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## Announcements

Welcome to Levine First Music! Whether you are a new or returning family, we are excited to be a part of your child's musical journey. Please make sure to check out our new parent portal where you can find song recordings, information about our teachers, and more!

- Please make sure to join our "Levine First Music" Facebook Group.
- **Our first four weeks are almost finished. We will be remaining outside and in person or online for the next four weeks through the week of November 2nd.**
- Virtual Tip of the Month- If you ever have trouble logging onto Zoom, try checking for any new Zoom updates. Many times Zoom updates without notifying users.

We hope you are enjoying the classes so far! If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us in the office.

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## Happy Birthday!



**William: October 27th**

**Favorite color:** Red  
**Favorite book:** *Transformer*  
**Favorite song:** Alphabet Song  
**Favorite food:** Apple  
**Favorite instrument:** Big Drum



**Devarth: October 21st**

**Favorite color:** Red  
**Favorite book:** *Cat in the Hat*  
**Favorite song:** The Wheels on the Bus  
**Favorite food:** Soup  
**Favorite instrument:** Flute



**Ava: October 24th**

**Favorite color:** purple  
**Favorite book:** *The Pigeon Has to go to School*  
**Favorite song:** Let it go!  
**Favorite food:** Ice Cream  
**Favorite instrument:** Piano

## The Day Music Came Back

In March of 2020, we saw the performing arts world come to a halt. Like dominoes, orchestra after orchestra announced an early end to their season. Touring musicians had to postpone their shows and music festivals were cancelled. Come April, Broadway - the heart of American theatre - closed its doors. Globally the arts took a hit, but that ripple effect made its way into our classrooms and homes. As we enter our third school year of this pandemic, there has never been more of a need for the arts in our students' lives.

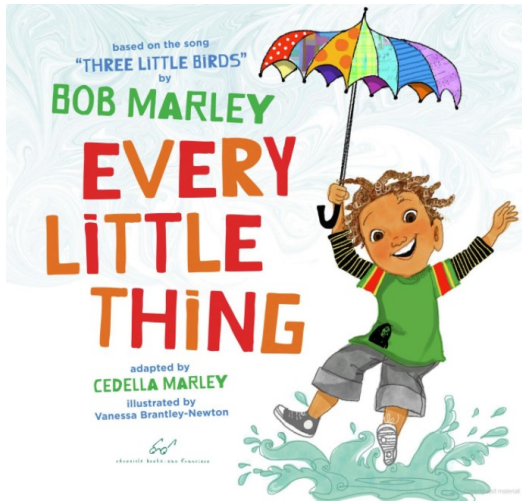
When I'm not teaching at Levine, I am a full time Band and Orchestra Director at a K-12 school in DC. I have the great privilege of seeing students grow from four months old until they're ready to go off to college. The most difficult part of this job these past few years has been keeping that musical spark alive and giving students hope that there will be some return to normalcy. That someday, they will get to play next to each other in a band again. For almost 18 months students were in and out of Zoom rooms as opposed to the music room. I've seen the effect of this pandemic on toddlers and teens and the toll it is taking on their collective experience. While the world adapted in incredibly innovative ways, putting on extravagant virtual performances and reimagining the world of performance as we once knew it, we were missing that key element of connection; of being in the same room as your friends, making music, and feeding off the energy of live musicians and audiences. This year, as many students have returned to fully in-person learning, I often find myself wondering when, or if, we'll see a full return to more live, in person music making. An anonymous music teacher colleague posted the poem below:

*For a time, we had to get by on the "someday we will again."  
For a time, we had to get by on the memory of music.  
The promise of music.  
The love of music.  
We had to play porch concerts to keep the music going.  
And figure out virtual performances.  
And connect on Zoom.  
And have faith that someday, we would make music together again.  
Simply.  
And joyfully.  
And beautifully.*

Now, if you've read this far, you might be thinking, "wow, this is a really sad article...," but here's the best part - I got to be there the day music came back. And it was more extraordinary than I could have ever imagined. Last year the terrific First Music team at Levine watched our students grow through a screen. Despite the many obstacles thrown our way - Zoom lag and delay, students learning to unmute far too early for their age, trying to keep a one year old focused on a screen for 30 minutes, etc. - our community persevered. Seeing two year-olds meet each other for the first time, and recognize each other from a small Brady Brunch box on a screen is surreal. Watching them sing a song together while dancing with a parachute...out of this world. At my school, students could barely contain their excitement after just their first note together. There is nothing like music to bring a community together and the energy of a live class is unparalleled. Although we need to be more vigilant than ever with this virus so that we can continue in the right direction, we can all take a collective, masked breath and revel in the fact that we are together again making something magical through music. We're back!

-Emily Park

## Great Books with Musical Hooks



Every Little Thing adapted by Cedella Marley

An incredibly illustrated retelling of the classic song about staying positive and present in a fast paced world.



## Digital Source of the Month

[BucketDrumming.net](http://BucketDrumming.net)

Sammy Foster's Drumming.net  
Youtube Channel is fun for all ages.  
Grab a bucket, a pair of sticks,  
and jam out to all your favorite songs.