

Calendar

Vacations

Oct 17-22 NO CLASSES (see Events)

Events

Oct 17 & 20 6 - 8pm AND

Oct 22 10am - noon: 'Five Minutes of Fame' Music Celebration

October Birthdays

01 Patricia Coleman
06 Peter Sukstorf
07 Aeden Leahy
09 Cameron McWilliams
13 Andy Nguyen
13 Shane Nguyen
13 Laurie Richards
15 Jackie Hibbs
17 Nathan Hurley
18 Anna Peters
19 Nathan Kucera
20 Marlene Adams
22 Asa DeWitt
23 Jackson Speece
28 Sherrine Fossler
30 Jacob Wessel

Exciting New Simply Music Program!

Laurie and Sherrine had the pleasure of attending live training in Kansas City for the new Play-a-Story program soon to be released. We have known this was coming for a while and have been super excited about it. But honestly, we had no idea the treat we were in for!

The concept for Play-a-Story was born when Australian Simply Music teacher Lyndel Kennedy observed her 4-year-old daughter becoming visibly emotional over a beautiful piece of music she was hearing. Lyndel realized that there is no minimum age for recognizing the emotion inherent in music, and that we have an opportunity to begin capturing the emotion and creativity of young children while they are still freely expressing it.

Over the past five years, the concept has evolved into a beautiful program appropriate for all ages and abilities. The program teaches some basic musical theory concepts in the context of improvising and creating one's own music. Simple motifs and patterns are taught and discovered using the entire keyboard and later expanded upon. These are used to play expressively in response to a story and related images. The student home materials provide all the support needed at home to freely create and express music without attention on what's 'right' or 'wrong'.

We will be ready to start with some classes in the next month!

Kansas City Simply Music Teacher Conference

As usual, we had a great time with our Simply Music 'family' September 23 - 26 in Kansas City! A few highlights:

- The Play-a-Story training with Lyndel Kennedy (see above article)
- All the great teacher workshops, including Jazz with Neil, worship workshops, drawing out creativity, teaching lessons via Skype, and much more
- A presentation by Laurie about teaching special needs students, which ended up being a heart-to-heart among the teachers about how we honor - or avoid - others for who they are regardless of their circumstances
- Watching Neil connect with Kansas City area students at the Meet and Greet - such a treat!

Other than a 4m fire alarm and hotel evacuation, everything went smoothly, and the Kansas City teachers did a great job of organizing this big event. Next fall, Omaha hosts!

How to Check our Calendar

Our studio schedule is available online. Here is how you can check the calendar :

- ◆ Log in to your online account (link available on Student Resources page of keystoharmony.com)
- ◆ Click 'Enroll in a Class' (under #3)
- ◆ Select #1 (2011 Classes)

The studio calendar will appear, showing regular class schedules. Classes are named according to the current level of the class. You may also check the Workshops & Special Events calendar for other events.

Once you have found what you need, simply click 'Log out' at the bottom of the screen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please help us spread the word - we are offering guitar lessons now at Keys to Harmony and have three very talented teachers ready to start classes.
- Just a reminder: You are charged in advance for any student home materials that we order for you. When you see a charge for materials on your bill, you can expect to receive the materials some time in the next month.
- Laurie will be having jaw surgery on October 5. She will be out recovering for 1 - 2 weeks. Other Simply Music teachers will substitute teach all her classes during that time. Laurie will continue to check her e-mail every 5 minutes. :D
- Thank you for reading the newsletter!

STUDENT LYRICS

"Scooting Down the Driveway"

by Levi Hill

(sung to The Pipes)

Zooming down the driveway
on my scooter in the sun.
This must be my favorite
way to exercise and fun!
I get a bit of speed up, then
Take off into the air
I get a lot of bruises but I
Never really care!

"We Call Her Donkey"

by Jacob Wessel

(sung to The Pipes)

Donkey is a funny little puppy
that's for sure
She follows mommy all around and
drives her up a wall
She runs around, chases her tail,
Growls at me and more
She pins us down and licks our face
when we get home from school
Java is her actual name but
Donkey suits her well

"Rainy Days"

by Blase Sindelar

(sung to Dog?)

I like rainy days
It is fun to play
Maybe I will go outside
Today
When I play outside
It's so nice inside
Then I decide I'd
Rather play inside

"Basketball"

by Max Peterson

(sung to Dog?)

I like basketball
Basketball is fun
Haven't played this weekend
I need to play a game
I found my basketball
I called all of my friends
We played until the sun set
Wow did we have fun

"Rain Storm"

by Connie Buscher

(sung to Night Storm)

Clouds are forming
Crickets calling
Rain is on the way
Wind starts blowing
Birds quit showing
No more golf today

"My Pet Dogs"

by Max Sindelar

(sung to Dog?)

I like my pet dogs
They are really cute
They are always chewing up
Everything
Bosco is the boy
Valentine's the girl
They follow me around and
Wag their little tails

CHOPIN THE TEACHER

by Joao Paulo Casaroti, University of ND

I thought this was quite interesting, particularly since Chopin is my favorite classical composer.

~ Laurie

Chopin's Fee

According to his students Jan Matuszynsky in 1834 and Charles Halle in 1836, Chopin charged at least twenty francs per lesson. A letter from George Sand dating 1841 reveals that Chopin's fees were still the same. In fact, Chopin's fee was considered one of the highest fees of his day. "During that period the wage of a skilled French laborer probably seldom exceeded four francs a day; therefore Chopin was earning, through forty-five minutes of teaching, five times as much as the worker was earning through an entire day of skilled labor." When criticized for his high fees, Chopin responded arrogantly. George Sand wrote:

A few fine ladies protested that the rue Pigalle was too far from their elegant districts. He answered: "Ladies, I give much better lessons in my own room and on my own piano for twenty francs than I do for thirty at my pupils' homes, and besides, you have to send your carriages to fetch me. So take your choice."

In another situation, he replied:

Kalkbrenner charged twenty-five francs. Today I am to give five lessons. You probably think I am making a fortune, but you are wrong. The cab [carriage] and white gloves cost more than I earn but without them I would not be in good form.

Chopin preferred teaching in his own apartment and on his own pianos; although as mentioned by Sand's letter he would accept teaching at his students home with an additional fee, plus transportation costs. "Almost all his students who wrote about their lessons with Chopin wrote of going to his apartment." In fact, Chopin maintained an elegant apartment in Paris, where he lived and maintained his studio. In a letter to Chopin, his father shows understanding of the necessity of having such a fashionable apartment, although he expresses worry with the expenses caused by such a luxury:

So now you are settled with your own furniture, and indeed not without some little luxury, if I may say so. But I quite understand that you had to have it since you give your lessons at home, and now, as always people judge by appearances. But go steady, my boy, go steady.

