



# SANTA ROSA AREA MUSIC TOGETHER NEWS

For Music Together families in Santa Rosa, Windsor, and Healdsburg.

Volume II, Issue III ♦ Fall 2006



## Special "HOLIDAY SESSION" coming again!



It's back by popular demand! Just for fun before the holidays, I'm offering a special limited session, **Tuesdays only** for 3 weeks, from November 28 to December 12. We'll sing some 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. 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.

**Tuesdays: Nov. 28, Dec. 5 and 12 ♦ 9:30, 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.**

### Keep the Music Alive!

As you finish this session with the Fiddle 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!! Keep up the good work! (See other side for some fun suggestions...)

### Babies Only



There will be another Babies Only class offered this winter, on Wednesdays at 11:30. If you or someone you know are interested, please let me know. This is meant to be an introduction to Music Together for newborns and their parents, and is open to anyone with a baby 8 months old or younger.

### Older 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 fall, there are 15 children enrolled in these 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 4 and 6, and have had 2 prior sessions of MT to join us. Please note that I've changed the starting age to 4 years old. If you're curious about these classes, call me! Perhaps you'll consider joining us!

### Registration News...

• **Priority registration** for Winter session began last week (Oct. 23), and will go until your last class day on the week of November 13-17. If you register in this 3-week period, you will be guaranteed your spot for next 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.** You may register in class, by mail, or online. Please look over the registration information being handed out in classes so you know the procedure. You must **include your payment** with your registration, whether you register in class, by mail or online. Winter session will start the week of January 8, 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 music skills, like language development, is ongoing, continuing to build in a deep way with focused experiences. Brain research shows us that music aptitude can actually increase or decrease depending on environment. In other words "use it or lose it"! The brain is making important neural connections in early childhood that must continue to be exercised so they're not "pruned". In classes, you can be sure your child will have exposure to a meaningful and powerful group music-making experience each week!

If you have any questions regarding your child's musical progress please ask your teacher about it, or call me (Ginger). I love to help parents interpret what's happening for their children from a developmental standpoint - it's such an amazing journey to watch your child grow through!



### Healdsburg Classes

Music Together will continue in Healdsburg this winter! Our classes are held at the Healdsburg Ballet on Thursday mornings. These classes are great for Healdsburg and Cloverdale families; not so much driving! Please let your North County friends know they are happening, and call me if you have any questions!



## 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 on my website [www.santarosamusictogether.com](http://www.santarosamusictogether.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.*



## "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 "Sweet Potato" 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 "Lauren's Waltz" (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 "Marching and Drumming" (AKA "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 "Apples and Cherries", making up new words about the things in the tub or body parts you're washing. For example: "Toy boats and froggies, wash cloth and shampoo, tiny little toes... Scrub, scrub, scrub, scrub"....etc.
- The next time you are picking up toys or doing some other repetitive motion, sing a rhythmic song such as "A Ram Sam Sam" or "Sweet Potato", or a chant like "Sounds of Fall" or "Marching and Drumming" 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 "Here is the Beehive" 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've been doing in classes.
- Point out to your child 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 "Crowdad" picture (pg. 14). Point out the different parts of the picture. Make up words to the song from the picture. ("I see a bunny by the tree, honey" (3x) then "I wonder if he will wink at me! Honey, oh Baby mine", 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.