



MUSIC MATTERS

A Newsletter for the Families Enrolled in the Music-in-the-Box Music Masters Program
Meredith Haynes and Ginger Acopiado, Owners
FALL 2006

"A mind stretched to a new idea never returns to its original dimensions." Oliver Wendell Holmes

NEW LOCATIONS FOR FALL

MUNDELEIN
CDW BRIGHT HORIZONS
THE CHAPEL OF GRAYSLAKE
EAGLE COUNTY, COLORADO - NEW
LICENSE!

IN MY OPINION...

Meredith Haynes

Welcome back to music class! I'm so glad you chose Music-in-the-Box for your child this fall.

We all struggle to choose the best activities for our children. Soccer? Gymnastics? Drama? Dance? Like a Thanksgiving Feast we are faced with the potential to gorge our families.

How can we be wise in our choices? May I offer you my opinion?

1. Don't sample- Be the wise adult and choose for your child.
2. Choose teachers who are good role models.
3. Is the class content useful as an adult? Childhood is short—why not spend time learning skills your child will enjoy as an adult?

And of course, we think your child should be involved in music into the preschool years and beyond! Read on to help you decide.

IT'S BACK! VICTOR VITO

IS NOW IN SESSION,
so run out now and get your laundry basket car. You won't want to miss a minute of this exciting session - and your child will love duplicating it at home.

Consider the Victor Vito Kit for home!
Set now includes Music-in-the-Box exclusive
"I Went Walking" Felts
(not pictured)



Music Masters 4: The Suzuki Method

To Learn With Love, is the cornerstone of the Suzuki method and why we embrace it at Music-in-the-Box. We know parents have to make a commitment to something greater than lessons alone when beginning instrument instruction at an early age. Parents who go into the Suzuki method of early instrument instruction with their preschoolers know they will be treated with love and respect, will be asked only to do their best, and will have an education as well as enjoyable early learning experience. The Suzuki method begins with the parent / child bond and ends with a superb love of playing an instrument. But to begin at 3 or 4, parents must expect there will be days (many of them) when your child will find it "too hard" or won't want to go - it is the nature of the age. Suzuki method parents must also expect to defend their choice against the largest misconception in the music industry - yes, Suzuki students *do* learn to read music!

As the parent of a preschooler, you know it takes strong convictions and the knowledge in your heart that getting your child over the hump of a bad day is one of the best life lessons you can give them - both in character development, perseverance and working toward mastery.

Experts agree, this decision should not be the child's to make. In our field, we have seen too many parents take music classes and quit because they felt their child didn't like it or wasn't ready. But at Music-in-the-Box, we believe that making music a part of your world is a process and must become

integral to your way of life. Dr. Suzuki knew that parental expectations often do more to create the love of an experience - and we embrace the parent as the second teacher. Every music motivator is asked to understand that while it may appear a child does not enjoy music class, more often than not it is a test of wills, a power struggle to see who is the boss, and has very little to do with music or the classroom experience.

Too often parents fall into the trap of quitting classes they believe in to ease the burden of an unhappy child. However, according to the experts, children are not ready to decide what is or is not in their own best interest. Dr. Nancy Buck in her book "Peaceful Parenting" reminds us that "peaceful parenting" does not mean "permissive parenting" and that children whose parents allow them to make choices before they are intellectually ready, create power struggles.

In fact, children who quit any type of activity before they achieve mastery (where they are capable of it), will learn to quit many areas of their life - making self-motivation a distant dream.

Looking back, you probably know someone or were someone who was forced to keep taking lessons, but are now grateful to have been gently (and some not so gently) pushed through the defiant years and past and can now play for pleasure, release or relief. It is truly a freeing experience. (Some of us still sing at the top of our lungs when vacuuming to "get it all out".)

Therefore, when deciding whether or not to take that next step with your child, you must first ask yourself "What are my goals? What are my expectations for my child? And, what is my ability or desire to make music an integral part of my child's future and my family's life?"

Which Music-in-the-Box Music Master 4 Combination Should I Choose?

By Ginger Acopiado

For students who have been in Music Masters programs since Music Masters 1, the Suzuki Group Instrument instruction is an easy fit, especially since our decision to incorporate Suzuki melodies for transition in 2005. Familiar melodies help children self-correct during instrument instruction, making early success more frequent, and therefore more fun.

When a child is young, either in age or development, there are a couple of good reasons for taking Group Instrument with Music Masters 3. First, you will only be adding a single unknown to your child's music experience, easing the transition, and we all have learned that when we change too much in a young child's world too fast, the result is often a very distressed child.

Second, your young child will have the opportunity to retrieve fresh memory of the melodies to which they are singing and dancing in Music Masters 3 when being asked to learn to play in Group Instrument.

Taking the challenge to the next level is the

reason for Music Masters 4: Music Readiness. This class must be taken as a supplement to Music Masters 3 or Group Instrument lessons. The first two 10-week sessions of MM4: Music Readiness will set the stage for why we read music, create a love of music and its history, and define the parts of the orchestra. The last session will begin to expose their musical brains to decoding the symbols - in a fun and subliminal way.

MM4: Music Readiness combined with MM3 makes an excellent Tuesday / Thursday music education program that is well rounded and creative for bright, capable children that need a little extra time before starting an instrument.

If you know of someone who would enjoy working with young children and their parents in a loving, musically intelligent environment, we want to hear from you. We are now accepting licensing applications for all US locations except Lake County Illinois.

Email us at: info@musicinthebox.com or call us at 847-573-1901 for more information.

MM4:Music Readiness is an important addition to the MM4:Group Instrument lessons as it introduces symbols and theory that will make learning to read music a much easier transition from pre-reading Suzuki instruction to reading music in later years (Children who are not reading books do not learn to read music until they become proficient at reading in their own language.) This is the combination used at the various Suzuki Institutes around the country and perfect for the budding Beethoven.

For three-year olds who have not been in our program, we recommend MM3 for the first two 10-week sessions before adding MM4:Music Readiness, however there is no need to wait to begin Group Piano or Group Violin.

If you have any questions specific to your child we hope you will call us and inquire about what would be best, as each child is truly an individual.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR TEACHERS

Music-in-the-Box is fortunate to have the most dedicated group of women facilitating our classes for your families. These Motivators are always willing to go the extra mile and provide the highest quality music education program available. We want to take a moment to thank them personally.

Sandy Berklin - Lake Zurich PD and Vernon Hills PD
Tamara Berzin - Evenings at Gurnee PD and Waukegan PD
Barb Boes - Mundelein PD, Hawthorn Hills, Bright Hor/Motorola
Michele MacLennan - Lindenhurst PD, Gurnee PD & The Chapel
Sara Zawila - Barrington PD, Lake Zurich PD, & Libertyville PD
Donna Weinstock - Bright Hor/Amhurst and CDW, Gurnee PD

If you have any comments on our programs, please contact us at info@musicinthebox. We'd love to hear from you! And you might even see it on our website!

WHAT'S NEW FOR MUSIC-IN-THE-BOX

Please welcome our newest locations for Fall:

We are now in Eagle County, Colorado, thanks to our newest licensee, **Ms. Debbie Taagen**. Debbie is a Suzuki mom who took our program at the Colorado Suzuki institute this summer. Debbie has sung professionally and is the mother of two. Debbie tells us she has a deep affection for the methods and practices of both the Suzuki method and the Music Masters program, and we are affirmed and happy to have her on board.

Mundelein Park District

Please also welcome our new teachers for Fall:

Ms. Sara Zawila will be taking over the Motivator role for the Barrington Park District, the additional day for the Lake Zurich Park District, and two days at the Libertyville Park District. She comes to us as a mother of one, and a dedicated vocal musician. As a member of the Sweet Adeline's Barbershop choir, along with our Ms Donna Weinstock, we add to our motivators award winning vocals. Her genuine love of children and gentle charm are sure to win hearts this fall.

Ms. Tamara Berzin will be taking our Gurnee and Waukegan Park District evening classes this fall. Tamara is a preschool teacher at Bright Horizons/Abbott in North Chicago and has studied Music Therapy. We love her enthusiasm and willingness to jump right in, as we saw this spring in Gurnee.