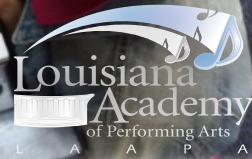




Louisiana Academy of Performing Arts
 316 Girod St.
 Mandeville, LA 70448
 www.laapa.com | 985-231-0875

In This Month's Newsletter

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- Update from former student Dakota Pique
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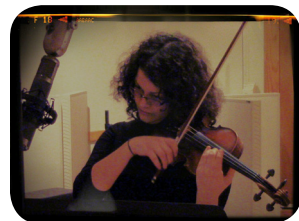


Welcome to Our Newest Students Who Began Lessons in February! (cont'd)

Mimi O. (*thanks to Sydney O.*), Nathan B., Olalekan F., Pat C., Robert K. Sean M., Sydney S., Tabitha H., Vincent L., William A., Zachary G.

It's a true pleasure to have all of you joining us and in some cases returning to us or adding additional programs here at LAAPA!

Faculty News



Vanya Karachobanova recently contributed to the upcoming Abigail's Ghost record. Vanya made violin contributions that will appear on 8 tracks from the album to be released later this year. Abigail's Ghost is a progressive rock band hailing from the south Louisiana area. Like the band's page on Facebook to see video of the recording session and receive news regarding the release!

Domonique Terrell is in the process of applying for a teacher certification program with the American Tap Dance Foundation in New York for continued training and studies.

Kate Withrow will be performing with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra as follows:

Beethoven and Blue Jeans "Appalachian Spring," a concert celebrating the coming of spring including works by Respighi, Vivaldi, Strauss, Beethoven and Copland. LAAPA substitute teacher Benjamin Hart will be performing Spring from Vivaldi's Four Season.

These concerts are at First Baptist Kenner on March 7 at 7:30, Columbia Theater in Hammond on March 8 at 7:30, and Slidell Municipal Auditorium on March 9 at 2:30. For a complete listing of the LPO's March performances - please visit their website at <http://www.lpomusic.com/?q=Concerts>



LAAPANOTES

March, 2014

Your Roadmap to Success in Music & Dance

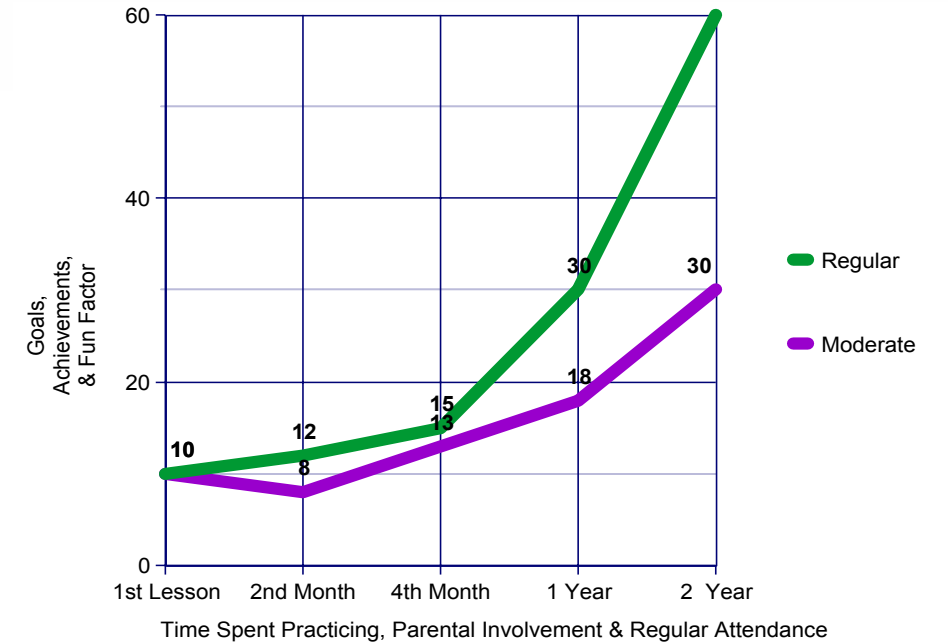
IMPORTANT DATES:

March 3-7
Mardi Gras Holidays

March 15
LAAPAFEST
Covington Campus

March 22
LAAPAFEST
Mandeville Campus

March 29
LAAPAFEST
River Ridge Campus



Covington School of Music
985.590.4545
 857 N. Collins Blvd. Ste. A
 Covington, LA 70433

Mandeville School of Music
985.674.2992
 316 Girod St.
 Mandeville, LA 70448

River Ridge School of Music & Dance
504.738.3050
 2020 Dickory Ave. Ste. 200
 Harahan, LA 70123

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twitter.com/laapatweets

E-mail us:
contact@laapa.com

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

Each day here at Laapa, we have the pleasure of speaking with many prospective families in addition to brand new students who are coming in for their very first lessons.

Quite often during these conversations, we are asked questions regarding what can be expected in terms of progress as a brand new beginning music or dance student here at the Academy. Here are just a few...

"So how long will it take until I can play this piece or dance like this performer? When will I get to the fun stuff?"

Of course at the Academy, our teachers all do a fantastic job in terms of ensuring that each and every lesson is fun and enjoyable - even the very first ones! When students have a particular piece in mind that is their primary goal though, it can sometimes be frustrating to have to first jump through several seemingly endless hoops instead of being able to immediately tackle that ultimate goal.

Playing music well requires additional practice time outside of class each week to allow for the development of fine motor skills and muscle memory...something that only repetition can enhance. Dancers will also benefit from practice outside of class, but care should be used to avoid extended practice on regular hard flooring (as opposed to a professional dance floor as we use at the Academy) to avoid extraenous stress and fatigue on the lower body.

The main key to achieving your goals in our programs here at Laapa is consistency. Consistency is critical

in terms of regular practice, regular lesson/class attendance, and for younger students - regular parental involvement (mainly with outside of class practice).

"Shouldn't my child just love to practice on his/her own without me telling him/her to?"

In an ideal world, well certainly. However, as students progress and things become more challenging and perhaps not as immediately gratifying for them, they need more motivation and encouragement from you to keep up that regular practice time so that they continue to progress. Very few students LOVE to practice what they REALLY SHOULD BE PRACTICING all of the time. My own children, Patrick (age 7) and Lucy (age 4) need regular reminding quite often!

"What happens if the progress just seems to stop? Does that mean that music or dance is not for me?"

Not necessarily - in most cases, stalled progress is the result of lost interest and/or lack of goals which makes the task of practicing quite undesirable for the student. It's important to note that every student (no matter how dedicated) will go through bumps along the way. This is perfectly natural, however should you notice stalled progress occurring, it's important to notify and discuss this with us. We can then work with you and your instructor to re-evaluate your lesson plan and perhaps add some more inspiring repertoire to your long term goals and weekly lesson plans.

Committed to your success!
 Ryan Cullen, Director

Student News

Tanner Tharp (pictured right) was recently featured performing on Good Morning New Orleans, channel 4 with the First Baptist Mandeville choir.

Congratulations to **Bailey Sitarz** (also pictured right) who dances in SSA's "Royalties." The team placed First in POM and JAZZ in the UDS state competition! Bailey studies voice with Kathleen Anderson and piano with Josh Theriot.

Brian Forrest III was the only student in middle school to be accepted into the Jr high honor band for percussion. He also played with LPO at UNO lakefront arena for their first ever Play That. He was selected to play with the first violins. He is now playing percussion in the praise band at First United Church in Slidell.

Kimberly Adams was cast as Big Bird in "Sesame Street Live" at St. Catherine of Siena. The performance was held on February 20, 2014.



Have News to Share?
E-mail your news to studentnews@laapa.com!

Connect with us on Facebook at facebook.com/laapaface

Students of the Month - Isabella & Amelia Roberts



Covington School of Music students, **Isabella & Amelia Roberts** take guitar and piano lessons here at LAAPA!

They recently took some time to tell us about their experience here at the Academy:

How long have you been taking piano and guitar lessons at Laapa?

Both - 2 years!

What kind of music do you listen to?

Bella - Pop
Amelia - Pop, Justin Timberlake

What is your favorite part of the lesson each week?

Bella - Improvising
Amelia - Doing warm-ups

What do you enjoy practicing each week?

Bella – Improvising
Amelia – Scales

Welcome to our Newest Students who began this February!

- Adia Y.
- Alexi K.
- Amelie S.
- Andi G.
- Andrew J.
- Aniya S. *(thanks to Alicia I.)*
- Annie F.
- Arabella G. *(thanks to George G.)*
- Atticus F. *(thanks to Henry F.)*
- Audrey J.
- Bailey S.
- Brianna B.
- Catherine P.
- Celeste V.
- Charles A.
- Clara W.
- Cohen C.
- Colleen G.
- Denva G.
- Donna L.
- Elijah J.
- Eryn K.
- Gabriela M.
- Grace A.
- Grant H.
- Isaac S.
- Jade Y.
- Jerry G. *(thanks to Lonnie G.)*
- Johnny S.
- Jose M.
- Kiara L.
- Lance H.
- Leanna M.
- Liam M.
- Lynette G.
- Macie H.
- Macy C.
- Madison M.
- Madison N.
- Mariana E.
- Micah B. *(thanks to Cammie T.)*

Students of the Month - Isabella & Amelia Roberts (cont'd)

What are some of your other interests/hobbies?

Bella – Track, listening to music and hanging out with my friends
Amelia – Tennis, golf and basketball

What made you choose Laapa for piano lessons and guitar lessons?

Jill (mom) - Every child I saw performing and was impressed with was ALWAYS from Laapa. That's how I came to know about the school!

Former Student Update from Dakota Pique

Dakota Pique graduated last year from the Covington School of Music. He's had a great first semester at University of Louisiana Lafayette, majoring in Music Theory/Composition. His guitar won him a great housing scholarship! Also, he got a great surprise mid semester when his fabulous piano professor, Dr. Susana Garcia, walked into class and handed him an envelope with a \$1000 "Friends of Acadiana Scholarship" in it! He had never had any piano lessons but is loving his keyboard class. This semester he was blessed with the lead guitar position in the Bluegrass Ensemble and is also playing in an 8 piece classical guitar ensemble. And! His grades are great! He is a really happy dude and I just wanted to share the news. His parents ask that we please pass this along to Josh Theriot along with their thanks and well wishes!

Further reading - newspaper article on the bluegrass ensemble: <http://thevermillion.com/?p=871>

Ready to Get Started in Classes?

From the Director: Important News You Need to Know...Few Openings Remain

Normally each month, we post which teachers are full so that our students are aware of their options in regards to scheduling. But things are getting so full with certain instruments that this month, for each of our three schools, we're going to list what's available for each day of the week. **Prospective students, please note that we still have openings, but not many!** At this time of the year, many of you may have been thinking about signing up, adding more programs, or increasing the length of your lesson(s). If you're going to do so, please do so ASAP before they're all gone. Once we're totally full, we can add you to a waiting list. To inquire about openings for March, send an email to contact@laapa.com or call us at 504-738-3050 (River Ridge); 985-674-2992 (Mandeville); 985-590-4545 (Covington).

RRSMD

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Violin	1	1	0	0	0	2
Drums	1	2	1	0	0	1
Voice	0	1	3	1	2	3
Piano	2	1	2	2	1	1
Guitar	1	0	1	3	1	2

MSOM

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Violin	1	1	2	2	0	1
Drums	0	0	0	1	0	0
Voice	2	2	1	1	1	2
Piano	2	1	1	1	1	1
Guitar	0	1	0	1	0	1

CSOM

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Violin	1	0	1	0	0	0
Drums	0	0	0	0	1	1
Voice	1	1	1	2	1	1
Piano	0	1	0	1	1	1
Guitar	2	0	1	0	1	2

*Woodwind, brass and other instruments available depending on day. Openings subject to change at any time depending on availability. Please call for the latest openings.