



# SANTA ROSA AREA MUSIC TOGETHER NEWS

A newsletter for Music Together families in Santa Rosa, Windsor, and Healdsburg

Volume I, Issue II ♦ Fall 2005



## Special "HOLIDAY SESSION" coming up!



Just for fun before the holidays, I'm offering a special limited session, only 3 weeks long, from the week of November 28 to the week of December 12. We'll sing a few holiday songs from different traditions, and some favorite MT songs! It will be set up like a Music Together class, except there will be no song collection to take home, and children of *any* age are welcome (even older ones). Registration is on a first-come, first served basis, and the cost will be \$30.00/child for the full three weeks.

All classes will be at Ellington Hall in Santa Rosa, and taught by Ginger.

The schedule will be:

Mondays (Nov. 28, Dec. 5 and 12) 9:30, 10:30, and 11:30 AM

Tuesdays (Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and 13) 9:30, 10:30, and 11:30 AM

Thursdays (Dec. 1, 8, and 15) 10:30 and 11:30 AM



Please use the form attached to this sheet to register for this special session. Enrollment for this session is separate from enrollment for winter session.

## Winter Session 2006 Taking Shape

**Priority registration** for winter session will begin the week of October 24, and go until your last class date. If you register in this 3-week period, you will be guaranteed your spot for winter session. If you wish to change your class day or time, registering early in the priority period will put you in the best position to get your first choice to switch. **Winter session will be from the week of January 9 to the week of March 13.** There will be registration information in your class on the first week of the priority period. The schedule of class offerings will be the same as for fall. Open enrollment for families not currently registered begins on November 19.



## Successful Changes to Report...

In the last issue of this newsletter, there were many changes on the horizon. I'm happy to report that they've all come about, and successfully! (I had a BUSY summer!) We now have four locations (Windsor, Healdsburg, and 2 in Santa Rosa)!! The babies class and two older kids' classes are up and running, and Audrey has joined the team! Elena even ended up staying, on Wednesdays only. She will stay with us for awhile, taking a break in the spring to have her BABY!! (I'm sure she'll appreciate all the sage advice from you mommies!) ☺

## Mid-Session Check-in time!

Now is the time to have your say, via the evaluation form that will arrive in your email (there will also be hard copies in class). We read all of them, and greatly value your input. Thanks for letting us know how it's going for you!



## Job Announcement

I am looking for a part-time office assistant. The duties would include many aspects of administration including bookkeeping, making phone calls, getting mailings out, and managing and maintaining databases. Requirements: Previous experience and knowledge of computers. Working knowledge of QuickBooks is desired. In time, much of the work should be able to be done from your home. The exact number of hours per week would vary. If interested, please contact Ginger Parish at 544-5747, or send resume and references to me at 3450 Franz Valley Rd. Santa Rosa, CA, 95404.

This newsletter was created by Ginger Parish, Director of Santa Rosa Area Music Together. Please direct comments and questions to me at 544-5747 or [gingerparish@netzero.net](mailto:gingerparish@netzero.net). Thanks.

## Scheduling Make-Up Classes

Here's a reminder how to use the online make-up scheduler:

Go to:

<http://makeups.musictogether.com>

Then type in this access key:

**ginger**

(I hoped this one might be easy to remember ☺) Each child can have two make-ups in a session. If you missed a class, and you want to make it up, don't put it off! The last weeks get very crowded.

*The scheduler is the best way to get a make-up class, but if you can't do it online for some reason, you can call me (Ginger) to set up a make-up by phone.*

## A Halloween song to share:



### "Jack-o-Lantern"

(sung to the tune of "My Darling Clementine")

Jack-o-Lantern, Jack-o-Lantern,  
you are such a funny sight  
As you sit there on my window,  
looking out into the night  
You were once a yellow pumpkin,  
growing on a sturdy vine  
Now you are my Jack-o-Lantern,  
let your candle light shine!



**Reminder...** Fall session will end the week before Thanksgiving.



**Happy Thanksgiving to all!**

## ♪ A Few Thoughts... ♪

Why do we all get together each week and sing and move? Why do our three teachers give so much time and thought to these lessons we bring each week? The reason we're here - parents and teachers alike - is because we love these children and we want what's best for their development. We have all heard that music and movement stimulates brain development and aids a child with learning other non-musical subjects (language, math, etc.). But let's not forget the importance of helping our children in their musical development for the sake of music itself. The ability to express oneself musically is extremely satisfying and enjoyable for anyone who feels able to do it, and is deeply connected to our emotional selves.

Certainly the experience of coming to a place each week where children can be involved with people making live music is very powerful, and helps to create a foundation of self confidence. I only hope that you, as parents, never underestimate the power of *yourself*, at home, as your child's best musical role model!

Remember these things: When you play percussion instruments, sing, or dance at home, let yourself really get into it, regardless of what your child is doing. It's important that you see the song through to the end *even if your child is not participating with you!!* If you stop, perhaps feeling frustrated that your child isn't engaging in that moment, your child will notice!! It's better to send the message that music-making is something **you** do for fun for yourself!! Your child will eventually want to do it too, in his/her own way and time. Be patient with the process. Your child learns music the way s/he learns language - it's gradual and goes through many stages. Lastly, I hope you delight in your child's every musical stage, as s/he works up to singing in tune and moving in rhythm at last. It's a fine journey, and a wonder to behold.

- *Peace and Harmony, Ginger*

## Keep the Music Alive!

As you finish this fall session with BONGOS, please remember to **keep** doing music with your child every day! It's really

**YOUR** model of music-making that means the most to your child educationally. You're taking your child on a wonderful journey toward music competence; don't stop when class ends!! Keep up the good work!



## Babies Only Class

This fall, we are having a blast in the Babies Only class! I will be offering another one this winter, at the same time: Thursdays at 11:30. If you or someone you know are interested, please let me know. This class is open to anyone with a baby 8 months old or younger.