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## Announcements



- Our next Facebook Live event with Ms. Youlee is Saturday April 10th at 2 pm. The theme is "Spring is here!"
- It's almost time for our 3rd session which begins on **April 5th**, we would love for everyone to come back to make a joyous sound!

Questions or comments? Please feel free to contact us.

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## Happy Birthday!



**Penelope: March 22nd 2019**

**Favorite color:** All of them, especially when they're in a rainbow

**Favorite book:** *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Madeline*

**Favorite song:** Ms. Gabriela's "Hola" song

**Favorite food:** Cake

**Favorite instrument:** Her Voice

## A Deeper Dive into a Levine First Music Class

Gurjeet Khalsa



With all our First Music classes being held virtually this past year, perhaps you have seen more of class than you normally would when it was in the classroom. Were you surprised at what you saw? The children may be clapping and stamping while reciting poetry. You may see children skipping or marching. On some occasions a story is being dramatized. Is this music class you might ask? Most definitely yes!

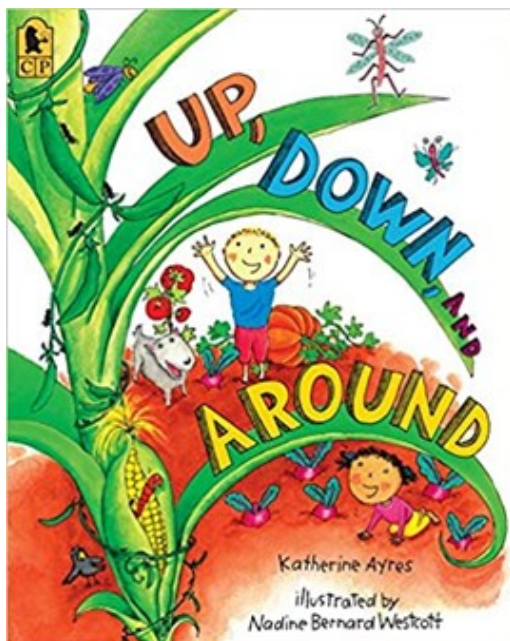
Many methodologies are incorporated into Levine First Music classes. I would like to give you a brief introduction to the Orff-Schulwerk approach. It is based on things children like to do: sing, chant rhymes, clap, move and keep a beat on whatever is at hand. Using the same process for acquiring language, children learn music by hearing and making music first, and reading and writing it later.

The German composer, Carl Orff (1895-1982) created the approach which emphasizes learning by doing. Imitation, exploration, and improvisation are all used in the teaching process. It begins with rhythmic training using gross motor movements such as walking, running or skipping to the beat. The teaching process progresses to body rhythms such as clapping snapping or stamping. Having this foundation, the students progress to fine motor skills and enjoy music making in the classroom on a wide variety of unique instruments.

Each First Music classroom has a set of Orff instruments designed originally by Carl Orff. These are high quality wooden xylophones, metal metallaphones, and glockenspiels which come in various ranges and offer good musical tone. The bars on these instruments are removable so that they can be easily set up for the pentatonic (5 note) scale in which any notes sound good together. These instruments along with other percussion instruments are ideal for creative accompaniments for songs, stories, poems and provide opportunities to develop improvisational, compositional and ensemble playing skills. Hopefully in the near future, when we are back in the classroom, the children will again have the opportunity to play these special instruments.

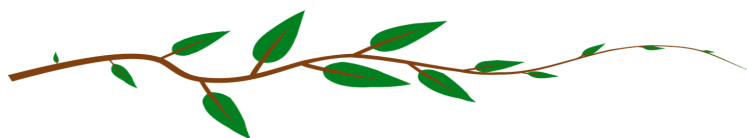
First Music classes at Levine emphasize active participation and opportunities for improvisation. Basic rhythmic and melodic competencies will be developed. In a secure and supportive atmosphere, creativity and exploration are fostered. The essence of the Orff-Schulwerk approach is to awaken and develop this musical creativity in all students.

## Musical Book

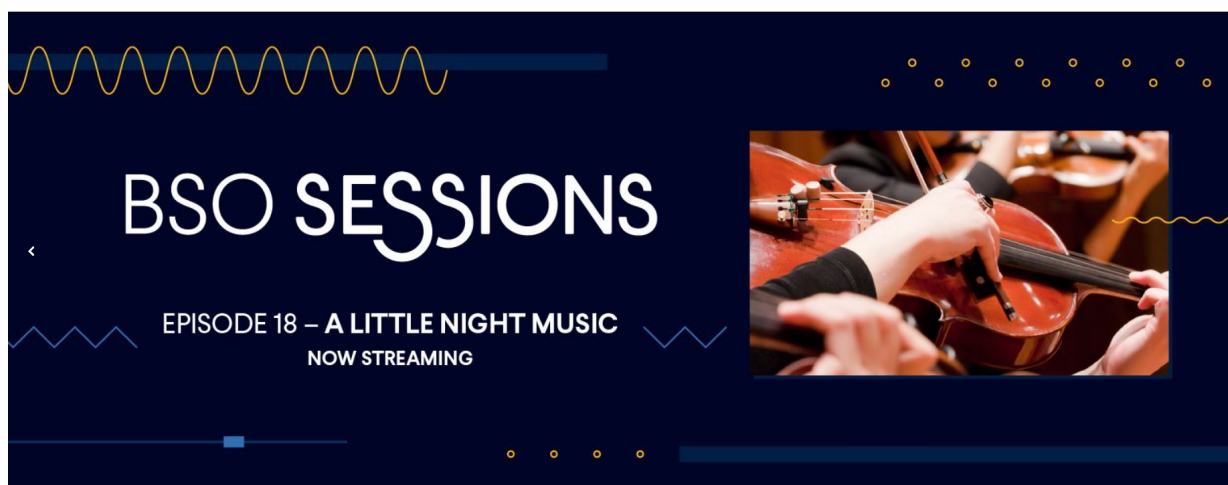


### **Up, Down and Around by Katherine Ayres and Nadine Bernard Westcott**

I love to introduce this book in the spring when things are starting to grow. Seeds go down, corn burst up, beans grow all around. The text is very rhythmic and first when you read the book you can make the voice go up or down in relation to the text. Then you can add instruments. If you have a xylophone, you can play the ascending scale for things that grow up and the descending scale for things that grow down. The "all around" part can be improvised. If you don't have a xylophone you can create your own with five glasses filled with water increasing the amount of water in each glass, played with butterknife.



## Digital Source



The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra has a great online presence for students and families. They have recorded children's concerts introducing the different families of instruments of the orchestra. I particularly like the percussion family. The children will see and hear many instruments that they have played themselves!