



# SANTA ROSA AREA MUSIC TOGETHER NEWS

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

Volume II, Issue II ♦ Spring/Summer 2006



## Newcomers to welcome!!

Toot Toot!! Our wonderful Music Together center is chugga-choo-choo-ing along, thanks to two new teachers and a new administrative assistant who all have answered my prayers (and my ads...) and have been working with me this spring!!

### Welcome, Helen and Rachel...

Into our teaching community, we welcome Helen Boland Morse and Rachel Tree! They have both received their "official" training on the use of our curriculum, and have been doing their practice teaching this spring. I look forward to working with them both, and know they will love working with our wonderful families. They begin teaching this summer.

### Welcome, Andrea...

On the office front, I'm thrilled to welcome Andrea McFadin (you may know her as Delaney's mommy on Mondays!) Andrea's been working to help me enter ridiculous piles of data into a new program which we'll use to manage things!! There are many things to be done, and I plan to keep her very busy!!!

Thanks to all of you who helped me spread the word about these positions!

## A Fond Farewell to Audrey...

After a year of some fun, some hard work, and some very careful consideration, Audrey has decided to leave Music Together. She will be finishing up this Spring session with her Friday classes. Many of you have

attended her classes, and enjoyed her upbeat energy, graceful movements, and warm smiles. We'll miss you Audrey, and wish you much luck in your life's next journey!



## Healdsburg Classes

Music Together is indeed returning to Healdsburg this fall! We'll be back at the Healdsburg Ballet, but classes will be switched to Thursdays. If Healdsburg classes interest you, you can begin registering right now, during the priority period! Call me if you have any questions!



## Party on June 10!

Many people have asked me if there will be another potluck/picnic this year and the answer is.. *OF COURSE!!* I hope you can make it to this yearly, wonderful gathering of Music Together families set for Saturday afternoon, June 10. I hold these at my house (I have a big yard!) We'll play, sing, chat, and eat! You'll all get an "official" invitation soon, but get it on your calendar now. They are always such fun!

### SEE INSIDE / BACK FOR:

- Registration News:
- Summer and Fall
- Elena's baby
- End of the session calendar
- Make-up scheduler reminder
- "Homeplay" ideas
- ...and more!

### Keep the Music Alive!

As you finish this session with the TRIANGLE collection, 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!!



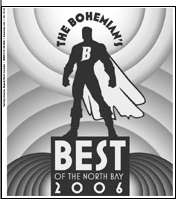
## Registration News...

• **Summer classes will be held after all!** Summer session will run from June 19 through August 11, with NO CLASSES on the week of July 3-7. I'm very happy to be able to offer some summer options. The locations will be only Ellington Hall (all 5 weekday mornings) and Windsor Community Center (Wednesday evenings). All summer classes are first-come, first-served, so they are all *wide open*. You can register for a summer class any time, starting now! Look for the yellow brochures in class. Online registration is available, too. There are only mixed-age classes in summer, the Babies' and Big Kids' classes will return in the fall. I am taking a much-needed break this summer, but our two fine new teachers will carry the summer classes!

• **Lots of changes this fall!!** Look at the schedule you'll be given in class for the details, but basically there will be classes 5 mornings a week at Ellington Hall, the Healdsburg classes will return, and there will be the same offerings in Windsor. There is a good chance there will be a couple of morning options in Windsor this fall, too, but I'm still working out the details. I'll keep you all posted, and don't forget to check in with the website - I'll keep it updated.

• **Priority registration** for FALL session will begin this week, the week of May 15, and go until your class day on the week of June 5-9. If you register in this 3-week period, you will be guaranteed your spot for fall 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. There will be many new class offerings and teacher switches, so look at the schedule given in class carefully.** Fall session will start the week of September 11, and run for 10 consecutive weeks.

• **Why continue in music classes anyway?** Most families choose to keep their children in classes for several sessions, because the development of musical skills in a young child is ongoing, and continues to build in a deep way with focused experiences. In classes, you can be sure your child will have exposure to a meaningful and powerful group music-making experience each week!



### Thanks Again!!

Once again, thank you for voting for Santa Rosa Area Music Together for the "Best Place to Inspire Children" in the Bohemian this year! We promise to continue to work hard to bring you the best program we can! *My* inspiration though, comes from YOU, the families who are committed to raising your children thoughtfully! You're terrific!!

### Song Collections

In the summer, we use "Summer" collections, made up of songs chosen from the nine song collections used during the school year. There are three summer collections. The summer songs are carefully chosen to not include songs from the session just prior to or immediately following it, so you can enjoy some different songs.

Coming up in Fall, we'll be using the FIDDLE song collection (what kids call "the green one"). This is a great one, with fun songs like "Crawdad" and "Sweet Potato" – I'm looking forward to doing it again already!!

### Welcome, Adah Margaret!



Elena had her baby on April 15! Her name is Adah Margaret Perry, and she is doing very well along with her proud and happy parents! Elena will be re-

turning this fall to teach Music Together on Monday mornings at Ellington Hall!! Congratulations to Elena and Steve, and to all the other parents of newborns this

spring! Adah is in good company, as there have been many new babies born just recently in our Music Together community!



## MAY/JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>MAY</b> 14	15 Regular classes	16 Regular classes	17 Regular classes	18 Regular classes	19 Regular classes	20
<b>Registration:</b>	<b>*Priority begins →</b>					
21	22 Regular classes	23 Regular classes	24 Regular classes	25 <b>NO classes held</b>	26 Regular classes	27
28	29 <b>NO classes held</b>	30 Regular classes	31 Regular classes	1 <b>JUNE</b> Regular classes	2 Regular classes	3
4	5 Regular classes	6 <u>LAST DAY</u> Regular classes	7 <u>LAST DAY</u> Regular classes	8 Regular classes	9 <u>LAST DAY</u> Regular classes	10 <b>MUSIC POTLUCK/ PICNIC!!!!</b>
<b>*****Priority Registration Ends - at your class meeting this week!!!!*****</b>						
11	12 <u>LAST DAY</u> Regular classes	13	14	15 <u>LAST DAY</u> Regular classes	16	17

### Summer Session Classes will begin on Monday, June 19.

#### REMINDER:

#### 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:

**wiggle**

(You can also find a scheduler link at [www.musiceveryone.com](http://www.musiceveryone.com),

on the home page, under

"For Currently Enrolled Families")

*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) at 544-5747 to set one up by phone.*

#### Big Kids' Class

We've been having tremendous fun in the "Older Kids' Classes! These are the ones that meet on Mondays at 2:00 PM and Thursdays at 3:30 PM. This spring, there are 19 children enrolled in those classes, and I'm delighted by how much music they can make!!! I developed these classes for the experienced Music Together children who are ready to move on musically and socially. Children must be between 3½ and 6, and have had 2 prior sessions of MT to join us. There will be many qualified children this fall - perhaps you'll consider joining us!

#### Babies Only



This spring, we are having a blast in the Babies Only class! There will be another one in the fall, only it will switch to Wednesdays 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.

**Ginger's Journeying** to the far east... East Coast, that is! This weekend, May 19-21, I'll be flying to Princeton, New Jersey to attend a conference of Music Together directors. I hope to come back filled with great ideas, and recharged! I'll be sure to share what I learn...



## “Homeplay” suggestions ...

Last year I had “Homeplay” sheets available after each class. They were kind of like homework, except without the work! They weren’t utilized by enough people to justify my continuing them weekly, but so many did say they enjoyed them, that I thought I’d use part of the newsletter three times a year to give a few suggestions. Here are some ideas just for fun:



### I) Time out for play:

- This week, do “Skip To My Lou” at home at least one time without the CD. Try making up some new verses for it, using things you do in your lives around home. Remember to just do it yourself, even if your child isn’t participating with you. It helps your child just to see your example of spontaneous music making!
- Play “Baa Baa Little Star” (the play-along piece) with instruments (if you don’t have many, use some “kitchen” ones), and watch your child’s reaction. Let yourself really listen to it and get into it, regardless of what your child is doing. **Important:** When you do a musical activity at home, whether scarf-dancing, playing instruments, whatever, **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!! This will teach two things: 1) making music isn’t something worth sticking with for your own enjoyment, and 2) your child will think his/her participation is the only reason you make music (it may actually be, but it’s better to send the message that it’s something **you** do for fun!!). You’re the role model!
- Have a parade! Sing something with a marching beat “This Old Man”, “When the Saints Go Marching In”, and “The Ants Go Marching One by One” come to mind...), and play instruments and march around. It’s fun to do with more people, so see what family members you can get to do it with you! Set up a row of stuffed animals on the couch to watch the parade go by!

### II) Fun with daily routines:

- As you’re coming in the house from a car ride, sing “Hello Everybody” to things in your house. Another time, play “peek-a-boo” with a scarf or your songbook while singing the Hello song to your child.
- At bath time, sing “Ladybug” while crawling your fingers on your child like a ladybug (or use a toy). Make up new words!
- The next time you are picking up toys or doing some other repetitive motion, sing a rhythmic song such as “Allee Galloo” or “Old Blue” and turn the job into a music time, popping toys away on the beat! Maybe your child will even join in with you...
- The rhyme “Ten Little Fingers” can be very engaging for little ones. Try using it this week while you’re doing a diaper change-it may stop a wiggly baby or toddler long enough to do the job quickly! If your child is no longer in diapers, use this chant while dressing or putting on shoes.

### III.) Songbook Activity:

- Read the parent introduction pages (particularly pgs. 5-8) in your songbook (especially if you haven’t already!) and see if you can relate any of it to what we did in class this week.
- Point out pictures in the book that relate to this week’s class (instruments, animals, etc.) Talk about seeing/doing those things in class as you look in the songbook. Sing or chant a song or two while you’re at it!
- Sit with your child and your songbook, and find the “Skip to my Lou” picture (pg. 40). Point out the different parts of the picture. Make up words to the song from the picture. (“Baker in the window, waving to me!” then “wave, wave, wave to my Lou”, etc.) It’s fun to tap the beat onto the picture while you sing. Or, find any one of your favorite songs or rhymes in the book and sing it to your child while tapping the rhythm of the song or rhyme on the page. Point out the pictures that go with it too. You can do this while the song is playing on the stereo or not.