



music steps

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"Music with all its subtlety, has immense power to unite people, spread love and bring peace in the world!"

Sanchita Pandey

Animal Antics



First Step-Listening

We started this year's composition journey by listening to some examples of musical pieces about animals. We then discussed if the piece did indeed sound like the animal in the title, what made it sound like it, which characteristics of the animal were portrayed, how. This activity is meant to enhance listening skills and develop critical thinking. I was very happy to see how seriously each one of my students took this activity, how they all got right into the process and came up with some very analytical answers.

If you would like to join in the fun, here are the examples we listened to. They could make for a pretty good conversation starter around the dinner table.



The Bear
by VI. Rebikoff



Butterfly
by E. Grieg



Elephant
by C. Saint Saens



Aquarium
by C. Saint Saens



The Swan
by C. Saint Saens



Wild Rider
by R. Schumann

Second Step-Planning

Next step was for us to do some planning. Your child had to choose a favorite animal to write a song about. They also had to decide if the song was going to be a musical painting of the chosen creature, or an actual story.

Some things we considered were:

- Animal's characteristics
- Young, old, playful, tired?
- What is the animal doing?
- What range to use on the piano: high, low, medium notes?
- Would the piece be fast, slow, loud, soft?
- What kind of feel would they give the piece: sad, scary, mysterious, upbeat, happy?
- What kind of scale would best serve that feel?
- What structure would they give their piece?

You will be able to find most of the answers to the above in your child's lesson notes.

Third Step-Exploration

After finishing the planning part, it is time for us to explore and have some fun. Your child will be encouraged to play and have some fun with the notes on the piano, come up with different versions of melodies for their piece, while I will help them by notating their ideas. Once we choose the melodies we like best, we will move on to adding the finishing touches, like accompaniment, dynamics, maybe even other instruments.

Last Step-Presentation

My young composers will be encouraged to learn to play their new pieces (if they can). We will put together a video showcase in April for everyone's enjoyment.

Updates



Make-up Lessons

This has been a rather difficult year so far in regards to illness. Many of us have struggled with multiple rounds of sickness and quite a few lessons have been missed as a result.

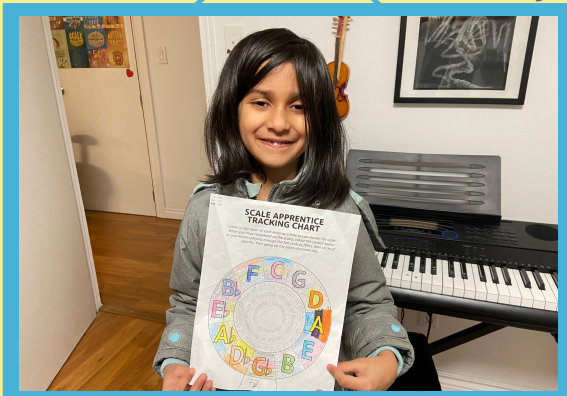
Please check your account for amount of missed classes and contact me if you would like to reschedule them

I have Monday afternoons/evenings available for this purpose. If that does not work for you, other arrangements can be made, just reach out to me.

All lessons will have to be booked by June 30. Any classes not scheduled by that date will be lost

Music Steps Challenge Hall of Fame

Congrats!



Gauri G.



Meliah L.

They have both completed the Pentascale Hero challenge, and are now working their way through the Pentascale Star level.

February Dates and Events



ST VALENTINE'S DAY

Feb. 14



WELCOME TO OUR
MUSIC STEPS TRIBE

AIDEN

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO
HAVE YOU AMONGST US!



FAMILY DAY

NO LESSONS

Feb. 20



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