

LAAPANOTES



Giving Thanks for Cheesecake, Concerts, & Everyone at LAAPA!



As I write our December newsletter, it's just a few days before Thanksgiving, and once again I'm already being distracted by the thoughts of turkey and my sister in law's infamous chocolate cheesecake! Indeed, I'm very thankful for cheesecake, turkey and those who prepare it. Whoever first invented cheesecake in particular is a genius in my book. Anywho, back to the newsletter...

Looking back on this 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 academy or (in many cases) have been studying with us for years. Last year the academy hit it's 1,000 student milestone, and this year we have reached yet another with 1,150 students! Being able to effectively fulfill our mission of spreading the joy of music and dance within our community is such an awesome privilege to us. Of course, we couldn't do it without some of the top music and dance educators and administrative professionals in the New Orleans area. It takes a true talent and commitment to excel in any profession, and our faculty and staff work to achieve this very goal daily. They are undoubtedly our greatest asset. Thanks to all for helping us recognize their hard work by signing the big "Thank You" cards during "Faculty & Staff Appreciation Week!"

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. Many times brand new music and dance students come to us and let us know upfront that they aren't really interested in performing in our concerts for one reason or another, and we let them know that's perfectly

fine! However, after taking lessons for a little while and building additional self-confidence, many eventually choose to participate! With 22-23 concerts a year that we hold at LAAPA, there is certainly no lack of performance opportunities, and I can't wait to see what you all have been preparing for our final performances of 2015!

Even if you won't be performing this December, 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 a record 12 concerts jam packed with over 520 performances - all in two days!

Our concerts for the Covington and Mandeville Schools of Music will be held on Saturday, December 19 at the Fuhrmann Auditorium in Covington. Concerts for the River Ridge School of Music & Dance will be held on Sunday, December 20 at St. Martin's Solomon Theater in Metairie.

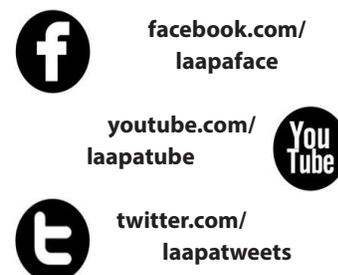
Student Concert time assignments will be published within the first week of December at:
http://laapa.com/current_students

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>.

Merry Christmas & see you at the concerts!

Ryan Cullen

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE:

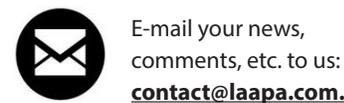


IMPORTANT DATES:

December 19-20
Christmas Recitals

December 21- Jan 2
Christmas/New Year Holidays

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!
Call us Today to Reserve your Time.

Covington - (985) 590-4545
Mandeville - (985) 674-2992
River Ridge - (504) 738-3050

Welcome to Our New Students who began lessons late October through November!

Aidan H.

(thanks to Marcela S.)

Alanna L.

(thanks to Seth S.)

Alaycia C.

Alisa T.

Andrew B.

Arden H.

Arianna A.

Ariel H.

Armani M.

Aulia T.

Breigh-anna S.

Brianna G.

Brighton R.

Brina F.

Brooklyn H.

Candace Y.

Cara A.

Cartagena I.

Cassidy C.

(thanks to Addie C.)

Ce'vanne U.

Chris G.

Christian H.

Davian A.

Dax H.

Elizabeth L.

Emily M.

Gabriel B.

Gideon S.

Hannah S.

Haroly G.

Jack M.

Jacques M.

Jaiden L.

Jean Paul C.

Jeremiah H.

Jessica V.

Jessie J.

Jethro J.

Joanna P.

Joel A.

Joshua P.

Juliet D.

Justin B.

Kate B.

Katelyn B.

(thanks to Tammy T.)

Klayton M.

(thanks to Sarah & David M.)

Landon P-R.

Lea G.

(continued on p. 4)



Student News

Mandeville School of Music student, **Emily Ruli**, was selected as one of 30 finalists for New Orleans Opera Association's Youth Vocal Competition held this past October. She will also be performing in St. Pauls School performance: "The Outsiders" as Marsha. Emily takes voice and piano lessons with Ms. Rebecca.

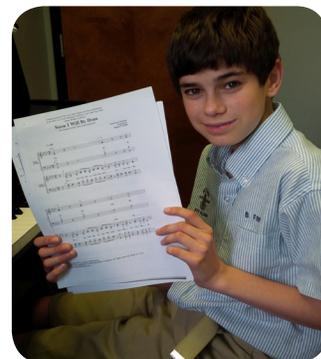
River Ridge School of Music & Dance Student, **Katherine Corcoran** (pictured left) booked the role of "Minnie" in Mount Carmel Academy's production of "Little Women". Katherine takes piano and voice lessons with Mrs. Katarina.

Madeline Moore will be representing Louisiana in the MTNA (Music Teachers National Association) Senior Voice Competition (Ages 15-18) and is advancing to the MTNA Division Competitions in January. Madeline takes voice and piano lessons with Ms. Rebecca at the Mandeville School of Music.

Brian Fink (pictured right) made the second round of Louisiana's All-State Choir for the first tenor chair. Brian takes voice and piano lessons with Ms. Katarina at the River Ridge School of Music & Dance.



Marissa Dreyfus (left) made the Singing Bees Choir at Honey Island Elementary School. She takes voice lessons with Mrs. Autumn at the Mandeville School of Music.



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

Faculty News

Bill Solomon, Meghan Stewart, and Katarina Boudreaux premiered a new musical this past November at Cafe Istanbul.

The musical was part of faux/real (fringe fest) and was written by **Katarina Boudreaux** and Liz Kimbrough.

The faculty trio was additionally joined by RRSMD piano lessons student **Sherri Montz**.



Student of the Month - Andrew Rucker



River Ridge School of Music & Dance student, Andrew Rucker takes drum lessons here at LAAPA! We recently had a chance to speak with him and learn a little more about his drum lessons and interests!

How long you've been taking lessons at LAAPA?

I've been taking drum lessons at LAAPA for four years now. I used to take piano and guitar a while ago, but then I started drums because I felt like trying something new. The teachers I have had over the years have all taught me a little different technique, and I've enjoyed them all!

What styles of music do you like to play on the drums?

My favorite music is the oldies, Motown, stuff from the 60s...I love to listen and dance to WTIX-FM 94.3! In my lessons, I will sometimes bring in a song that I like to share with Dr. Mark, and then he will teach me how to play it.

What are some of your other interests and hobbies?

When I'm not playing or listening to music, I love to stay active. I'm on a swim team, I bowl in a league at the All Star Lanes in Kenner, and I lift weights at the gym.

What are your goals for the future?

I want to study drums here with Dr. Mark for the next few years. The River Ridge School of Music & Dance is number one! It's the best place in the world!

Student Shout Outs!

"Lessons are awesome! Mr. Chris said he is about 6 weeks ahead of where he's expected to be. I'm serenaded every night!"

~Migliore Family

"Jackson loves lessons so far! He really likes Layla and how easy going and laid back she is. He also enjoys that Layla is interested in teaching him songs that he wants to learn."

~Nieto Family

Did You Win an Apple Watch?

Do you love your music lessons or dance classes at LAAPA? Tell everyone!

If you refer a new student to the Academy and they enroll:

- You will receive a free lesson in any program.

- You AND your friend will be automatically entered into our drawing this December 1 for a brand new Apple Watch!

Please make sure that your friend mentions your FULL NAME at the time of enrollment. The more friends you refer that enroll - the more chances you have to win!

The winner will be announced at [facebook.com/laapaface](https://www.facebook.com/laapaface) December 1!

* Immediate family members/members of the same household are not eligible for the referral program.



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(pictured above) Dance students trying on their new costumes for the Christmas Concerts!

December Edition:

- Giving thanks for Cheesecake, Concerts, & Everyone at LAAPA!
- Did you Win an Apple Watch?
- Student News / Faculty News
- Student of the Month - Andrew Rucker
- Welcome to our newest Students!
- Happy December Birthdays!



Give the Gift of Music & Dance This Holiday Season!

Know someone who is getting an instrument for Christmas or loves to dance or sing? Gift certificates from LAAPA are available starting at just \$17.50! Our teachers make learning fun and we offer music lessons in piano, voice, guitar, drum, violin, sax, clarinet, flute, trumpet, preschool music and dance classes in ballet, hip-hop, modern, musical theatre, tap, jazz, parent and tot, pre-ballet. Call today at (985) 231-0875 or e-mail contact@laapa.com!

Welcome to Our Newest Students (continued)

Logan R., Malaya T., Matthew F., Michael D., Michael P., Milena J., Morgan F., Olivia J., Philip M., Rene T., Ryan D., Ryan T., Rylan L. (thanks Wanda C.), Sam K., Samantha A., Samuel R., Sean St. C., Shelby L. (thanks Angela F.), Sijun Y., Tamanna P., Tamanna M., Timothy P., Ty W., Yolonde P., Zoe D. (thanks Zachary D.)

Happy December Birthdays!

(Students) Adia M. (6), Alaycia C. (9), Alison M. (16), Alyssa B. (12), Andrew P. (10), Anna C. (10), Anya T. (10), Atticus F. (13), Aulia T. (16), Bankston N. (11), Ben W. (15), Brighton R. (2), Bryce L. (7), Caitlyn D. (12), Camille V. (9), Camille T. (13), Camille P. (7), Carrietta Y. (8), Charles A., Cheryl E., Chloe B. (10), Chris S. (21), Connor R. (8), David R. (8), Dawson H. (6), Emily Y. (16), Evan D. (8), Finley T. (6), Gabriel J. (10), George B., Grace S. (10), Graham J. (8), Haley H. (15), Hannah C. (7), Hayes H. (14), Helen S. (8), Henry F. (13), Jacques M. (5), Jaden B. (9), Jake G. (15), James O'C. (9), Jethro J. (8), Johnas E. (6), Joshua P. (11), Joshua C. (5), Kameron D. (10), Kate R. (13), Kaylie N. (11), Kevin N. (9), Khalil E. (11), Kimea C. (3), Klayton M., Kushal S., Lily W. (9), Lily G. (4), Lily-Rose H. (5), Madilyn K. (7), Madison N. (17), Madison Page T. (10), Matthew B. (11), Max L. (8), , Megan W. (9), Mia R. (4), Michael C. (10), Olivia H. (15), Patrick H. (13), Peter B. (9), Peyton P. (8), Ryan B. (8), Sam R. (11), Sam K. (11), Sanjana S. (13), Scarlett T. (2), Sean St. C. (9), Skylar J. (13), Sofya V. (9), Soleila L. (12), Sophia R. (12), Trace P. (12), Vada F. (7), Victoria M. (15), Wade H. (15), William C. (11), William B. (3), Yousef F. (6), Zyla B. (8)

(Faculty) Dr. Kari Besharse, Kate Withrow, Stephanie Huber

