



TAL-ED TALES

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Why Music Lessons?

Donna Wiehe

As parents and teachers we do not plan on any student necessarily becoming a professional musician. So, why should students take music lessons? Numerous reasons can be offered for children taking music lessons.

Although this may seem elementary, children learning to play a musical instrument—regardless of whether it is a piano, violin, cello or harp—must maintain good posture in order to play the instrument well. When learning to play violin, viola, and cello, children learn the discipline of keeping their feet correctly placed on a foot chart. This discipline likewise can be translated to the child in the classroom who must pay attention, remain in their seat and follow directions given by the teacher.

Learning to play an instrument involves learning age-appropriate skills. For example, concentration is a critical variable in learning to play an instrument. The ability to concentrate can spill over into other areas of a child's cognitive functioning, such as performance in school subjects.

The expectation that children play in recitals involves not only adequate preparation of the piece performed but also the ability to perform in public. This skill can transfer over to the academic setting where children need to answer questions when called upon by the teacher, participate in classroom discussion, and speak in front of classmates.

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Fall Semester Group Lessons at Gardenside Baptist Church

Violins

Jerry Guo
Philip Burke
Ruth Choate
Aly Ackerman

Twinklers

Teacher: Nathalie Olivier
Time: 3:45-4:30

Samuel Christopher
Sylvia Scott
Mary-Katherine Schmidt
Carrie Ackerman
Aaron Choate
Madeleine Farrar

Book I (1st half)

Teacher: Stacey McGoodwin
Time: 4:15-5:00 *note earlier time*

Jessica Gebhardt
Shanti James
Griffin Farrar
Basil McCoy
Ella Cunningham
Nathan McIntire

Book I (2nd half)

Teacher: Nathalie Olivier
Time: 4:30-5:15

Leandra Caywood
Walt Finch
Gunnar Hamilton
Jettie Swisher
Varun Ramakrishnan

Book 2-3+
Teacher: Tina Simpson
Time: 4:30-5:15

Jacob Rackmil
Hannah McGoodwin
Kristin Morrill
Will Akel
Gabriella Lopez
Hannah Ruggles
Michael Goffinet
Elizabeth Burke

Cellos

Book 1

Teacher: Marsha Pendley
Time: 4:00-4:30

Book 2

Teacher: Marsha Pendley
Time: 5:00-5:45

For e-mail reminders of LTEA events and activities join the LTEA Yahoo group at <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/ltea/>

Learning these skills can result in the development of positive self-esteem in a child as these skills are reinforced by teachers and parents. A child is not born with positive self-esteem nor can it be given to a child by their parents. It is a developmental process significantly heightened by playing a musical instrument.

As a Suzuki teacher I have witnessed this success repeatedly over the years in working with, for example, beginning students. My favorite moment is when children “earn” their violin after learning beginning skills on a box. Their facial expression shows their pride and joy, a reflection of their positive self-esteem. Graduating from the box to the violin tells the child that they are doing well in beginning to learn their instrument.

Music lessons are an entree into a world of new friendships. Several years ago I conducted a survey of Suzuki violin and piano students in which they were asked, “When did playing your instrument mean something to you, rather than simply something your parents wanted you to do?” The overwhelming response, regardless of the child’s gender or the instrument they played, reflected the friendships they made with other youth when participating in group lessons, ensembles, and in orchestras. My son is one example of this. He studied clarinet and, at one time, wanted to quit taking music lessons. I urged him to continue until he had the experience of playing two years in his high school band. The friendships he made in band, as well as the fun of participating in this extra auricular activity, convinced him to continue with his instrument.

Although college and pressures of employment may create impediments to the continuation of playing into adulthood, the basic skills gained by playing an instrument still enrich lives into adulthood and even as late as into retirement. I have observed over the years in my teaching that students, when becoming an adult, may switch to a different instrument. Their music skills acquired through weekly music lessons are a significant factor in their wish to learn to play an instrument and to continue to enjoy music. I know two such students who were trained as children through the Suzuki Method, but as adults changed to guitar and are involved in performing publicly. For other students who have not continued to pursue their instruments, they have a rich appreciation of music. The skills acquired through music lessons as a child have made them informed listeners.

Parents should be thanked and congratulated for giving their children a gift that lasts a lifetime - music lessons.

LTEA Contact Info

Board

Registrar: Ruth Lundborg - lteareg@yahoo.com

President: Bill Hoyt - lteapres@yahoo.com

Vice President: Karen Akel - lteavp@yahoo.com

Secretary: Regi Goffinet - lteasec@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Isabel Chewning - lteatreas@yahoo.com

Communications: Lori

Spragens - lteacom@yahoo.com

Hospitality: Kati Meier - lteahos@yahoo.com

Fundraising: Kathy Winger - lteafund@yahoo.com

Public Relations: Elaine Cook - harpline@qx.net

Omsbud: Cindy Niklas - lteaomsbud@yahoo.com

Instructors

Violin:

Stacey McGoodwin (stacey143@wildmail.com)

Meg Saunders (Megvln@aol.com)

Tina Simpson (tina_simpson4@hotmail.com)

Donna Wiehe (lteadonna@yahoo.com)

Piano:

Dale Dufour (lteadale@yahoo.com)

Barbara Herbener (lteabarbara@yahoo.com)

Joan Monsen (lteaj Joan@yahoo.com)

Cello:

Clyde Beavers (feststrings@aol.com)

Marsha Pendley (pendleym@hotmail.com)

Harp:

Elaine Cook (harpline@qx.net)



2005-2006 LTEA CALENDAR (Tentative)

Date	Event	Time	Location
September 1, 2005	Parent Meeting	7pm	Gardenside Bap.
September 1, 2005	TUITION DUE		
September 8, 2005	Groups Begin	3:45-5:45	Gardenside
September 26, 2005	Teachers Meeting	12pm	
September 30, 2005	Recital	7:30pm	tba
October 12, 2005	NO GROUPS		
October 23, 2005	Recital	2pm	tba
October 24, 2005	Teachers Meeting	12 pm	
October 27, 2005	Area Recitals	4:30 pm	tba
November 1, 2005	TUITION DUE		
November 18, 2005	Recital	7:30pm	tba
November 28, 2005	Teachers Meeting	12pm	
December 1, 2005	Groups End		Gardenside
December 4, 2005	Recital	2pm	
January 1, 2006	TUITION DUE		
January 5, 2006	Groups Begin		Gardenside
January 22, 2006	Recital	2pm	tba
January 30, 2006	Teachers Meeting	12pm	
February 3-5, 2006	CKSSTA String Workshop		
February 24, 2006	Recital	7:30pm	tba
February 27, 2006	Teachers Meeting	12pm	
March 1, 2006	TUITION DUE		
March 16, 2006	Area Recitals	4:30pm	tba
March 26, 2006	Recital	2pm	tba
March 27, 2006	Teachers Meeting	12pm	
March 30, 2006	Groups End		Gardenside
April 20, 2006	Potluck Rehearsal		
April 21, 2006	Potluck		
April 24, 2006	Teachers Meeting	12pm	
May 7, 2006	Recitals	2 & 3 pm	tba
May 13-14, 2006	Mayfest		

Group Lesson Schedule: Fall semester begins Thursday, September 8th and continues until Thursday, December 1st.

Lexington Talent Education Association
PO Box 23715
Lexington, KY 40523



TAL-ED
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LEXINGTON TALENT
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2005

Opening Parents/Teachers Meeting

Thursday, September 1, 2005

4:30 pm

Gardenside Baptist Church
1667 Alexandria Drive