



Announcements

- Happy New Year! We hope everybody had a wonderful holiday break with family and friends.
- Our second session begins 1/4! Enrollment is open for all to join and some classes are filling up. Please remember to enroll in the SAME CLASS as Session 1.

Questions or comments? Please feel free to contact us.

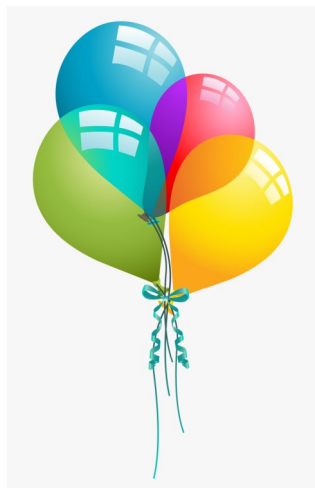
Youlee Park (202) 686-8000 ext 1106

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Happy Birthday!



Sidney: January 11th

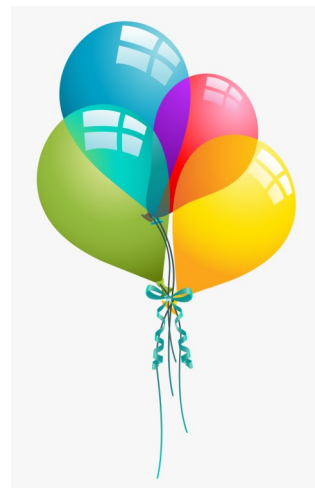
Favorite color: Blue

Favorite book: *Mighty Truck on the Farm*

Favorite song: *Save your Tears, The Weeknd*

Favorite food: Pepperoni Pizza

Favorite instrument: Piano



Trusting the Musical Intelligence of Children

A parent of one of my four year-old students was recently telling me about her daughter's love of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*; not just the beloved eight songs of the Nutcracker Suite, but the entire ballet. She has seen video of the ballet and has a book that tells the story, so she knows what is happening throughout the entire story just by listening intently to the music, over and over. Bless this child, I went home and listened to the ballet three times through in awe of Tchaikovsky's musical genius and of children's capacity for musical understanding.

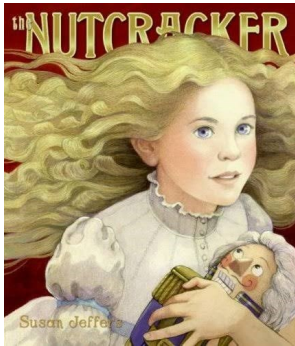
In my own home, I have regularly played my favorite recording of Chopin's Nocturnes for my children (now 12 and 17) in the evenings and they now know all of them well (and can even play some of them). The Nutcracker and the Nocturnes involve strictly instrumental music which develops the intelligence of the young ear in a particular way. Instrumental music comes from every corner of the globe (Indian classical, West African drumming, Irish melodies) and children's ears and hearts are ready to tune in to it. That said, we have also been big Broadway fans (my son became obsessed with *Wicked* when he was seven and listened 1000-plus times to the soundtrack). Listening and loving musicals is a wonderful way to trust and develop a child's musical intelligence as well.

Much of this musical growth and connection involves sustained, regular listening rather than watching. However obvious it may sound, listening is a fundamental way to develop a musical heart and mind, especially in a child. It is important for me to note that listening to such epics as the Nutcracker, the Nocturnes, or an epic Broadway soundtrack does not replace the vast catalog of music geared specifically for children and families by such luminaries as Ella Jenkins or Raffi. Our children and students are simply ready to understand the vast spectrum of music out there from a joyous two-minute song to an intricate two-hour epic.

-Eric Maring, "Mr. M"

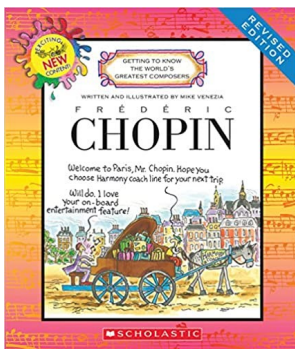


Books with a Musical Hooks



The Nutcracker by Susan Jeffers

Frederic Chopin
(Getting to Know the World's Greatest Composers)
by Mike Venezia



These books can serve as extensions to the listening experience.

Digital Source



Create playlists of grand epics and favorite songs. Play these regularly at breakfast, in the car, at nighttime.