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Announcements

- Our next Facebook Live Event is Saturday, March 13th at 1:00 PM with Ms. Emily. The theme is "Animals in the Afternoon".

We hope you are enjoying your music class! As always, if you have any questions about anything, please feel free to contact us at the below phone number or email.

Questions or comments? Please feel free to contact us.

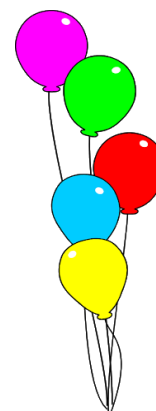
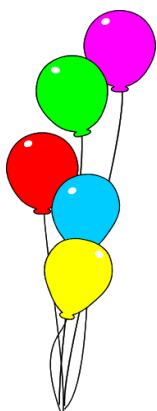
Youlee Park (202) 686-8000 ext 1106

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Happy Birthday!



Brady: March 16th 2017

Favorite color: Blue

Favorite book: *Owl Babies*

Favorite song: "Shiny" from Moana

Favorite food: Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich

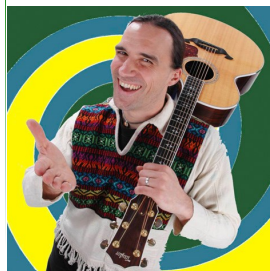
Favorite instrument: Drum

The Many Pathways of Musical Growth

I am often asked about the paths parents are pondering with regards to developing a musical child. One question I have heard many times: "Is my child old enough for music classes?" My answer inevitably is "Absolutely, positively!" We know well that children in utero are hearing their mothers voices singing, sensing rhythms in the world that they are about to experience. Babies are processing musical information in their world at every moment and are growing very quickly. A parents' inclination to sing to a child, to play recorded music for a child, to dance with a child, especially a very young child, is completely the right thing to do. I have had babies in mixed-age classes who sit mesmerized as their parent and slightly older children engage in finger players, shake instruments, and dance and sing to songs. That young child is being programmed to engage in the same enthralling activity when they are ready. I repeat, there is no age that is too early to start exposing children to music, especially with intentional and regular exposure such as music classes.

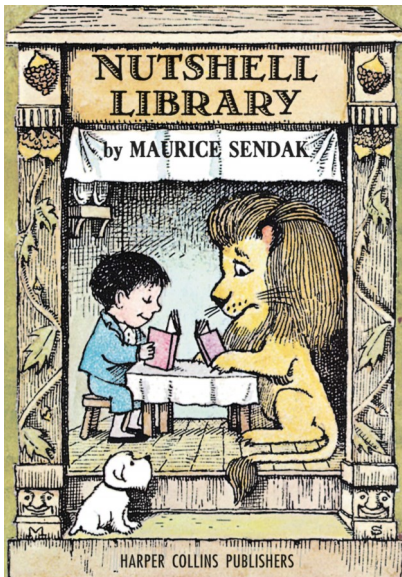
Another common question from parents is: "What instrument should my child study?" Instrument learning begins as early as one or two with exposure to ukuleles, drums, shakers, and recorders in your home. If I had to boil it down to three that I recommend for study as children become three and above, I would say violin, piano, or guitar in that age order. I never imagined my children would study violin but I was moved by what I saw of the Suzuki violin world and leapt into it with my young children. Apart from developing a very strong musical ear, Suzuki study allows children to start very early (my child started at three, the other at 6), to play an instrument that grows as they grow, to be a part of group classes, and to go to camps, an experience which amplifies their learning experience. Piano learning is often started a little bit later - five or six (I started at six) and is not as big a hurdle to begin playing as is the violin. It also develops a wonderful master-key sense of music. Children can start on guitar about the same age as piano. I find guitar study a bright place for children that want to sing as well as play their instrument. All of this said, any instrument path that inspires is a grand one. I know a six-year-old who recently began playing the steelpan and has become enraptured by it, learning song after song with his father!

Mindful, musical growth, practicing, care for an instrument - these are all parts of a process that can be hard work at times, but is immensely rewarding. There are many ways of approaching it and I only speak from my point of view of having raised children who are now multi-instrumentalists. I will say that it does take an intentional approach, or at least it doesn't hurt to be intentional. This can mean finding ways for your child's music to be meaningful starting when they are babies and bounce in your lap, then growing and enjoying singing together, playing music for their community, for their families, for themselves. Music is a deeply meaningful activity and a blessing to engage in every day. A final word - a study I read some years back which is worth noting: adults do not remember if their parent was a good singer, they remember that their parent sang to them.

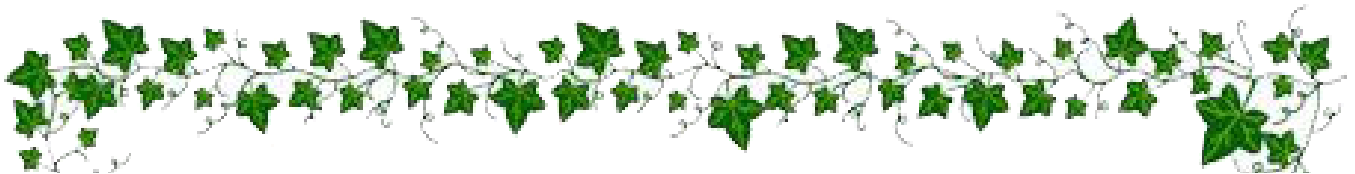


- "Mr. M" Eric Maring

Musical Book



Accompanied by Carole King's *Really Rosie* Album, this book includes *A Alligators All Around*, *Chicken Soup with Rice*, *One Was Johnny* and the incredible mini-epic *Pierre*. The stories became songs through Carole King's wizardry. This book has extraordinary music and storytelling.



Digital Source



Spotify and Apple Music are undoubtedly a wonderful resource for listening to music, creating playlists, and finding out about new music. Mr. M enjoys sharing playlists with families of recommended children's music as well as for his own family of music to learn about and simply enjoy.