



# SANTA ROSA AREA MUSIC TOGETHER NEWS

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

Volume III, Issue II ♦ Spring/Summer 2007



## Regression is Review

Have you noticed that sometimes in class children regress to younger-child-like behaviors? Sometimes you may see an older child revisit early behaviors you thought she had outgrown. It's important to remember that, for young children, regression is a form of review, and that most children need to go back and practice early skills in order to keep building and refining their repertoire. How can you respond when you sense your child is regressing (in class or at home)? . . . Join her in the activity and at the level she shows you. If she becomes shy or withdrawn, accept it, give her space, and keep participating yourself.

## The Tiny Ones...

Congratulations to all families who have had a new baby since last fall! I love seeing the newborns in class, as they grow (fast!) and respond so stunningly to our music activities. With a very young baby in class, please remember to give yourself permission to adjust what the class is doing to fit the needs of your baby. If you never got the "infant suggestions" handout, ask your teacher for one. ...And don't forget -sing to your baby every day!

## Healdsburg!!

Hey all you North County dwellers: Good News! - classes are a-comin'! We have decided to offer summer classes in Healdsburg after all! They'll be at their regular time, on Thursday mornings. Hopefully this will help our dear Healdsburg families who wish to continue! This means there won't be Santa Rosa classes on Thursdays this summer.

## A Fond Farewell to Elena ...

I was looking over past newsletters recently, and noticed that we have said farewell to Elena twice before! One was a false alarm, one a maternity leave. Sadly, this time it really is Elena's last session wiggling, neighing, and singing her way around Sonoma County. She's taking her considerable talents to Seattle, WA, where she'll be teaching MT beginning this Fall. She

and her husband and baby daughter are moving to be near family, and they are so excited to begin life in the Pacific Northwest. I know her Monday families will miss her, and I will too, big time. Thanks for three wonderful years of working together, dear Elena; we wish you all the best! Lucky Seattle!



## Referral discount

Help get the word out, and get a tuition break! If you refer a new family that joins a summer class, I'll offer you \$10.00 off your tuition for summer or fall. I always appreciate your referrals, so this is a way for me to thank you for helping me spread the word about our summer classes!

### SEE INSIDE / BACK FOR:

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- End of the session calendar
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- ...and more!

## Demo Classes Coming Up

There will be two demonstration MT classes coming up before summer session. Experienced families are welcome to attend a demo as long as there's space - please contact me if you're interested! If you have friends who'd like to see what the program's all about, please send them my way!!

The demos will be:

**Wednesday, June 6 - 4:30 PM in Windsor and**  
**Saturday, June 9 - 10:00 AM in Santa Rosa**

Both demos will be taught by me (Ginger).

## Keep the Music Alive!

As you finish this session, 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!





## Registration News...

• **Summer classes!** Summer session will run from June 18 through August 10, with no classes on the week of July 2-6. The locations will be Ellington Hall (mornings, M, T, W, and F), Windsor Community Center (Wed. late afternoons), and Healdsburg (Thurs. mornings). All summer classes are first-come, first-served, so they are all *wide open*. Look for the schedule in class, or go to [www.santarosamusictogether.com](http://www.santarosamusictogether.com) to register online. You can register for a summer class any time, starting now! All summer classes are mixed-age. I am taking a much-needed break from teaching this summer, but Helen and our fine new teacher Laura will carry the summer classes!

• **Reduced Summer Schedule** Our summer schedule is missing a few class times that are currently running. We hope you can find a summer class to suit you, even if you must change your location just for the summer. Driving to Ellington Hall from the center of Windsor takes only 7 minutes!

• **Priority registration** for FALL session will begin Monday, May 21, and go until Friday, June 8. If you register in this 3-week period, you will be guaranteed your spot for fall session. You'll be given registration materials in class the week of May 21, *read your materials carefully!* I'll also send an email reminder out. **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.** Fall session will start the week of September 10, and run for 10 consecutive weeks.

• **Fall Session** Look at the schedule you'll be given in class for the details, but basically the class offerings for fall will be the same as they are now, with one notable exception: **Windsor Monday mornings in Fall will have to be switched to Wednesdays.** I'm sorry to say that we're unable to continue on Mondays at the Agatha Furth Center, but we're hopeful that Wednesday mornings will work for our beloved Windsor families in the fall.

• **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!

### Welcome, Laura Hays!

We are excited to welcome a new teacher into our Music Together community! Laura comes to us with experience already as a MT teacher in Massachusetts, where she taught 6 years ago. She has just recently moved to our area, and she's spending this spring team-teaching with me to re-familiarize herself with the program. Laura sings and plays flute and guitar, and has been a dancer for 22 years. She's also into the healing arts, and has had a private practice as a body worker and body-oriented therapist since 1985. She's a Registered Movement Therapist, a teacher of Authentic Movement, and a Certified Infant Massage Instructor.

Laura will begin this summer, on Monday mornings at Ellington Hall, and Wednesday evenings in Windsor.

### 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 FLUTES song collection. This is a great one, with fun songs like "Shake Those 'Simmons Down" and "Hey Lolly, Lolly" – I'm looking forward to doing it again already!!

### Scheduling Make-Up Classes

Go to: <http://makeups.musicstogether.com>, then type in the access key: **wiggle** -Also at [www.santarosamusictogether.com](http://www.santarosamusictogether.com) there's a link on the home page.

**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. Phone is easier for me than email for scheduling make-ups! Thanks!**



**MAY/JUNE**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13 <b>MAY</b>	14 Regular classes	15 Regular classes	16 Regular classes	17 Regular classes	18 Regular classes	19
20	21 Regular classes	22 Regular classes	23 Regular classes	24 Regular classes	25 Regular classes	26
<b>Registration:</b>	<b>*Priority begins</b>	→				
27	28 <i>NO classes - Memorial Day</i>	29 Regular classes	30 Regular classes	31 Regular classes	1 <b>JUNE</b> Regular classes	2
3	4 Regular classes	5 <u>LAST DAY</u> Regular classes	6 <u>LAST DAY</u> Regular classes <i>Free Demo Class 4:30PM at Wind- sor Comm. Cntr.- Tell your friends!!!</i>	7 <u>LAST DAY</u> Regular classes	8 <u>LAST DAY</u> Regular classes <i>Priority Reg. period ends!</i>	9 <i>Free Demo Class 10:00AM at Ellington Hall - Tell your friends!!!</i>
10	11 <u>LAST DAY</u> Regular classes	12	13	14	15	16

**Summer Session Classes will begin on Monday, June 18!**

**Big Kids' News!!!**

Of course in Music Together, a "big kid" is anyone over 3! Here are some pieces of good news concerning upcoming music class possibilities this fall for those "big kids" out there.

1.) Coming this fall will be the new Music Together curriculum called Big Kids Family Music!! Big Kids Family Music™ is a new 60-minute class geared to the interests and social nature of children ages 5 and 6. (To attend "BKFM" class, your child must be 5 years of age by the start of the semester you wish to attend.) Families still play an important role in this class, although the adults and children may have different musical roles. Game songs, folk dances, jam sessions, dramatic play, and more structured work in rhythm and tonality will be included. Learn how to support your child musically as he or she develops interests and skills in singing, playing instruments, taking dramatic roles, creating, and dancing. This class will meet Thursdays at 3:30 PM. **At last!! Music Together for up to age 7!!!**

2.) We'll still have our class for 4-5 year-olds who have had at least two prior sessions of MT. This fall there will be one such class, on Mondays at 2:00 PM.

3.) Here's another "Big Kids" idea I'm hatching. It's not Music Together, but it will be a course of my own creation, born of my work with elementary school children, and my training in the Orff approach to music teaching. **I'm planning to begin a children's chorus this fall!!!** This would be for children aged 7 to 12 years who love to sing. The focus will be multi-cultural music, and in addition to singing, we will also explore movement, play drums and other percussion instruments, and play xylophone ensemble music. We'll hopefully have the opportunity to perform in the community as well. The idea will be for children to develop skills working musically in a group while honing their rhythm and tonal work as individuals. Mostly, it will be fun! We'll meet on Mondays from 4:00 to 5:30.

**Clean-up Time**

Many parents have told me over the years how they like to sing the "bum! bum!" tones to help their little ones with clean-up at home. This is great, but *please* don't forget that the whole idea of using those tones is to help the child connect to the most dominant tones in the song we just sang (they are the first and the fifth notes of the key the song was in). So, to easily turn your clean-up time into something that also supports your child's music education, **you can sing a song at clean up time FIRST, before or while putting the toys away, and then do "bum! bum!" with the notes from the song you just sang**, and those tones will actually make sense, being connected to a musical experience!



## “Homeplay” suggestions ...

In the past 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 “Old Brass Wagon” 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 “Tambourine Jam” (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 “Good News”, “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 “One Little Owl”, but change the words to “as they sat in the warm bathtub”. Sing about all *kinds* of things being in that bathtub, then end with “the poor bath tub said ‘oh, no!’ ” Silly parents delight their children!
- The next time you are picking up toys or doing some other repetitive motion, sing a rhythmic song such as “Ride-o” or “Hey Ya Na” 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 “Green and Blue” 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. They love the “boing” part!

### 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 “Good News” picture (pg. 44). Point out the different parts of the picture. Make up words to the song from the picture. 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.