

LAAPANOTES



Sharing Ideas to Move our Students Forward



This past August, the Faculty and Staff of the Covington, Mandeville, and River Ridge campuses met in the LAAPA Performance Hall to discuss the state of the Academy, how we can continue to improve our teaching methods, etc. It is through the sharing of our ideas that our faculty are able to continue to move forward and provide our students with the finest music and dance education here in the Greater New Orleans area!

Academy Director, **Ryan Cullen** opened the seminar and discussed the importance of meeting the needs of "The Evolving Student". Students are technology aware today more than ever, and through the use of our school iPads and variety of different apps, our Faculty have a plethora of supplemental information at their fingertips that will truly enhance the value and outcome of each lesson.

Carolyn Russell, Instructor of Piano/Voice at the Covington and Mandeville Schools reminded us all of the power that education in the performing arts has through her presentation entitled, "Impacting Lives Through Music Lessons." She also generously shared her variety of resources - one in particular was a questionnaire that helps to identify the student's learning behaviors. Knowing this information for each student allows her (and now all of our Faculty) to better tailor each lesson according to the

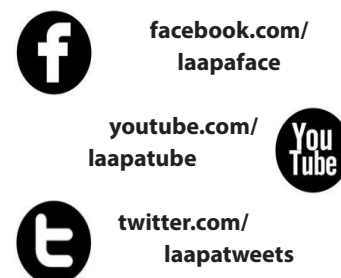
student's learning patterns.

Bill Solomon, Instructor of General Music at the River Ridge School of Music & Dance discussed the importance of "Student Assessment" which he personally works through on a more verbal basis vs. a questionnaire format. Knowing which questions to ask the student and seeing how they react to the types of exercises and lesson plans that he brings to each lesson helps him to continually ensure that his students are on successful paths.

Jennifer White, Instructor of Voice/Piano at the River Ridge School of Music & Dance discussed the extremely important aspect of "Structuring Lessons for Maximum Value." She discussed in depth how to structure lessons differently for students who are very young and just beginning versus adults who have a solid idea of what they'd like to get out of each lesson.

The seminar concluded with Mandeville School of Music Instructor of Piano/Voice, **Rebecca Posey's** presentation entitled, "Inspiring Confident, Expressive Performers". Ms. Posey focuses heavily on the extremely important aspect of having students practice as if they are performing on stage each time! **Ms. Posey (pictured above) was additionally named "2014 Teacher of the Year by the Faculty/Staff!"**

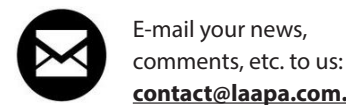
CONNECT WITH US ONLINE:



IMPORTANT DATES:

- October 20-25**
Bring a Friend Week!
- October 31**
Halloween - Open for Lessons

CONTACT US:



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

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL 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 100+ Students who began lessons this September!

Aimee L.
Alexander N.
Alexis M.
Alicia M.
Andrew G.
Anthony G.
Arabella G.

(thanks George G.)

Armani G.
Audrey Lane C.
Bayli M.
Beau D.
Ben D.

Brayden R.
Brennan S.

(thanks Strickland Family)

Brookelyn D.
Bryce D.
Cahler L.
Caleb S.
Caleb B.
Camille P.
Chase K.
Chloe C.
Christian W.
Christian B.
Christian S.
Cindy L.
Diego D.
Eleanor C.
Elizaveta D.
Embry P.
Emily S.
Geoffrey G.
Grace B.
Grace H.
Hailey S.

(thanks Carolyn R.)

Hannah A.
Hayden M.

(thanks Patrick F.)

Hayes D.
Hien N.
Hudson M.
Ian S.
Jack A.
Jacqueline M.
Jase D.
Joan S.
John B.
Joseph G.
Joseph D.
Joshua M.P.
Josiah J.

(continued on p. 4)



Student News

River Ridge School of Music & Dance student **Ella Bertucci** recently visited St. Francis Assisted Living Center to play piano for the residents during lunch. She played some past pieces along with some new ones from Mrs. Bonnie!

Mandeville School of Music student, **Matthew Folsie** made the Jazz Band at his school: Mandeville Middle School! Matthew is 12, in 6th grade, and he's just started drum lessons with Mr. Ben this past July.



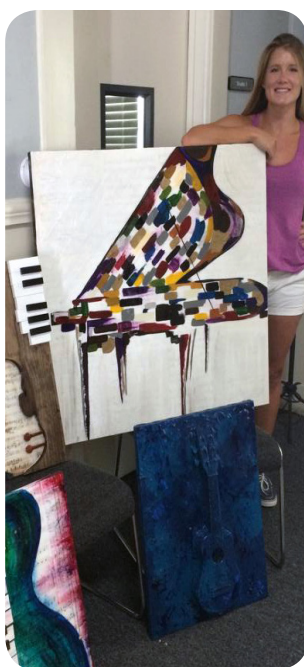
Have News to Share? E-mail your news to studentnews@laapa.com!
Connect with us on Facebook at [facebook.com/laapaface](https://www.facebook.com/laapaface)

Faculty News

Aaron Boudreaux, instructor of drums/guitar at the River Ridge School of Music & Dance as well as the Covington School of Music was recently in Helsinki, Finland and Tonder, Denmark on tour with Cedric Watson, Dirk Powell, and John Boutte. He is pictured left with New Orleans jazz vocalist, John Boutte.



Meet the Artist - Michaela Howell



Born and raised in Louisiana, Michaela Howell attended The University of Louisiana Lafayette in which she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. While working her way through college Michaela found Lafayette to be a hot bed of artistic interest complete with great food, live music, and lots of fun! Michaela met a man who shared her interest in "Les Bon Temps" and shortly after graduation they were married. Now, a full time mom and a resident of southern Louisiana, Michaela pulls her inspiration from the commonalities of the Cajun and NOLA cultures...both centered on Music!

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.

Michaela is very grateful for the opportunity to display her latest work at The Mandeville and River Ridge Schools of Music and Dance. When recently asked about the upcoming display Michaela commented "I just feel so blessed to be able to do what I love so much and that passion for all kinds of art can transcend to connect with others. The fact that this work will go on to help others to share that love is a blessing on its own."

Students of the Month - The Guerra Family



River Ridge School of Music & Dance students, **Olivia, Isaack, and Laney Guerra** take or have taken piano, guitar, voice, drum lessons and dance classes! 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.

Olivia - I'm in the 7th grade at St. Christopher. I have been taking music lessons at River Ridge for 5 years. I'm presently taking piano, guitar, and voice lessons. I also write music and performed a song that I wrote at one of the recitals. I've also had the opportunity to participate in LAAPA Fest for the last two years.

Issack - I'm in the 3rd grade at St. Christopher and have been playing drums at River Ridge for 2 years.

Laney - I'm in the 4th grade at St. Michael's Special School. I was enrolled in dance lessons at River Ridge for almost a year and decided to switch to drum lessons with Mr. Bill this past spring.

How and why did you get started in music lessons?

Olivia - I thought it would be a cool thing to take music lessons. I've always wanted to be a rock star and thought this would be a great start.

Issack - I thought it would be fun to be a drummer and I would love to be famous one day.

Laney - I wanted to take lessons so I could be with Olivia and Isaack.

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

Olivia - Ms. Meghan and Mr. Ben are really nice. I always look forward to showing them what I've learned.

Issack - I just love playing my drums with Mr. Bill. I really enjoy having him as my teacher.

Laney - I like playing the drums and singing with Mr. Bill. (*cont'd on p.4*)

Student Shout Outs!

"I am currently taking alto saxophone classes with Reid Poole. The guy is an awesome teacher! He imparts the essence of music theory exceptionally well. He is also a great motivator. When I leave each class, I am always anticipating the encore. I am truly enjoying the music experience.

~Rodney L. Johnson Sr.

"Lessons are going really well. I'm very impressed with Josh. I haven't had too many teachers with the amount of knowledge he has."

~Charles McLoughlin

Ready To Get Started in Lessons? Few Openings Remain!

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 OCTOBER, 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	2	0	0	1	1	2
Drums	1	1	2	1	1	1
Voice	2	2	1	2	2	1
Piano	1	2	1	1	1	2
Guitar	1	1	1	2	2	2

MSOM

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

CSOM

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

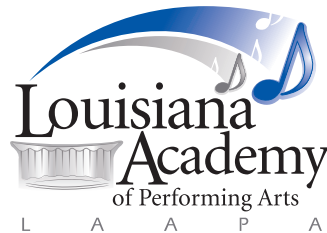
*Woodwind, brass and other instruments available depending on day. Openings subject to change at any time depending on availability. Please call for the latest openings.

LAAPANOTES

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- Happy October Birthdays!



Welcome to Our Newest Students (continued)

Julian F., Justin D., Kaitlann R., Kaitlyn G., Kate C., Kaylee S., Kenley D., Kennon R., Kenny G., Kinley G., Lauren B., Leah E., Lila H., Lily W. (thanks Strickland Family), Londyn D., Loreta H., Luke A., Lynn M., Maddox Jacob T., Madeline M., Madison H., Mae K., Marissa G-M., Mason V., Mason F. (thanks Mae K-A.), Matthew B., Medha D., Meg G., Mason M., Melaya M., Melissa M., Melody M., Nicholas G., Noah A., Olivia N. (thanks Rosie N.), Patrick D. (thanks Wyatt I.), Peter B., Rayne K., Riley K., Rita G., Rob R., Rojoh Z., Sahithi K., Scout H., Shianne P., Sophie N., Spencer F., Starr M., Taylor L., Tristan S., Victoria D., Warren D., William T., Win S., Wyatt P., Yaira E., Zyla B.

Students of the Month - The Guerra Family (continued)

What are your other interests and hobbies?

Olivia - I love to read books and write music. I'm in honors classes at school and am presently focused on choosing what high school I'd like to attend. I've also been taking Kinjitsu lessons for the last three months.

Issack - Besides playing my drums, I like riding my bike and drawing. I have also been involved with the cub scouts for the last 3 years. I am now at the bear level with the scouts.

Laney - I love playing on the ipad, participating in gymnastics, eating at

different restaurants with my family, and playing baseball. I also love school and the color pink.

What has your experience been (Brigid & Raul - parents)?

We wanted our children exposed to music. We felt that by having them enrolled at LAAPA that it would allow them to do something that they would enjoy and that they could do for the rest of their lives. We are absolutely pleased with the our children's lessons. We have nothing but good things to say about the faculty and staff at LAAPA.

Happy October Birthdays!

(Students) Bre-Yion W. (4), Tommy P. (12), Michael C. (13), Connor C., Joshua B. (15), Mason F. (7), Wayne H., Madison M. (7), Gabriella B. (12), Heyleen D. (6), Karen A. (15), Sireen M. (7), Gabrielle C. (12), Royal H. (4), Gabriella V. (15), Elisa M. (10), Victoria T. (7), Shay D. (16), Rayanna B. (10), Corinne C. (11), Brad M., Jase D. (7), William R-M. (14), Kate B. (11), Lillian H. (6), Sherman A., Branden R. (12), Brennan S. (10), Tyler V. (9), Caleb S. (10), Ian S. (10), Stephen K. (17), Sophie R. (11), Sadie G. (7), Kristen P. (7), Ayden L. (8), Dylan B. (8), Andrew J. (6), Caleigh M. (14), Natalie R. (14), Chauncey A. (9), Riley S. (8), Frankie J. (5), Paige O. (8), Kinley G. (12), Kaylee S. (13), Brian B. (15), Tammy W., Rosie N. (7), Mariah M. (11), Caleb S. (11), Sophia G. (4), Robert K., Spencer R. (14), Geoffrey G. (11), Alexander S. (7), Elle G. (8), William K. (9), Kate Z. (18), Jasaiah M. (7), Adele S. (10), Dylan V. (15), Jace C. (13), Cole W. (9)

(Faculty) Bill Solomon, Meredith Bradley, Curtis Staples, Jessica Martin, Kirk Duplantis, Lindsey Page