

Music Makers at HOME in the World: The Next Step to Music Literacy: Ages 4-6

Throughout this year we have been watching the miracle of your children evolving! It has been a lot of fun, but all the while, we have been preparing the children for the next step in their musical development. The experiences that the children will have in the next level of Musikgarten classes are vital as they strive to become functioning musicians, finding joy in music, learning to improvise, write and read music, and eventually learning to play the piano.

As I have watched your children this year, this is what I have observed:

They have **vivid imaginations**, finding delight in the stories of everyday life. They love acting them out, adding ideas and thoughts, or sometimes just observing others as they do so.

They are **gaining control of their bodies**, moving appropriately whether we are dancing like leaves, walking in the snow or imitating the movements of a favorite animal. Activities such as these help the children develop a graceful, rhythmical body through which they can later express music on an instrument.

They are **gaining control of their singing voices**. With their ever increasing repertoire of song material, they are become more tuneful singers, gradually expanding the range in which they can sing accurately.

They are becoming more **proficient with patterns**, now able to echo them accurately using either rhythmic language or solfeggio. As they commit these sounds to their tonal and rhythmic memory, they are laying the foundation for being able to understand the language of musical notation.

They are **good listeners** and have the ability to **discriminate between similar sounds**. In a world which presents us with a constant barrage of noise, developing the ability to focus on a specific sound, and filter out the surrounding noise, will prove to be invaluable as your child strives to function in our noisy world. Additionally, by challenging the children to hear the little differences between a call of a chickadee and that of a cardinal, we are teaching the children to become careful listeners, an attribute that many teachers think is missing in most children, today. They **delight in active music making**. They enjoy making music with you, with me, and with their peers.

This is what you can expect to see in **Music Makers at HOME in the World**:

Singing with increased accuracy, range, and repertoire.

Listening to sounds in an increasingly complex context, distinguishing the sounds of individual instruments.

Moving with growing expressivity, refining finger control for instrument playing, and learning complex dances.

Writing and reading patterns of sound.

Playing various patterns, as well as steady beat accompaniments on a variety of Orff instruments, drums, resonator bars, and other simple rhythm instruments.

Many more opportunities for active music making.

This year we have begun to lay the foundation. Next year, we will build on that foundation, layering on additional skills at the appropriate time and at an appropriate pace. I hope your child will join me on this next step on the pathway to music literacy.

Music Makers at HOME in the World:

Beginning September 2010 for 15 weeks

\$150 for tuition and \$45 for materials

Tuition can be paid in five installments of \$30

Includes CD, Poster, game pieces, and parent book

Wed @ 1 or Thur @ 10:30

To register, contact Amy at:

www.amysmusikgarten.com