

# Singing Voices



Fall 2008  
Volume 1  
Issue 2

## A NOTE FROM JULIE

Hello Everybody,

It is hard to believe the semester is coming to a close. It has been a joy working with you and your families. I hope you have enjoyed this semester and collection of music as much as I have. My staff has shared with me many wonderful stories about musical happenings in their classes.

If you did not receive the "Music Observation Chart" we passed out last week, please be sure to ask your teacher or email me. Use the chart at home to help you understand the musical behaviors your child is expressing and learn more about their musical growth and development.

As the holiday season approaches, take the time to teach your child the rituals and songs of your family so they may pass them down to their families - this is how music began before the invention of radios, cd's and television.

Thank you for recognizing the value of music education in not only developing your child's musical intelligence, but the overall health, joy and well being music brings to our lives. I look forward to the opportunity of watching you and your children grow "musically" next semester!

Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season  
Julie

Julie Capuano  
Director  
Music Together of Monroe/Newtown LLC  
180 Flagler Avenue  
Stratford, CT 06614  
(203) 381-0335 ph  
(203) 549-0675 fax  
www.musictogetherCTclass.com  
mtreg@optonline.net



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Fall Semester is coming to an end. For more information regarding your location's final session go to our website, [musictogetherctclass.com](http://musictogetherctclass.com), and click on the Parent Info & Policy link located within the "news column".  
**PLEASE NOTE: Classes will NOT be held on 11/27 or 11/28**

Don't forget to **schedule your makeups**. The last couple of classes fill up fast and makeups do not roll over to next semester. To schedule your makeups go to <http://makeups.musictogether.com> - the password is salsa

The **10 week winter semester starts the week of January 12th**. Come join us for **the BELLS collection!!** Sing and dance to favorites such as Trot Old Joe, De Colores, and Obwisana!!  
**The early registration deadline for the Winter semester is next Wednesday, November 26th**



The **N**ew **H**aven **S**ymphony **O**rchestra has a wide variety of exciting educational programs on their calendar this season. From the 77th annual Young People's Concerts to programs that explore world rhythms, instrument discovery, and music's relationship with nature, there is something for everyone. Events are scheduled to take place throughout the greater New Haven area, including Fairfield county, and the Naugatuck Valley. Visit <http://newhavensymphony.org/education.htm> for more details.



# REGISTRATION INCENTIVES



**BRING A FRIEND** - Bring a Friend to a Free Trial Class and you and your child(ren) can come too! If your friends signs up for the Winter semester, you will also receive a \$10.00 certificate toward your next semester. (see below for trial class dates)

**REFER A FRIEND** - Refer a friend to Music Together and if they sign up you will receive a \$10.00 certificate toward your next semester. Referral cards are available in your classroom and must be filled out in order for you to receive your certificate.

**GIFT CERTIFICATES** are available in Increments of \$10.00. Are family members not sure what to get your family for the holidays? How about a gift certificate towards your next semester of Music Together Classes. The perfect gift for the "Whole Family"!

**FREE DVD** - Reenroll in the winter 2009 semester by 12/15 and receive a 20 min. DVD of the Music Together Band live in concert! This item is available for a limited time exclusively to currently enrolled Music Together families so enroll today to reserve your copy.



## GOOD CHEER

Recently, we asked you to share a little something about your Music Together experience with us. We'd like to thank you for all of the feedback and suggestions. Keep it coming!! Here's what some of you had to say ...

*Rachel has gotten so much out of Music Together that it's hard to capture the essence of it in a quick 'blurb'! Her verbal skills are way ahead of the curve and I'm convinced that having Music Together as part of her life since she was an infant has had some impact on that. I feel great that I'm helping her develop musically in a way that feels so little like 'instruction' and so much like pure fun. In addition to getting a lot of enjoyment from listening to Music Together at home and in the car as part of our daily routine, I've realized one unexpected benefit...singing something silly from Music Together can make any unpleasant experience (the other day it was convincing Rachel to let me clip her nails!!) into an opportunity to be musical and laugh together!*

-Kim R.

### BRING A FRIEND TRIAL CLASS DATES

**Tuesday, December 2nd @ 5:30 pm - Trumbull**

**Wednesday, December 3rd @ 10:30 am - Trumbull**

Trumbull trial classes will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church located at 1734 Huntington Turnpike in Trumbull

**Monday, December 8th at 10:00 am - Monroe**

**Thursday, December 11th @ 5:30 pm - Monroe**

**Saturday, December 13th @ 10:00 am - Monroe**

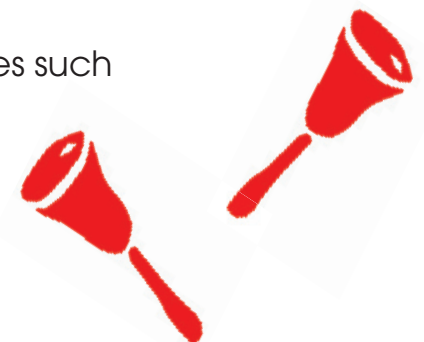
Monroe trial classes will be held at Creative Music Center located at 701 Main Street in Monroe

### SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

COME MAKE MORE MUSIC, FRIENDS, AND MEMORIES WITH US THIS WINTER!!

THE BELLS COLLECTION Includes such Music Together favorites as:

*Trot Old Joe  
Obwisana  
Me, You, We  
Splishing and Splashing  
De Colores*



## GOOD CHEER CONTINUED ...

*I sang it (“Husha My Baby”) to Sofia at bedtime when I was pregnant with Connor. He immediately responded to it after his birth. I still sing it to him despite the additions of the wonderful songs in the Bongos collection. I appreciate that I now recognize his response to music by rocking whenever he hears a song sung by me or someone else directly to him or in the background. I would not have known that this was a natural response of a child to music if it were not for you pointing that out when we first started Music Together a year ago. As for Sofia, she grows with each session. This morning she declared that “Coming ‘Round The Mountain” was her “favorite song.” We dance to our cd’s all the time. As she had just turned one when we started Music Together, we have come to learn the value of singing about things we need to do or just as a distraction to snap her out of a tantrum. It certainly has saved her sanity (and ours) quite a few times! Overall, we have seen her verbal abilities, motor skills, and social interaction enhanced by our participation in the program. We didn’t, and still don’t, intend to fill our kids schedules with classes, programs, etc. but are glad to continue this one when we can.*

- Allyson C.

*This is our 4th Music Together class. My son gets very excited each week to go to “music class” and see Elise play the flute. I think Music Together is a great experience for parent and child. It is not only singing and dancing, but an educational experience as well. My son absolutely loves music, instruments, etc. This is not something I would have realized without being part of this program ... I think the program also helped his language develop when he was first beginning to talk. I found that if I sang something, he was able to mimic me as opposed to if I simply said something.*

- Melissa S.

## BABY, BABY, BABY!!

One of the 4 basic philosophies of Music Together is the role of the parent/caregiver in a child’s life. This philosophy states that the participation and modeling of parents and caregivers, regardless of their musical ability, is essential to a child’s musical growth. There is much scientific research that supports this belief. In the 2005 Newsweek article **Reading Your Baby’s Mind** (Wingert and Bryant) conclude that “Children crave--and thrive on--interaction, one-on-one time and lots of eye contact. That doesn’t mean filling the baby’s room with “educational” toys and posters. A child’s social, emotional and academic life begins with the earliest conversations between parent and child: the first time the baby locks eyes with you; the quiet smile you give your infant and the smile she gives you back. Your child is speaking to you all the time. It’s just a matter of knowing how to listen.” To read more of this eye-opening article go to <http://www.newsweek.com/id/56437>.

## MUSIC AND YOUR BRAIN

In the article **Wired for Sound**, noted neurologist and author Oliver Sacks, MD describes the deep connections between music and our brains and argues that singing is good for us, especially as we grow older. “... not only is music one of the fundamental ways we bond with each other, it literally shapes our brains. Perhaps this is so because musical activity involves many parts of the brain (emotional, motor, and cognitive areas), even more than we use for our other great human achievement, language. This is why it can be such an effective way to remember or to learn. It is no accident that we teach our youngest children with rhymes and songs.” Sacks goes on to suggest that “music burrows its way deep into the nervous system, so deep, in fact, that even when people suffer devastating neurological disease or injury, music is usually the last thing they lose.” To read more of this fascinating and uplifting article go to [http://www.oprah.com/article/omagazine/200812\\_omag\\_sound](http://www.oprah.com/article/omagazine/200812_omag_sound).

## BLUEBIRDS CAN SING, TOO!!

Sadly, it is not uncommon for adults to assume that they are unable to sing, perhaps even believing that they are tone-deaf. Does this describe your feelings about your musical ability? Do you think your bird song is that of a bluebird? Or, are you a music teacher looking for ways to assist singers (young and old) who have difficulty matching pitch? Private vocal instructor and Ithaca alumnus, Marty Heresniak, believes that “bluebird students can learn to match pitch. Bluebirds may not make a go of it as professional singers, but, in the words of Fats Waller, ‘One never know, do one?’” Heresniak investigates the possible causes for an inability to match pitch and offers suggestions for evaluating and training out-of-tune singers in his article **The Care and Training of Adult Bluebirds: Teaching the Singing Impaired** To read Heresniak’s informative article go to <http://users.arczip.com/voxnaturalis/writings/bluebirds.html>.