 2011



### From the Director:

*Please teach my child to relax and be calm.* Have you ever wished for that? Renowned brain science educator Dr. Dee Coulter, says this ability to self-regulate will be used our whole lives. Babies learn to calm by being calmed – in other words we need to coach them. One of our most powerful tools is music. At all levels, MUSIKGARTEN classes carefully imbed relaxing songs, lullabies and quiet activities through the lesson, providing opportunities for shifting from excitement to calmness, from movement to stillness. Look for carryover when your child gets overly excited. You may be happily surprised!

*Linda Fieble*

### Important Dates

**November 10 & 11:** 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 20 - 26:** Thanksgiving week – studio is closed

**December 20 – January 2:** Winter Break – studio is closed

**January 15 – 21:** Make up week

**January 22:** 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.

**STEEL PAN DRUMMER:** 9th grader Joe Maggiore was our Guest Artist at our Fall Family Music Party on October 2. He played some fun music, and showed us how the steel drum is made and played! Our sing-along was especially fun as Joe played our favorites: Twinkle Twinkle/ABC Song, The Wheels on the Bus and others. Thanks, Ms. Elana, for bringing Joe to us!

**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 (Tuesday) – Mrs. Eng

This class is off to a great start. The children have all learned the class routine and understand that when instruments go away its okay we are going to do something else fun now. The parent participation is wonderful. Favorites so far are any song with names or with jumping!

### The Cycle of Seasons (Tuesday) – Mrs. Eng

What a great class we have developed. These children love making animal noises at our "farm," and enjoy teaching their moms and caregivers the songs and activities. Everyone is adjusting to not having Mom or caregiver around for the first 30 minutes. We are looking forward to more fall fun!

### The Cycle of Seasons (Saturday) – Ms. Latorre

Our class is bursting with creative ideas. They are surely singing with their CD's at home as they are more than well-prepared. I had not expected to move into solfege so quickly but they are ready! It will be fun staying ahead of this precocious group.

### Music Makers...

#### ...At Home in the World (Thursday) – Ms. Chow

It's a great start to the year, exploring sounds and music around "My Home Place" plus recognizing the sounds of drums, recorders and guitars - all of this through fun songs, dances, drawing, story-telling, poetry and make-believe. These children, who each have MUSIKGARTEN experience, are learning so quickly!

#### ...At Home in the World (Saturday) – Ms. Chow

What a great group of students we have! This class has been filled with singing, dancing, drawing, story-telling, discussion and play-pretending around the theme of "My Home Place". Every week is a new adventure as we have fun with graphic notation, singing solfege syllables and recognizing Gordon rhythm syllables.

#### ...Around The World (Wednesday)– Mrs. Fields

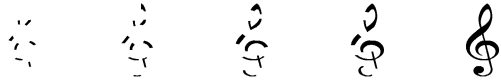
Exploring England in The British Isles, we improvised a play about Dick Whittington's Cat, and enjoyed a "pass game" to London's Bells. Rhythmic notation now includes the half-note. And we've taken home music to two favorites: Mouse Mousie and Who's That. Ireland, Scotland and Wales are also on our itinerary.

### Kids Corner CNS – Mrs. DiGioia

Our classes at KCCNS have started! The children are having a wonderful time, enjoying songs and activities while discovering nature's seasonal changes. We're starting rhythm and tonal patterns in large groups; later in the year we'll do these in small ensembles. The children love the instruments, scarves, singing and dancing!

### Montessori Home School – Mrs. DiGioia

The Music Keys Program is off to a great start! The children enjoy singing, dancing and finger plays, with lots of movement and fun. They are echoing rhythm and tonal patterns in a large group and recently started individually. They love playing instruments. Their favorite activity is the listening sounds.



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PIANO

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Fall 2011

### From the Director:

Welcome back to another year! We've had a strong start and we're excited about the opportunities and progress that students will have this year. Be sure to read the class reports to see how teachers are incorporating fun learning projects that will take place throughout the year. We are continuing our PHD program from last year; the change this year is 3 exception days (dates need to be marked on the PHD sheet). Students who complete the PHD using no exceptions will receive their PHD *summa cum laude*. Happy Fall!



### Important Dates

**November 10 & 11:** 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 20 - 26:** Thanksgiving week – studio is closed

**December 1 – 12:** Holiday Parent Classes – open classes for families to attend and enjoy the performances

**December 13 -- 19:** Make up week

**December 20 – January 2:** Winter Break – studio is closed



### 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.

### UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS:

**NJMTA Festival:** February; exact dates TBD

**NJMTA Performathon:** February 25 & 26

**PTF Festival:** March 10

### PIANO CLASS REPORTS

#### Beginners – Ms. Chow

This awesome class is exploring 2nds and 3rds in the intervallic world. We are also having fun creating projects about dynamics - see their fabulous projects in the lobby! Activities every week include playing, listening, reading, going "Around the World" with flashcards, composing and ensemble work. Great work, students!

#### Advanced Beginners – Ms. Chow

We're having fun with eighth notes, five finger patterns and Perfect 5ths. This group completed "Around the World" flashcards in 1 minute 53 seconds - a significant improvement from our September time of 4 minutes. Great job! This class includes reading, playing, listening, performing and composing each week.

#### Intermediate Repertoire – Ms. Chow

This group completes technique, Piano Explorer and repertoire assignments for every class. At year's end, the student with the most well-prepared technique will be awarded the Terrific Technique award and the student completing the most Piano Explorer assignments will be awarded the Piano Explorer Expert award. Good luck everyone!

#### Advanced/Accelerated Repertoire – Ms. Chow

Everyone in this talented mixture of students prepares at least two performance-ready pieces for a panel of "American Idol" judges at each class. Students have been very "Paula"-esque in complimenting and encouraging each other! Students also may earn year-end Terrific Technique (with customized routines) and Piano Explorer Expert awards.

#### Pre-Performance Class – Mrs. Klein

In our first monthly class, students played some exciting pieces and were introduced to the project-of-the-year: each student will research a composer and do a related creative display. They will also become the composer in the competition contest with an additional element -critiquing another student who is performing their piece!

#### Performance Class – Mrs. Klein

This class is small, but includes some very accomplished pianists, already playing with maturing musicality and expression! This year students will do a Recital Project, complete with a program, program notes, and a performance of one piece from the program. This will prepare them for possible recital(s) in high school.