



Musicians in the Making

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



Notes and News!

Winter 2012

Breaking News: We're now on Facebook! Go to www.musiciansinthemaking.com and Like Us!

From the Director:

When is a child ready for piano lessons? Since the body is our first musical instrument, it follows that hearing and thinking tonal and rhythmic patterns, and producing them with voice or body should come first. This leads to playing large-motor instruments and eventually, formal lessons, usually starting around age 7. Look for these milestones as you observe your child in class and at home:

1. accurate echoing using a neutral syllable
2. accurate echoing using music language
3. singing/chanting while playing a large-motor instrument

Enjoy observing your child, and celebrate each step along the way to instrumental lessons!



Important Dates

January 15 – 21: Semester break (make up week)

January 22: Spring semester starts – don't miss out!

February 5: Family Music Party

February 16-22: Presidents' weekend – studio is closed

March 31: Spring Preview

April 8-14: Spring Break



COMING EVENTS: Musikgarten Spring Preview brings prospective teachers to our Plainsboro studio! Saturday, March 31, 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 15.

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 CLASS REPORTS

Family Music (Tuesday) – Mrs. Eng

This class is growing by musical leaps and bounds. The children continue to surprise me every week with their musical abilities and their imaginative ways of using the instruments. We love to use the hoops and scarves and I'm frequently reminded to not "forget" to take them out! Looking forward to the New Year and the new semester coming soon!

The Cycle of Seasons (Tuesday) – Mrs. Eng

This group of children has great imaginations and I often find myself following their lead and loving how our stories and musical play turns out. They enjoy our tone bar play and have really mastered rhythm patterns! I'm looking forward to our water play and songs in the New Year and also to watching them expand my imagination.

The Cycle of Seasons (Saturday) – Ms. Latorre

I am enjoying the spirit of this class – the children are so eager to sing and echo patterns and they really enjoy testing me! I love their ideas for moving to music (especially 'My Day'). Some of these movements are quite challenging for a more 'mature' person like me. At least I've gotten my exercise in for the day! Our initial shyness is gone – no one needs mother to walk them into class. These children are ready to go!

Music Makers...

...At Home in the World (Thursday and Saturday)

- Ms. Chow

In the new year, we continue to explore dynamics (forte/piano/crescendos/decrescendos), new rhythmic patterns and finish our Woodlands unit. The students have developed excellent listening skills through listening to animal excerpts, classical music excerpts and my very own story telling - their ability to sit still and focus is astounding! They have continued to use their bodies as large motor movements to engage their musical senses. They have continued to improve on their small motor movements through finger play and drawing. I look forward to these classes every week and can't wait to see everybody's improvement! Thank you PARENTS for being so enthusiastic and encouraging for our budding musicians.

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

As they learn about AmerIndians, this class definitely has favorites, including Hoop Dance and also Canoe Song. In this unit we are concentrating on minor tonality, and the children sound quite beautiful when they sing together – a budding children's choir. The rhythmic patterns include syncopation, fun to include in ensembles!

Kids Corner CNS – Mrs. DiGioia

We are warming up winter at KCCNS with lots of music, movement and fun! The children have been making considerable progress with their rhythm and tonal patterns in large groups, with the 4's already echoing very well in small ensembles. They really enjoy the listening sounds and playing instruments and they have all settled in nicely with the flow of the class. The favorite activity for the 2's, 3's, and 4's is dancing with the scarves.

Montessori Home School – Mrs. DiGioia

Our Music Keys class at the Montessori Home School is doing very well! The children are adding their own individual ideas to the songs and dances, and having lots of fun. The children are echoing rhythm and tonal patterns in a large group, as well as small ensembles and individually. They are making wonderful progress matching pitch and rhythms. They always enjoy the listening sounds and playing with the instruments and scarves. They love playing instruments. Their favorite activity is the listening sounds.

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PIANO

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From the Director:

It is hard to believe that 2012 is here already – one year coming to a close with another year bright and fresh on its heels. What a year this will be! With spring festivals, composition contests, class activities, and recitals, students, teachers, and parents alike will be busy. So I encourage each of you to remember what all these activities are really about – music: the language that crosses cultures, dialects, and backgrounds; the personal meaning to each of us; the gift, both to ourselves and those with whom we come in musical contact. All the best in your musical explorations!



Important Dates

- January 16:** ML King Day -- studio is open
- February 25 & 26:** NJMTA Performathon
- February 26 & March 4:** NJMTA Spring Festival
- March 10:** PTF Festival
- March 18 & April 1:** NJMTA Spring Recital Auditions
- April 1-7:** Snow/MakeUp Days
- April 8-14:** Spring Break



ALUMNI NEWS: Nine year old MitM alumna Wenlan Jackson performed in Carnegie Hall on January 14, as a top state scorer in The Achievement Program of Carnegie Hall/The Royal Conservatory. In addition, Wenlan was among the highest scorers nationwide. As a result, she was invited to audition for the popular radio program, "From the Top", hosted by Christopher O'Riley. The taping for accepted performers will be in March, with airdate to be announced. Linda Fields has been Skype-coaching Wenlan, who now lives in Brussels, Belgium where she is an Artist in Residence at the prestigious Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, majoring in violin.

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PIANO CLASS REPORTS

Beginners – Ms. Chow

The girls in this class had a great parent class! We played games, did rhythm patterns, taught our parents about intervals, performed many pieces and had fun doing it all! We look forward to using flashcards and reading on the grand staff in the New Year!

Advanced Beginners – Ms. Chow

We had a fun time playing Music Trivia at our parent class along with performing pieces all by ourselves! They performed two solo pieces each, their very own composition and an optional holiday piece; what a great accomplishment. We are looking forward to starting Music Tree 2B in the New Year!

Intermediate Repertoire – Ms. Chow

The girls had a great time playing holiday duets! What coordination and focus it takes to play with another student - brava, students! At the parent class, every student had two pieces ready to perform for the audience. This is a precursor for what is to come in our next project -SPRING FESTIVALS; as every student will be required to play two pieces by memory at the festivals.

Advanced/Accelerated Repertoire – Ms. Chow

This class had a great time playing two/three solo pieces and duet holiday pieces. The students performed Jolly Old St. Nicholas, Silent Night and Jingle Bells - all with only rehearsing ONE TIME! Wow! As we look forward to our next project - Spring Recitals - we continue to develop our technique, festival etiquette and critical listening. Keep working on those Piano Explorers!

Pre-Performance Class – Mrs. Klein

We had a fabulous Parent Holiday Class! Students were exciting in their performances! Each brought a solo and holiday piece to perform for the class. Nerves were high, but so was the anticipation of performing. After the performances, parents and students played against each other in a fun game of "Guess the Musical Era". While students took the lead, parents came in close behind. As we look ahead to the spring, students should keep track of their class activities timeline (see Ms. Laura if you need another copy!).

Performance Class – Mrs. Klein

Small, yet full of flying fingers, our parent class was a lot of fun! Students played solo and holiday pieces, complete with program notes (for the solo pieces, that is). As in the PrePerformance class, students and parents played against each other for points in a listening game of guessing the correct musical era. Kathryn and Laura were impressed with both the students' and parents' knowledge! Looking ahead: students, remember to record yourself performing (any piece is fine!) and write a review for the next class (only positive criticism allowed!).