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## Announcements

- **No classes from Tue. 12/14 – Sat. 12/18** 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. 12/21 – Sun. 1/2** for Winter Holiday.

Questions or comments? Please feel free to contact us.

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## Session 2 Information

Session 2 is now open for enrollment!

The dates for Session 2 are January 4th through March 22nd.

We are very excited to begin offering **in-person, indoor** classes for students over the age of 5 who are fully vaccinated at the NWDC campus on Tuesday afternoons. Space is **limited**, so enroll soon.

All of our other class offerings will be **online** for Session 2. We will also be offering online versions of our class offerings for students over the age of 5 who would prefer that option.

We hope to see you in Session 2!

## "For Old Times, My Joy"

By: Caitlin O'Hara

As 2021 comes to an end and we prepare for the new year ahead, consider taking a moment of reflection for yourself and to help our young musicians do the same. A moment of reflection is important each year when it comes to a close, however, in the last year or so, the need to reflect is a vital and necessary step in processing, healing, and moving forward. But how should we go about this moment of reflection? What better way than through music and art.

Let's take inspiration from a song heard round the world on New Years Eve, "Auld Lang Syne". The tradition of this Scottish song began with Hogmanay, thought to be brought over by vikings in the 8th and 9th centuries, and is celebrated on December 31st. The song was first written down in 1788 by Robert Burns, but is known for being around for at least 80 years prior to its actual written record. The opening words go as follows:

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And auld lang syne.*

Right off, the lyrics pose the question, "should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?" meaning, "should old acquaintances or memories be forgotten and never remembered?" Do we forget them and "auld lang syne" or "old times"? For three important reasons, no, we do not forget, and this involves our past, present and our future. First, to forget our past, is to not remember where we came from and impacts where we are and where we are going. To forget means to leave ourselves open to repeating mistakes and repeating the past rather than progress. Second, to forget means to leave cherished memories behind, memories that give us joy, comfort and love:

*(Chorus)  
For auld lang syne, my jo,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne*

"For auld lang syne, my jo", translates to "for old times, my joy". Allow the joyful moments of this year to be cherished and captured through art, be it, singing along to "Auld Lang Syne", picking up a pencil to draw, or both.

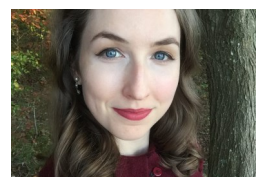
To help your young musician reflect back on this year and "for old times, my joy" have them capture memories through drawing and listen to renditions of "Auld Lang Syne" (a few renditions you'll find below). Here are some suggested ideas for drawing their "joy" of the year, but of course the sky is the limit!

Favorite: Part of their birthday, Music class, Family outing, Outdoor activity, Stuffy/stuffed animal, Food/meal, Time with others (Mom, Dad, aunt, uncle, grandma, grandpa, sibling, nanny, teacher, friend, team)

Make it a family event and have everyone draw some of these and share with one another what your favorites were--in the making you'll be making a new memory or perhaps even a new end-of-year tradition! If you'd like, please share, we'd love to see them! Happy New Year

Wishing you a happy, healthy, 2022,

-Ms. Caitlin



## Digital Source of the Month

Listen to Ms. Caitlin's Favorite renditions of "Auld Lang Syne"

**Birmingham Alabama Choir:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCFdKpKLGxs&ab\\_channel=NPR](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCFdKpKLGxs&ab_channel=NPR)

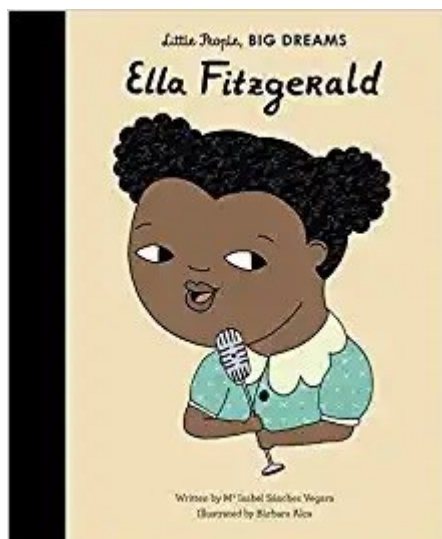
**Pegasus Pipes & Drums:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNH8L5IQTa0&ab\\_channel=JelleBoesveld](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNH8L5IQTa0&ab_channel=JelleBoesveld)

**University of Dublin:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W\\_6Vs8pADrQ&ab\\_channel=ChoralScholarsofUniversityCollegeDublin](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_6Vs8pADrQ&ab_channel=ChoralScholarsofUniversityCollegeDublin)

## Books with Musical Hooks



### "Little People, Big Dreams: Ella Fitzgerald"

Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara

Meet Ella Fitzgerald, one of the most influential jazz singers of all time! Part of the beloved Little People, BIG DREAMS series, this inspiring and informative little biography follows the inspirational life of the First Lady of Song, from her early singing days on the streets of Harlem to her success as a jazz legend, with the message: "It's not where you come from, but where you're going that counts."