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Announcements

- **No classes from Tue. 12/15 – Sat. 12/19** for performance week. Please make sure to check with your child's teacher to see if there is class during that week.
- **Levine closed from Tue. 12/22 – Sun. 1/3** for Winter Holiday.
- Our Second Session of Classes begin on **Tuesday, January 5th**. Registration is open now!
- Our next Facebook Live is **Saturday, December 5th at 4 pm** with Mr. Eric. The theme is **"Two Little Blackbirds with Mr. M! Songs, Dances, and Stories for young children and their families."**

Questions or comments? Please feel free to contact us.

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Virtual Musical Winter Events

A Chanticleer Christmas
December 5th, 8 P.M.
www.hylton.calendar.gmu.edu
\$15

Boston Ballet's The Nutcracker 2020
November 28th- December 5th
www.bostonballet.org
Free

Step Afrika!'s Magical Musical Holiday Step Show
December 16th, 7:30 P.M.
www.cfa.calendar.gmu.edu
Free

Winter Fantasia by the Des Moines Symphony
December 17th, 7:00 PM
www.dmsymphony.org
\$20

Tuneful, Beatful, Artful

By: Gabriela Cohen



Dr. John Feierabend, one of the leading authorities on music and movement development in childhood, believes that the *First Steps Music* curriculum, which he developed and many of us in the First Music Department follow, is designed to prepare children to become "tuneful, beatful, and artful."

Tuneful people are "able to have tunes in their heads and can coordinate their voices to sing those tunes". Internalizing melodies and singing in tune are skills that can be taught and the best way to learn them is by imitating someone who is effectively doing them. In our classes with a parent or caregiver, we are teaching the parents to model for their children. As the students get older the teacher becomes the model and many activities involve the student simply echoing what the teacher sings. We start with songs that involve a few pitches with a narrow range, and then slowly add more pitches and longer songs. A tuneful adult is able to sing lullabies to their child as well as sing "Happy Birthday" to their children and friends.

Beatful people are able to "feel the pulse of music and how the pulse is grouped into either 2s or 3s." In our classes for youngest students, many activities involve keeping the beat to recorded music on our bodies, or on simple percussion instruments such as shakers and drums. The pieces are carefully chosen in terms of speed as well as style. In addition, we also learn finger plays where the child is learning to sing or speak while keeping a steady beat. Eventually we add movement with the beat. A beatful adult will be able to rock on the beat while singing the lullaby, clap their hands in time at a concert or sporting event, or dance at their wedding or their friend's wedding. Beatful adults will also be able to successfully play in an ensemble with their colleagues.

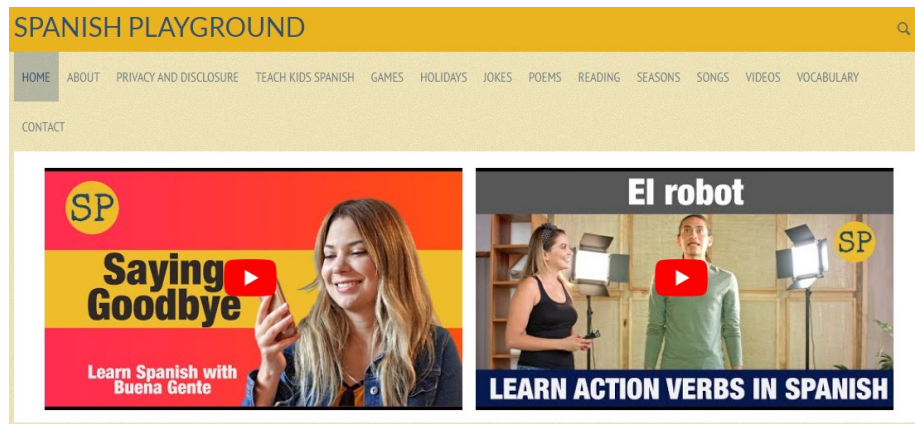
Artful people are able to be "moved by music in the many ways that music can elicit a feelingful response." Moving expressively is another learned skill. At the youngest age, when mobility is limited, we are moving our children (carrying them, rocking them, bouncing them, dancing with them), so they begin to internalize that expression. As they get older and begin to learn to move independently, we then introduce them to a wider movement vocabulary so that they creatively move and respond to the music. An artful adult enjoys being moved by music.

In the end, our main goal when preparing our students to be tuneful, beatful and artful, is that we give them the gift of being able to have music be a part of their daily lives in whatever capacity that is.

-Gabriela Cohen



Digital Source of the Month



Bilingual website with songs, worksheets, books, and much more!

<https://www.spanishplayground.net/>

Books with Musical Hooks



El Pavo que se olvidó cómo hacer Glu-Glú

Alexis H. Purcell

This children's book is fun to read aloud and practice animal sounds.

Kids will gobble up this funny animal story about friendship and how friends will always be there to help. Joey's barnyard friends are the Rooster, Dog, Cow, Cat and Gillie the Turkey.

Read and learn how each barnyard animal tries to teach Joey how to gobble.

Are they successful?

Does Joey learn how to gobble again?