

LAAPAFEST IS COMING!

by Ryan Cullen, Director



(pictured above - 2012 LAAPAFEST Honors Recital Participants)

Will You Be Performing This Year?
What Is LAAPAFEST Anyway?

IMPORTANT
DATES:

February 11-15
Mardi Gras Break

March 9 -
LAAPAFEST in
Covington

March 16 -
LAAPAFEST in
Mandeville

March 23 -
LAAPAFEST in
River Ridge

April 21 -
Faculty & Honors Recital
Loyola University
New Orleans - 2 PM

Dear Parents and Students,

It's hard to believe that LAAPAFEST is once again nearly here! So what is LAAPAFEST anyway?

LAAPAFEST is a unique opportunity for all music students who have been studying their instrument for at least one year (whether at LAAPA or elsewhere) to perform a memorized solo for a panel of three insightful and friendly judges. Students then receive an overall rating as well as detailed written, constructive feedback on their performance (within a variety of categories) which will then be passed along to their private instructor(s).

The overall goal of LAAPAFEST works in tandem with our mission here at LAAPA of instilling a lifetime appreciation of the performing arts within each student while continually building self-esteem. Students do not compete with other students for their overall rating and are rated solely on their individual performances and at their individual levels. Beginning (1 year) students are most welcome to participate in LAAPAFEST and, in fact, are encouraged!

Immediately following the third and final week of LAAPAFEST on March 23, the judges are asked to select 25-30 students who have received the highest overall ratings to join our Faculty in performing at our Faculty and Honors Recital on April 21. Students will be selected per school campus based on their instrument/program as well as their rating. We wish to provide a concert equally represented with students of all instruments/programs. There are very limited spots in the Honors recital and the selection process is always a very challenging one for the judges! Not being selected for the Honors concert, in other words, certainly does not detract from the outstanding achievement of a Superior or Excellent rating!

LAAPAFEST participation is an outstanding event in and of itself that produces Honors reflected in the outcome of student ratings. It is important to note that the majority of our students participating in LAAPAFEST typically earn either Excellent and/or Superior overall ratings at LAAPAFEST (because they are so well prepared)! The focus of LAAPAFEST is on the individual student, their performance at LAAPAFEST, and their individual rating at LAAPAFEST. At all Spring Concerts in June, LAAPAFEST students will be recognized for their participation and rewarded for Excellent and Superior ratings. For more information on LAAPAFEST, please speak with your private instructor ASAP. You may download a LAAPAFEST participation form online at <http://laapa.com/documents/laapafest13.pdf> or simply request one from the school office.

It is also important to note that each year we do have to turn students away from LAAPAFEST due to the limited number of slots available - our judges are usually listening to music non-stop from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM (with only a lunch break), so we encourage all interested students to turn in paperwork well ahead of the **February 18 official enrollment deadline**. Good luck at LAAPAFEST everyone!

In This Month's Newsletter:

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- New Free Adult Skype Theory Classes!
- Where's Your Teacher Performing?

CONTACT US:
Covington School of Music
985.590.4545
Mandeville School of Music
985.674.2992
River Ridge School of Music & Dance
504.738.3050
www.laapa.com
www.facebook.com/laapaface

Where's your Teacher Performing?



Jack Pritchett, instructor of brass/winds/percussion, has a number of upcoming shows as follows:

February Shows:

All months, every Saturday 7pm-10, Maison on 508 Frenchman St. Dinner Time with the Smoking Time Jazz Club. It's a restaurant until 10pm so you can bring the family!

Panorama Brass Band parade Schedule:

2/8 Krewe of Morpheus, Uptown/Downtown New Orleans Evening 6:30pm
2/9 Krewe of Tucks, Uptown/Downtown New Orleans - Afternoon 12:30pm

The Larry Foyen Big Band: Mondays Feb 18th, 25th, Every Monday thereafter from 6-9 pm at Mojitos Restaurant at 437 Esplanade Ave.



Vanya Karachobanova, instructor of violin/cello/piano will be performing with the **Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra**, February 21, 7:30 pm at River Center, Baton Rouge and with the **Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra**, February 6 and 7 11:00 am at the Seanger Theatre, Biloxi, MS

Faculty Practice Tips:

by
Ms. Vanya Karachobanova

Quality vs. Quantity in Your Practice Sessions:

It is not that important how long you practice every day but how much you accomplish when you practice.

It's great to follow a scheduled practice time, but you should avoid playing straight through pieces over and over without being able to concentrate!

It's easy to reinforce mistakes when you don't pay attention while playing or when you practice without purpose or focus. So always try to ensure quality in your practice sessions!

Good luck practicing!

And remember....



A Huge Welcome to our 103 New Students who enrolled this January!

Abby G., Abigail S., Adrian P., Aeden B., Alessandra S., Alice K., Allison B., Aniya C., Annabel B., Ariane C., Arnice S., Austin I., Ayden M., Benjamin T., Bernadette M., Blakely S., Brette S., Caden C., Caitlin S., Caleb B., Caroline D., Catherine S., Catherine W., Chloe A., Christyn B., Claire S., Colt B., Cooper R., David H., David C., David C., Dmitri H., Dominique G., Eleanor C., Elizabeth D., Ella B., Ella C., Ella H., Emily T., Emily G., Evan F., Gabby R., Giselle G., Glenn M., Grace C., Grace W., Hannah P., Hudson V., Jackson I., Jalisia S., Jeremiah C., Jingjia L., John D., Joseph S., Joseph G., Kadie B., Katelyn S., Kayden B., Kaytlyn H., Keith B., Kelly W., Konnor B., Kyle H., Landon D., Lawson M., Lorraine D., Luke T., Madi K., Madison V., Maria H., Matthew L., Max L., Megan A., Michael O., Michael C., Miranda B., Natalie B., Nicholas S., Nick V., Noah P., Olivia C., Olivia M., Paige M., Pat V., Porsha D., Rolland D., Ryan S., Sam K., Savannah F., Savannah H., Siaden M., Spencer F., Sydney C., Thomas W., Tom B., Tuana P., Tyler V., Warren D., Yahjah B., Yayan L., Yishu L., Zheyang C., Zheyuan H.

Student News

Mandeville School of Music student, **Ian Kelly**, made the District Honor Band!

Covington School of Music student **Madison Hayes** will play the role of "Magdalena" in St. Paul's production of "*In the Heights*."



Former student, **Scott Kyser** (pictured above) recently had an unexpected visit on his regular weekend solo piano gig at Austin's Restaurant in Metairie. Legendary New Orleans music man, **Dr. John** (also pictured above) showed up and hung out for a bit! Scott studied jazz piano with LAAPA Director Ryan Cullen at the River Ridge School of Music & Dance.



Violin faculty members Kate Withrow and Gabriel Platica of the River Ridge School of Music & Dance coordinated a special Christmas Concert featuring their adult violin students this past December. Participants (left-right) included **John Fore, Adrian Barton, Gina Radecker, Kate Withrow, Vernon Rodrigue, and Gabriel Platica**.

Have something to share? E-mail your news to studentnews@laapa.com!

Students of the Month - Beth Gaillot & Shelby Lambert

(pictured from left-right are Beth, Instructor - Candace Schaedel, and Shelby)

Why did you choose LAAPA for adult hip hop dance classes at the River Ridge School of Music & Dance?

Shelby: I loved how sweet everyone was when I called. They welcomed me in as if I had already been taking classes here. I love it!

Beth: It was one of a few places offering adult dance classes that started at the time I started looking. Most places were halfway through a course.

What do you like best about your classes?

Beth: I'm never bored because we do a variety of exercises and we are always learning new moves.

Shelby: I love how much we incorporate into the hip hop. It's not just simple moves done throughout. It's more of a variation of what everyone loves to do when dancing!



IS YOUR TEACHER COMPLETELY BOOKED? • TEACHERS WITH WAITING LISTS

Many of our teachers are totally booked! If you need a schedule change or would like to be added to a waiting list for a particular teacher, day, or time, please contact any of our office staff team and they can add you to the waiting list. There are still limited lesson spots available.

To inquire about openings for February or March, send an email to contact@laapa.com or call one of our locations: (504) 738-3050 for River Ridge, (985) 674-2992 for Mandeville, and (985) 590-4545 for Covington.

Here's just a partial list of who's currently full at all campuses:

VOICE/PIANO:

Maggie: TU BOOKED!, FRI 1 spot
Kathleen: TU & WED BOOKED!
Cara: MON, TU, WED, FRI, SAT ALL BOOKED!
Kristen: SAT BOOKED!
Bonnie: MON, WED, TH, FRI – ALL BOOKED!, SAT 1 spot
Jennifer: MON BOOKED!
Russell: TUES BOOKED! TH BOOKED! Wed 1 spot
Meredith: MON, TU, WED, TH--ALL BOOKED!
Katarina: TU 1 spot, WED & SAT BOOKED!
Jenna: TH 1 spot, SAT BOOKED!
Baylie: MON 1 spot, TH 1 spot
Rebecca: MON 1 spot, WED & FRI BOOKED!
Carolyn: TU BOOKED! WED BOOKED!

Victoria: MON 1 spot, SAT BOOKED!
Bethany: TU, 1 spot

GUITAR/DRUMS:

Bill: MON & FRI, 1 spot, SAT BOOKED!
Curtis: TH BOOKED!
Jeff: WED BOOKED!
Josh: WED, 1 spot, MON, TU, TH BOOKED!
Ben: TUES BOOKED!, TH 1 spot, FRI BOOKED!, SAT BOOKED!

VIOLIN/CELLO:

Kate: MON BOOKED
Gabriel: MON 1 spot
Simona: WED & SAT BOOKED!, MON & TH 1 spot
Denise: MON & WED BOOKED!

BRASS/WOODWINDS:

Vitalie: MON 1 spot
Ryan: TH BOOKED!
Jack: WED BOOKED!

Lagniappe Corner

Introducing Princess Jazzi Adelaide LeBoeuf



Princess Jazzi, a Whippet puppy, has style and the name to match! She is a family member of River Ridge School of Music & Dance piano student, **Jesse Lynn Leboeuf**.

Jazzi turned one year old on November 19, 2012 and is an indoor lap puppy. She is super-fast outdoors. Her favorite toy is her tennis ball, but she also loves to play with anything that squeaks. Jazzi can also sometimes be found practicing the piano with Jesse Lynn - when she isn't taking a nap, that is!

Student Shout Outs!

"Thank you for all of your help and guidance in piano, Mr. Russell! I have enjoyed being your student for the past couple years. You're great!"

~ **Callie Matyas**

"I'd love other parents to know Dakota's story and how valuable LAAPA has been to us, Josh in particular! Dakota is a senior this year and will go on to study for a music degree. We've been here for 3 years but he's had lessons since he was about 9, living in New Mexico, Reno and now here. Dakota recently was offered an internship at a recording studio in Mandeville, JT Studios. Josh has been wonderful. We feel like he's really made a difference in preparing Dakota to study music in college."

~ **Missy Piqué**

Brand New Adult Skype Theory Classes

Come on in and learn all about the fundamental building blocks of music!

Our Adult Skype Theory Classes have started! These classes are completely FREE to all currently enrolled music students (ages 17-up) and are held each **Thursday from 5:15-6:00 PM** via Skype. All you need is a laptop or desktop computer with Skype installed and a webcam.

For more information or to join the class, please login to Skype and send a Skype contact request to skype name "rpcullen.laapa".

Be sure to include your full name and note that you'd like to join the Adult Theory Class!