



Announcements

- Happy New Year! We hope everybody had a wonderful holiday break with family and friends.
- Our second session begins 1/5! Enrollment is open for all to join and some classes are filling up. Please remember to enroll in the **SAME CLASS** as Session 1.
- The next Facebook Live Event with Ms. Gabriela is **January 16th at 2 pm**. The theme is **"Sing through the Seasons in Spanish"**!

Questions or comments? Please feel free to contact us.

Youlee Park (202) 686-8000 ext 1106

ypark@levinemusic.org

Elizabeth Johnson (202) 686-8000 ext 1142

ejohnson@levinemusic.org

Happy Birthday!



Maverick: December 11th

Favorite color: Blue

Favorite book: Rocket the Brave

Favorite song: Jump by Van Halen

Favorite food: Rice and Beans

Favorite instrument: Guitar



“Let’s Play!”

Why pretend, drama, and play are now more important than ever.

“Peek a boo! I found you!” is a favorite game for the very young. We know that Peek-a-boo offers many developmental growth opportunities, but it’s a classic way to introduce play into your child’s learning experience. Play is incredibly important for young children, and is an essential building block to an engaging, meaningful learning experience in any subject area, especially in the arts.

By utilizing dramatic play and expressive activities in First Music classes, we work towards the goal of a complete musician; a child who is musical is a child that can connect with the music beyond anything written or transcribed. Musicality is developed through the play activities so rooted in our curriculum and give wings to the most joyful feelings associated with music making. Connecting joy, confidence, play, and fun (most importantly!) to music education experiences from a young age will keep your student interested in music through adolescence and young adulthood.

Within any early childhood music classroom at Levine, each song not only engages music fundamentals such as rhythm and steady beat, but serves as an opportunity to ignite a child’s imagination. We recommend that any time you engage with young people in song or story that the leader is as expressive and engaging as possible to help foster the child’s sense of wonder and imagination. For the especially young, the imagination is as much a muscle that is developing as are their hands and feet, and the development of this muscle will serve them throughout their life.

Victoria Brown and Sarah Pleydell describe the importance of a budding, growing imagination in their book **The Dramatic Difference**; “Young children, largely through their dramatic play, are developing their “as if” perspective toward the world around them. The ability to think “as if,” along with other aspects of dramatic play, has been linked to cognitive development and the formation of social and interpersonal skills...Through dramatic play, children solve problems, express emotions, develop critical thinking skills, and engage in socialization. Indeed, play is a primary means by which children develop a sense of self.”

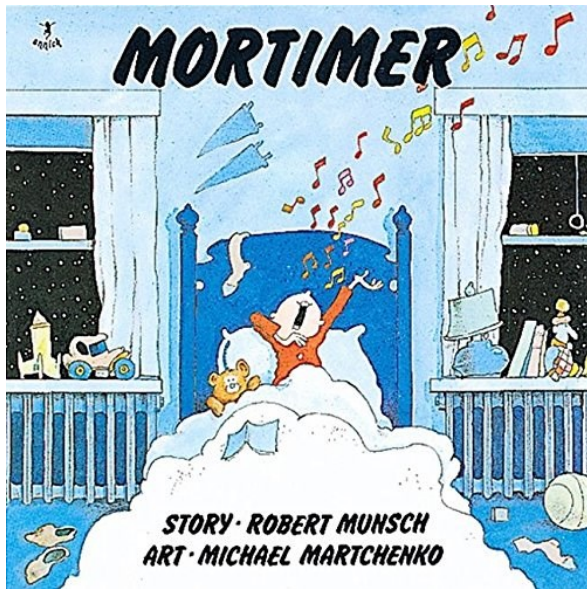
As children grow older and their brains develop, the tool of imaginative play is essential in working through challenging scenarios, social situation, or trauma. Examples of this may be taking place at home right now: Has your child asked for a mask for one of their dolls? Have they thrown a pretend Zoom birthday party for their favorite stuffed animal? Have they been playing pretend doctor more frequently? These are perfect examples of the power of play and imagination to help children understand the pandemic and soothe themselves through this difficult and confusing time. The New York Times recently released an article titled [Covid has invaded our kids’ pretend play. Experts say it’s a good thing \(by Julia Pelly\)](#). Pelly writes, “It’s important to recognize that this sort of play is normal and that young children integrating scary or stressful things into play is actually a sign of healthy coping.”

As you and your family work through these unprecedented times, remember that there is always room in the day for music, joy, and especially, play.

-Abby Schoenborn Cohen



Book with a Musical Hook



This book is great at exploring high/low and ascending/descending scale. You can explore these concepts with your voice or with pitched instruments like the piano or a xylophone!

Digital Source

Classics for Kids

This Week

Georges Bizet
Christmas Carols in Classical Music

In celebration of the Christmas season, some classical compositions that have Christmas carols in them.

▶ ||

Classicsforkids.com is an interactive resource for students both young and old as well as adults. There are musical games, lesson plans, activity sheets and more.