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Happy Birthday to Ebony
Jenkins (9/3) and Kim
Moore (9/13)!



Facebook/Kidstunes

Musical Children



Lara's Letter



September 2018



We hope you have enjoyed hearing about your child's travels with their music class this summer! Now we are gearing up for back to school, and welcoming our new and returning music friends. We are certainly going to miss our students who are headed off to Kindergarten. It was truly a pleasure to have them in our music classes!

We begin the school-year getting to know each other, learning names, and becoming comfortable with new students, teachers and classrooms. The activities your Kidstunes instructor will start with in music class will help students gain confidence and help

students express themselves through music.

Some of the music concepts your child will explore this fall include Finding Our Singing Voice & Steady Beat, Duration (long and short sounds) Rhythm & Notation, Pitch (high and low sounds)

We encourage you to visit the Parent tab on our website for the Activity of the Month which will feature fun songs and movements you can try at home with your child. You can also find fun activities, links to children's music, articles about music education, fun pictures from class and much more on our Facebook page.

Don't forget to look for the parent bulletin posted at your child's school each week to keep up with our activities!

Welcome Sarah Catherine Carter



Sarah Catherine Carter is a teacher/performer/arts education enthusiast from Durham, NC. She graduated from Rider University with a BFA in Musical Theatre and a minor in arts administration.

Recent performance credits include Horn in the West, The Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, Bright Star Touring Theatre, and Princess Party Productions. Sarah Catherine has directed original versions of classics such as Robin Hood and Cinderella with Prairie Fire Children's Theatre across the Midwest.

Sarah Catherine loves all of the performing arts, and has enjoyed studying a variety of subjects such as Shakespeare, ballet, voice, piano, and improvisation. In addition to performing and teaching, Sarah Catherine enjoys large cups of coffee, eating local, cooking, and participating in many different fitness activities.

Wrapping up the Summer...



Learning to Keep a Steady Beat

The BEAT is the steady pulse of music. The basic unit of time. When we count, tap or clap along to the music, we are experiencing the beat.

We hear steady beats all around us every day. We internalize them and respond often without even realizing it. Our heart beats at the same steady pace. The clock ticks, the windshield wipers swish, the blinkers blink. Finding the beat in music is easy to do, if you stop and listen, or just feel it. Even if we couldn't hear it, we can often *feel* the beat through vibrations!

We will learn to keep the beat in music with our bodies (marching, patting legs, clapping), instruments (egg shakers, rhythm sticks, drums) and of course our

voices.

Although it seems like a simple concept to most of us, it can often take some time for the young child to master this skill. This is the first true music fundamental taught and is reiterated in everything we do all year!

With infants and toddlers it's important for them to feel the beat. You can pat on their legs, clap their hands for them, bounce or walk to the beat. Pairing bilateral upper body movement (like tapping both knees while seated) helps children synchronize & internalize the beat. Pairing simple movements with chants and nursery rhymes is great fun too!

Musical Moments

Steady Beat Swords

The "swords" are actually swimming noodles that have been cut in half. First we listened to "Imperial March" from Star Wars and found patterns in the music that sounded like we should march, swing our steady beat swords and sneak around. Then we kept the steady beat by clapping one hand with our partner. Next we took that skill and transferred it to our steady beat swords. We clicked our steady beat swords together on the beat with our partner. As we listened to the song the next time we marched, light saber-ed to the beat and snuck around the galaxy in search of a new beat keeping partner. What fun!

"The Syncopated Clock"

- by Leroy Anderson

Children LOVE moving and dancing to this piece of music. The strong tick tock sound of the cuckoo clock helps solidify the steady beat. While listening, pretend you are a cuckoo bird inside a clock who can march or bounce in place, nod, or move hands up and down like a soldier to the steady beat, but must not leave the clock until the family goes to sleep. When the family is sleeping, the cuckoo becomes magical and can come out of the clock and spread her wings and "fly" around the room. Listen for the changes in the music. When you hear the steady beat of the tick tock again, the family is awake and the cuckoo must go back into the clock! You can also use scarves while they're "flying".

