



SANTA ROSA AREA MUSIC TOGETHER NEWS

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

Volume IV, Issue III ♦ Fall 2008



SPECIAL HOLIDAY CLASSES!

Back by popular demand! Just for fun before the holidays, I'm offering a special limited session, **Tuesdays and Wednesdays only for 2 weeks** in December. In the past, I've done three weeks, but I can only do two this year! 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 \$25.00/child for the full two weeks.



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

Tuesdays: Dec. 9 and Dec. 16
Wednesdays: Dec. 10 and Dec. 17
9:30 and 10:30 AM



Please use the form attached to this sheet to register for this special session. There is no online registration for this!

Enrollment for this session is separate from enrollment for winter session.



Sing it, Don't Say it!

We all know that Music Together is a music education program, but you may not have realized that it's a language immersion program, too!

Yes, music is really a language - a critical form of communication deeply rooted in all of us. In his theory of Multiple Intelligences, Dr. Howard Gardener cites "musical intelligence" as one of the eight intelligences by which we know the world around us. According to him, musical intelligence runs in a structural parallel to linguistic intelligence.

Our goal in class is to help our little ones begin the development of their musical intelligence in a meaningful way. Since little children learn from watching and imitating their important grown-ups, while you are in class, it is the most profound kind of music learning for your child if you stay musical for the whole 45 minutes! **We ask you to put your talking voices on hold and use your singing voices, so that the children can have an "immersion" experience.** Speaking directly to children during the types of activities we do can interrupt important musical processing in their brains. It also distracts other families who wish to experience the program the way it is intended. Between songs, please don't talk to your child or another adult. Instead, use non-verbal communication - smiles, gestures, etc. The quiet spaces are very important, and singing the 5-1 (bum! bum!) when we put instruments away is the whole group's job - not just the teacher's! In classes where the adults really practice these important parts of our program, the musical progress made by children is stunning! Remember we are **modeling** - the children really are paying attention to what we do.

When we model focus, we teach our children focus. During these quiet moments we often hear the children humming or singing softly - we can miss that chance if we're not listening for it.

If you must say something to your child in class - try singing it - it's fun - your child will like it, too!

Mud Pie Fundraiser!!

By now you have probably looked at the wonderful Mud Pie Productions musical instruments catalog you were given in class. If you didn't get one, ask your teacher! To help us create a **scholarship fund** for families in need, Mud Pie will donate 15% from all our families' purchases! Shipping is only \$6.00 no matter the size of your order!! If you have any questions about this fundraiser, please read the sheet attached to your catalog, or contact Andrea at 836-7786. *Instruments and CDs make great gifts!*



Many Thanks... to those who have chosen to contribute directly to the scholarship fund! Your kindness is overwhelming to me. With your gifts, and the returns from the instrument sales, I hope we can help several families in 2009!

Re-registration News...

• **Winter classes!** Winter session will run from Monday, January 5 through Friday, March 13 (10 weeks). We will offer the same schedule of classes for winter as we have now.

• **Priority registration** for WINTER session will begin Monday, November 3, and go until Friday, Nov. 21. If you register in this 3-week period, you will be guaranteed your spot for winter session. You'll be given registration materials in class the week of Nov. 3; *read your materials carefully!* I'll also send an email reminder out. You may pre-register for fall by check or online. **If you wish to change your class day or time in the fall, registering early in the priority period will put you in the best position to get your first choice to switch.**

♪ **Note:** *If you decide to wait until open registration to re-enroll, be advised not to wait until after December 31! There will be an added fee of \$10 on all registrations received after December 31.*

• **Why continue in music classes anyway?** The average stay in Music Together is about 2 years per child! Why do so many people consistently re-enroll? 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!

And besides all that - it's a fun thing to keep doing with your children as they become older and more confident of their skills! We look forward to your family continuing this journey toward musical confidence and expression with us!

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!

Please look at the calendar on the back for important session dates.



Evaluations and E-mails

We love to hear how your MT experience is going, so I give out an evaluation form each session. In the past, I have e-mailed them as well as provided hard copies in class. Now, I will no longer have hard copies in class. **To save paper I will still send evaluations by e-mail, and I have also posted a form on the home page of my website you can print, fill out and bring in. Go to: www.santarosamusictogether.com**

We hope to hear from you!

About e-mails, I occasionally send them; a link to the make-up scheduler, evaluations, etc. In a given session, I maybe send three. If I don't have your email address and you'd like to be able to be connected this way, please tell me, so I can get you on the list. You can email me at

gingerparish@netzero.net

or give your teacher your email address in class. Thanks!




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!

Big Kids' News

Sadly, we didn't get enough children this fall to hold our Big Kids Family Music™ class. I'm offering it again this winter. Do you know anyone who might be interested? BKFM is a new 60-minute class geared for children ages 5 and 6. (To attend, your child must be 5 yrs. by the start of the session.) Adults still play an important role in this class, although the adults and children may have different musical roles. It's a fun class! We will meet Thursdays at 3:30 PM in Santa Rosa. No prior Music Together experience is necessary.

Gift Idea? When the grandparents wonder what they can get for the grandchildren for the holidays, remember a Music Together class makes a great gift to your little one!! Gift certificates are available. 

Winter Song Collection

Coming up in winter we'll be using the BELLS song collection. This is a really fun one, with many songs sure to become huge favorites, like "Trot Old Joe" and "Me, You, We". 



Redirecting Distracting Behavior

Sometimes the excitement and stimulation of coming into a Music Together class can cause a child to be very active. If your child is active in class, this is generally just fine, although if his behavior becomes disruptive to others' enjoyment or processing of class activities, we ask that you, the parent, please take an *active* role in re-directing your child's behavior. Disruptive behavior would include running, throwing objects, or hitting the glass mirrors.

I think it's important, no matter how you may be feeling when a child acts this way in class, to try to not make the child feel bad. You honor your child more, and diffuse the situation better, if you use positive redirection. *What's that?* That just means trying to encourage your child by telling him (non-verbally, with music) what he can do instead of what he can't. (Refraining from using the word "no" can actually get you better results!) For example, if your child is beating on the mirror, you can pick him up and dance him to the rhythm of the song we're doing. If that doesn't work, just try staying near him while you keep singing and moving with a big smile. Sometimes just a musical distraction from you is all it takes.

However, if your child doesn't respond to your model of more appropriate behavior, just step out for a brief change of scene, and come back in when you're ready. You might say "If you want to run right now, why don't we go into the hall and you can run, until you're ready to be with what the class is doing?" This is very different than taking your child out as a punishment. Others will thank you for taking an active role, and your child will benefit by being shown, positively, more appropriate ways to behave.

OCT / NOV / DEC 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Oct.	27 Week 7 Regular classes	28 Regular classes	29 Regular classes	30 Regular classes	31  Regular classes	1 Nov.
2 FALL 08 Pre-Registration:	3 Week 8 Regular classes Priority begins	4 Regular classes	5 Regular classes	6 Regular classes	7 Regular classes	8
9	10 Regular classes	11 Regular classes	12 Regular classes	13 Regular classes	14 Regular classes	15
16	17 LAST DAY Regular classes	18 LAST DAY Regular classes	19 LAST DAY Regular classes	20 LAST DAY Regular classes	21 LAST DAY Regular classes Priority Reg. period ends!	22
23	24 Open Registration!	25	26	27 Thanksgiving!	28 	29
30	1 December	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Special Holiday Classes	10 Classes	11	12	13
14	15	16 Special Holiday Classes	17 Classes	18	19	20

Winter Session begins January 5!