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Happy Birthday!

Please help us wish a very Happy birthday to Kidstunes instructors **Lou Anne Hicks** on 3/30, and **Sarah Catherine Carter** on 3/31.

St. Patrick's Day is March 17!



Musical Children



Lara's Letter



**March
2019**

Now that our extensive unit on Musical Expression has come to a close, see if your students remember any of these musical terms (they are in *Italian!*): *forte* (loud), *piano* (soft), *crescendo* (getting louder), *diminuendo* (getting softer), *allegro* (fast), *largo* (slow), *legato* (smooth), & *staccato* (choppy). Many students will remember actions or props used to associate these terms with their meaning, for example: **Largo** the turtle is *slow*, **Allegro** the rabbit is *fast*, **Staccato** is *choppy*, like chopping vegetables or a woodpecker, **Legato** is *smooth* like ice skating or sipping a milkshake. These are the tools composers use to make each and every piece of music unique!

This month, we'll explore **Tone Color** or **Timbre**, which describes

the unique quality of sound in each voice, natural sound, & instrument; as well as how instruments differ – in size, what they are made of, how they are played, and more. We'll explore the Science of Sound—**how sound is made**—through songs, games, & discovery activities, because Tone Color is truly in *everything* around us! A favorite activity of students and teachers alike includes making their own instruments!

Look for our creations coming home & remember to ask your child about it: name? family it's from? sound it makes? Then, SHARE their music! Play a favorite tune, or better yet make up your own and add other sound sources. Don't forget to dance as you play... Sing along... Enjoy!

We love to hear from parents about their children's music experiences...

"I want to thank you for everything you give to Lilly during your music classes! She absolutely enjoys it. Each Sunday she is asking how often she has to sleep until she can go to your class again. And in the evenings, we play "Miss Emma" and she picks me up for 'my' music class - it is amazing .



When I read your weekly newsletter it is great for me to learn what you teach them every week. "

Miss Emma

~ parent from Northlakes Academy, Hickory

Do you have a funny quote or story from your child about music class? Please share it with us at www.Facebook.com/Kidstunes or send us an e-mail at info@kidstunes.org.



Don't forget to set your clocks forward on March 10!

MAKING INSTRUMENTS



Here are some examples of homemade instruments your child may be making:

♪ **Wrist Jingle Bells** - metal bells threaded onto pipe cleaner or ribbon

♪ **Maraca** - Paper towel roll, film container, Easter egg, clear plastic bottle - anything that can be securely closed - about half full with dried beans, rice, beads, dry pasta, or pebbles

♪ **Kazoo** - Decorated paper towel roll that's cut in half & covered on one end with wax paper (a couple tiny holes in paper for resonance)

♪ **Guitar** - Rectangular-shaped tissue box with paper towel roll for handle and various sized rubber bands for strings!

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March - Tone Color & Making Instruments

Tone color or **Timbre** is often a difficult concept for young children to grasp, however, Kidstunes uses creativity to familiarize them with it. Tone Color is “*the special quality of sound in voices, instruments, and natural sounds.*” In simpler terms, it describes the phenomena that makes every sound unique from others. It is important for young music students to understand that each voice, each instrument, and each sound is unlike ANY other - similar to one's fingerprints.

We first explore sounds that are around us every day & how they're different, yet recognizable (clocks, running water, footsteps, Mommy or Daddy's voice, different animals, etc.)

This then develops into focusing on the special sound of each child's own voice and how inflection may affect the way we sound (which incorporates concepts from previous units on pitch, dynamics, and musical expression). Then, we explore how the instruments we hear or play in class also have their own special sound and why—usually due to how and what they are made of, as well as how they are played.



As a follow up to discovering what makes each of our classroom instruments unique, we will make our very own instruments from everyday materials! This activity furthers understanding of how sound is produced, enhances problem solving and creative thinking skills, and integrates arts & crafts!

Musical Moments

Tone Color

This month Kidstunes Kids will be learning about Tone Color. First we will explore many different everyday sounds to start warming up our ears before we start distinguishing between different instruments. Here's an activity you can do at home with your child using all those extra plastic Easter eggs.

What you'll need: Plastic Easter eggs (assorted colors), baskets, items to place inside the eggs such as: pennies, rice, beans, beads, cotton balls, etc. (try to have items made of varying materials), empty egg carton

1. Place each item inside 2 eggs so there is a pair of each sound.
2. Place the eggs into the egg carton in random order.
3. Take turns playing the “matching game” by shaking only two eggs on each turn. If you get a matching sound, put the eggs in your basket. If not, put them both back and see if they can remember on their next turn where the like sounds are.
4. Variation: Lay out the items that have been placed in each egg in front of your child. Have them choose an egg and shake it, then try to match the sound to the item. One egg could have jelly beans or another favorite treat they get to eat when chosen! For added experiments with sound, have your child fill eggs with the same item, but using different amounts. An egg with only a few beans will sound different than an egg filled to the top with beans. Ask them which sound they like the best. Then they can tape their favorite ones closed with masking tape and have their own instruments.