

Singing Voices



Fall 2008
Volume 1
Issue 2

A NOTE FROM JULIE

Dear Families,

We've missed you!!

Music Together of Monroe/Newtown is growing and finding ways to bring more music making opportunities and research to our currently enrolled families. Enjoy browsing our new informative newsletter; just a sample of what you will receive 2 times per session if you enroll. We have also added the Family Jam event - a chance to get together with other Music Together families to share your love of making music.... together!

We hope you will consider re enrolling for our Winter semester starting January 12th. Register online - today!

Fondly,
Julie

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our **10 week winter semester** starts the week of **January 12th**

Come join us for **the BELLS collection!!**

Come experience a **FREE TRIAL CLASS** first ...

FREE TRIAL CLASS DATES:

Tuesday, December 2nd @ 5:30 pm

Wednesday, December 3rd @ 10:30 am

Monday, December 8th at 10:00 am

Thursday, December 11th @ 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 13th @ 10:00 am

PLEASE NOTE: RSVP is required. PLEASE contact the office for more details (phone number and email listed on the left)

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

COME MAKE 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
and many more!!*



GOOD CHEER

Recently, we asked families to share a little something about their Music Together experience with us. We are deeply committed to excellence and therefore welcome all feedback and suggestions. Here's what people are saying ...

Rachel has gotten so much out of Music Together! 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.
- Kim R.

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. As for Sofia, she grows with each session. 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. 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. 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.

RESONATE: the parent ed corner

Did you know that it is developmentally appropriate for young children to learn through play? One of the basic principles of the Music Together philosophy states that your child's musical growth is best achieved in a playful, non-performance-oriented learning environment. So, leave your expectations at the door when it comes to your child's learning process. Allow the process to unfold and trust that however your child is participating (playing) – whether it is through quiet observation, jump-in participation, or room exploration – they are getting something out of the experience.

teacher SPOTLIGHT: elise miller



Music Together of Monroe/Newtown's newest teacher is Elise Miller. Elise discovered Music Together while completing her BA in Music at CCSU in the spring of 2007. After years of teaching music and working with young children she knew that this was exactly what she wanted to do.

An accomplished flutist and vocalist, Elise has a lifelong love of music to share with her classes. Her enthusiasm for community music-making and her desire to make it accessible and understandable to even the most apprehensive and shy music-makers permeates her work. But, what really informs what she does is being a parent in the program. She, like you, gets to make music alongside her child in class and, like you, gets to watch, listen, and wonder at the musical growth that follows at home - the real classroom! Elise relates, "Our classroom experience gives us an opportunity to experience the joy of making music with our children in a fun, non-performance oriented, community setting. This, combined with a rich, at-home music-making experience gives us a chance to discover so much about our children on so many levels. We all know the emotional power of music, but to take the experience to the next level and make it a whole learning experience, that's powerful!! Music Together takes all aspects of a young child's development into account when developing their curriculum. It's emotional, social, physical, intellectual, & lots of fun!! Music Together really is a gift!!"



WHY MUSIC? WHY NOW? WHY MUSIC TOGETHER?

What is the importance of early childhood education and what is music's role in it? What sets Music Together apart from other early childhood programs? Why are the ages birth to five so critical to your child's development? Do you ever wonder what it means when we say that we're a research based program? For answers to these questions and more visit Music Together's Research and Development page at www.musictogether.com/ResearchAndDevelopment. Find out whose work has most influenced the program, including field experts Howard Gardner, Edwin Gordon, John Holt, Lillian Katz; and Joseph Chilton Pearce to name a few. You can also access the archives of research articles and past newsletters in the "About Us" section.

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) researchers 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.

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.