

LAAPANOTES



Giving thanks for our Students, Faculty, & Staff



As I write our December newsletter, Thanksgiving is just a few days away, and I'll admit that just one sentence in, I'm already being distracted by the thoughts of turkey and pecan pie!

All kidding aside, looking back at this past year, I'd just like to take a moment to say a huge, "Thank You" to all of our students and parents who have either recently joined our school or (in many cases) have been studying with us for years. This past September, we hit a new milestone at the Academy by enrolling our 1,000th student! Reaching 1,000 students has been one of our long term goals for the past few years now. Being able to continue our mission of spreading the joy of music and dance to so many students is such an awesome privilege to us. Of course, we couldn't do it without some of the best music and dance educators and administrative professionals in the New Orleans area. It takes a true talent and commitment in each of these areas, and our first class faculty and staff are undoubtedly our greatest asset.

One of my greatest joys here at the Academy is being able to see the growth of each student from the time of enrollment to the present. With at least 20 concerts a year that we hold at LAAPA, I have many opportunities, and I can't wait to see what you all have been preparing for our final performances of 2014!

Even if you won't be performing this year, we hope that you can join us to enjoy the many performances from our talented music and dance students!

This year we will be holding 11 concerts jam packed with over 440 performances and nearly 16.5 hours of music and dancing - all in two days!

Our concerts for the Covington and Mandeville Schools of Music will be held on Saturday, December 20 at the Fuhrmann Auditorium in Covington. Times are 9 AM, 11 AM, 1:10 PM, 3:20 PM, 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM.

Our concerts for the River Ridge School of Music & Dance will be held on Sunday, December 21 at St. Martin's Solomon Theater in Metairie. Times are 11 AM, 1 PM, 3:15 PM, 5:15 PM, and 7:15 PM.

Student Recital time assignments have now been posted on our website at
http://laapa.com/current_students.

In lieu of tickets, each December, our students, faculty, and staff put on a Benefit Concert to support the Teresian Sisters and their Mission in Batesville, Texas. Just 30 minutes outside of Uvalde, Texas, Batesville is a small, impoverished town near the Mexican Border. For more information on the Mission, please visit <http://www.laapa.com/mission>.

I look forward to seeing you all at the concerts!

A Very Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays,

Ryan Cullen
Academy Director

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IMPORTANT DATES:

December 20
Northshore Concerts

December 21
River Ridge Concerts

December 22 - January 2
Christmas/New Year Holidays

CONTACT US:



E-mail your news,
comments, etc. to us:
contact@laapa.com.

"Providing students of all ages with the education, inspiration, & motivation conducive to a lifetime appreciation for the performing arts since 1978."

REGISTER NOW FOR ALL PROGRAMS!

It's Easy to Get Started in Music
Lessons and Dance Classes this
Fall! Call us Today to
Reserve your Time.

Covington - 985.590.4545
Mandeville - 985.674.2992
River Ridge - 504.738.3050

Welcome to Our Students who began lessons or added programs in November!

Abby N.
Alex G.
Allie M.
Andrea D.
Anthony C.
Berlin S.
Breaud S.
Cade C.

(thanks Melissa C.)

Catherine V.
Chase K.
Cheryl E.
Christian M.
Conor M.
Cort H.

Dominic G.
Elise G.

(thanks Tina W.)

Ella U.
Francisco V.
Hailey C.
Inchara A.

(Neha & Shriya G.)

Jack V.

(thanks Charlie V.)

James F.
Jarvis C.
Jordan P.
Julianna P.
Kai L.
Ken M.

Keston M.
Khalil E.
Kristen P.

(thanks Bernadette M.)

Leyna M.
Liam M.
Lila C.
Luke M.

Makayla M.
Marissa G-M.
Melissa C.

(thanks Adyson C.)

Mia M.
Michael H.

(thanks Loreta H.)

Nathan O.
(George G.)
Pratyush S.
Raleigh L.
Rebecca A.
Remi B.
Saris E.

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Student News

Mandeville School of Music students, **Camille Talbot and Brooklyn Darr (both pictured right)** were selected for District Honor Choir. Camille attends Mandeville Middle School and Brooklyn attends Tchefuncte Middle School. They both practiced really hard for their auditions and are students of Rebecca Posey.



Mandeville School of Music student, **Jamie Planchard** performed the National Anthem at the Northshore Roller Derby event this past October and did such a great job that she was invited on the air by a local radio personality. Jamie studies with Carolyn Russell.

Mandeville School of Music student, **Ashleigh Stoltz**, made the District Honor Choir.



Have News to Share? E-mail your news to studentnews@laapa.com!
Connect with us on Facebook at facebook.com/laapaface

Faculty & Staff News



Miles Kota Staples (age 5 1/2 mos. & pictured left) will be celebrating his first Christmas and New Year. He is the son of **Mr. Curtis Staples**, instructor of guitar.

Reid Poole, instructor of brass/wind/percussion/guitar is very excited to join the Glenn Miller Orchestra this month on trumpet. He will be touring the East Coast, beginning in Florida and ending in New York.

Joy Meade, instructor of voice/piano will be a soloist in the "Messiah" sing along at Trinity Episcopal Church in New Orleans Sunday December 7, 5 PM.

Give the Give of Art this Christmas!

If it's been awhile since you've last come inside our Mandeville and River Ridge campuses, then we'd like to invite you in to take a look at the recently added artwork throughout our school.

Local artist, Michaela Howell has graciously decorated our schools with her music and dance themed artwork (just one example of which is pictured right). All of these pieces may be purchased for your home or as a gift this holiday season! Please inquire at the front desk.

With down home country humble beginnings Michaela has always been very resourceful. She cuts, sands, primes, paints, and in some cases stains her abstract versions of the wooden instruments, creating very hands-on works of art. This resourcefulness has "Played" out very nicely in her most current work. Though the recycling of varying musical instrument components including guitar strings, violin knobs, music sheets featuring the instrument showcased, Michaela portrays a 'current' sense of style combined with a very vivid color pallet, creating a symphony for the senses!



Students of the Month - Lauryn & Luke Rios



Mandeville School of Music students, **Lauryn & Luke Rios** take piano and violin lessons at LAAPA. We recently had a chance to speak with them and learn a little more about their lessons and interests!

Tell us about yourselves and how long you've been taking classes at LAAPA.

Lauryn - I am 9 and we've both been taking music lessons for about 9-10 months, and it's fun! I play the violin.

Luke - I'm 7 and I play the piano.

How and why did you get started in music lessons?

Lauryn - Ever since I was little, I always begged my mom to play the violin, but they had no music lessons in the other states that we moved around to because we are a military family. And then we moved to Louisiana and we saw the music school.

Luke - I thought it was cool sounding. I started with drums, but didn't like it so I switched to piano.

What do you enjoy most about coming to lessons each week?

Lauryn - It's fun every time I play the violin. I think every time I play it, I just have a blast, so I always can't wait for the next lesson.

Luke - I learn.

What are your other interests and hobbies?

Lauryn - I like to swim. I also like to rent a motorboat and go out on the lake.

Luke - I've played baseball for five years. I like taking lessons and playing baseball. And Legos.

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Student Shout Outs!

"My son Cameron Casso has been going to guitar lessons for over a year. His teacher is Curtis, who is amazing with Cameron. They both love the same type of music and it is a blessing to see Cameron learning from such a talented teacher. Curtis has the patience and the flexibility to work with Cameron and his many genres of music. I am more than pleased with this investment.

Thank you Curtis!"

~Robert Casso

Is Your Teacher Completely Booked? Teachers with Waiting Lists

Many of our teachers are already nearly or 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 for December & January.

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

GUITAR

Curtis WED,TH,FRI-1 spot! MON-BOOKED!
Jason TU-2 spots! MON-1 spot!
Bill WED, FRI-1 spot! MON,TH,SAT-BOOKED!

GUITAR/DRUM

Curtis W,TH,FRI-1 spot! MON-BOOKED!
Josh TU,WED,TH,SAT-BOOKED!
Ben MON,WED,SAT-1 spot! TU,TH,FRI-BOOKED!
Kirk MON-1 spot!
Aaron TU, 1 spot! MON,WED-BOOKED!
Bill TH,FRI-1 spot! MON,WED,SAT-BOOKED!
Jason MON,TU-1 spot!

WIND/BRASS/GUITAR

Mark TU-2 spots!
Reid WED-1 spot! MON,TH-BOOKED!
David FRI-2 spots!
Marius TU,FRI-BOOKED! SAT-2 spots!

PIANO

Russell MON,WED-1 spot! TU,TH-BOOKED!
Mirka TU-1 spot!
Daniel TU,TH-1 spot! WED-BOOKED!

PIANO/VOICE

Bonnie SAT-2 spots! MON,TH-1 spot! WED-BOOKED!
Rebecca TH-1 spot! MON,TU,WED,FRI-BOOKED!
Meredith MON,TU-BOOKED!
Jennifer MON-1 spot!
Kathleen TU,WED-1 spot!
Meghan WED,TH,SAT-BOOKED! FRI-1 spot!
Katarina TU,WED,TH,SAT-BOOKED!
Carolyn MON,TU,FRI,SAT-BOOKED! WED-2 spots!
Autumn TU,WED,SAT-BOOKED!
Joy MON,WED-BOOKED!
Yulene SAT-2 spots!
Amy MON,TU,TH,FRI-BOOKED!
Jessica TU,1 spot! WED-BOOKED!
Bethany TU,WED,TH,FRI,SAT-BOOKED!
Thomas TH-2 spots!
Jacob SAT-2 spots!

VIOLIN/VIOLA/CELLO

Denise MON,WED,TH,FRI-BOOKED! TU-1 spot!
Vanya MON,SAT-1 spot! WED-BOOKED!
Gabriel MON-1 spot!
Kate MON-1 spot!
Simona/Lee MON,WED-1 spot!

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Louisiana Academy of Performing Arts
 316 Girod St.
 Mandeville, LA 70448
www.laapa.com | 985-231-0875

December Edition:

- Giving thanks for our Students, Faculty, & Staff
- Student & Faculty News
- Give the Gift of Art this Holiday!
- Students of the Month - Lauryn & Luke Rios
- Student Shout Outs
- Welcome to our newest Students!
- Happy December Birthdays!



Artwork by Michaela Howell - see inside for more information!



Welcome to Our Newest Students (continued)

Seth M., Tyler H., Vitoria L. (thanks Sarah M.), Wilma D.

Students of the Month - Lauryn & Luke Rios (continued)

What has your experience been (Raul - parent)?

It's been wonderful. Like Lauryn said, we are a military family and Louisiana has really broadened our opportunities for music. So in that respect, we'll always have a love for Louisiana when we leave here eventually and its rich culture in music.

Happy December Birthdays!

(Students) Alison M. (15), Alyiah R (12), Alyssa B. (11), Andrew B. (10), Andrew P. (9), Anna C. (9), Atticus F. (12), Bayli M. (14), Ben W. (14), Bill L., Brooke S. (7), Caitlyn D. (11), Camille T. (12), Camille P. (6), Charles A. (17), Chase D. (6), Chloe B. (9), Dawson H. (5), Edgar M. (12), Elise E. (10), Elizabeth D., Emily Y. (15), Evan D. (7), Gabriel J. (9), George B., Grace S. (9), Graham J. (7), Haley H. (14), Hannah C. (6), Helen S. (7), Henry F. (12), Isabella T. (5), Jaden B. (8), Jake G. (14), Jethro J. (7), Julianna P. (4), Kate R. (12), Kaylie N. (10), Khalil E. (10), Kiley G. (3), Kushal S. (17), Lily W. (8), Logan R. (16), Madilyn K. (6), Madison N. (16), Max L. (7), Michael C. (9), Olalekan F. (5), Olivia H. (14), Oumar D. (10), Patrick H. (12), Paul Joseph G. (16), Peter B. (8), Sam R. (10), Sam K. (9), Sanjana S. (12), Shaw C. (13), Skylar J. (12), Sofya V. (8), Sophia R. (11), Taylor S., Vanessa M. (5), Zyla B. (7).

(Faculty & Staff) Marius Tilton, Kate Withrow, Hailey Stowe, Jason Chin