

LAAPANOTES

Shopping for Your New Musical Instrument



Here at the Academy we often receive questions regarding how to choose a new musical instrument. Is it best to buy an instrument brand new, or would a used instrument be a better value? When does it make sense to rent an instrument, and what are some of the brand names to consider?

There are some consumers who will only buy new because they believe in purchasing once and having the item last for a very long time. A manufacturer's warranty will cover any issues should they arise. If you have the means to buy a new instrument and don't really mind the depreciated value (once it becomes a used instrument), then by all means go for it.

Because of those consumers that only buy new, however, incredible values can be found in used instruments if you know where to look, and what to look for. In Japan (home of the most popular mass produced pianos - Yamaha & Kawai) consumers tend to only buy brand new pianos for their homes as they don't believe in buying used. Many times these instruments end up being barely used and are sold for 50-75% off the current comparable model's price. These pianos are often purchased by and shipped to U.S. piano retailers who specialize in restoring and reselling used instruments. Instruments like this are usually 30-40 years old (more or less) but can easily last a lifetime if they have been properly restored and cared for. When buying them from a reputable retailer, they will look like new and you'd never know the difference. Many of these retailers will even include a 5-10 year warranty! For further reading when shopping for a piano, visit piano expert, Larry Fine's website <http://www.pianobuyer.com>. The used pianos I mentioned here are often referred to as "Grey Market" pianos; find out more on this subject in Larry's book.

When compared with purchasing a new piano, it's a lot easier to purchase a new and "cheap, beginning" violin. Be careful though - there is such a thing as "too cheap." Avoiding the cheapest of the cheap will spare the student from unnecessary frustration and discouragement. A few good starter brands to consider are Ricard Bunnell & Rosalia. Look for the term "outfit" for a case and bow to be included, otherwise the listed price

includes the violin only. Prices are determined by build quality, type of construction (i.e. hand made vs. mass produced), and finish.

If the student is still growing, it would be wise to work with a local store and inquire about their trade-up policy (or rental program) as violins come in 9-10 different sizes. Having to purchase a new instrument outright each time could end up being costly (plus you'll have to continually try and sell the smaller instruments if there is no trade-up program). Keller Strings in New Orleans is our recommended local violin shop.

For guitars, Fender, Yamaha, Fender Squier, Gibson, Taylor, Ibanez, Martin, PRS are all very good brands to consider. With beginning students, we highly recommend starting with an acoustic model. For younger beginners, the softer nylon strings are recommended as they are gentler on the fingers. When purchasing a new or used guitar, it's also extremely important to have the instrument professionally setup. Some shops will include this, others may not and charge (\$30-100), so just be sure to ask them about this. A good setup will ensure that the instrument is in tune with itself and strings are set to the proper height for ease of playing. For the largest selection of guitars and best pricing, we recommend Sweetwater.com - call Austin at ext. 1282.

Brass & Woodwind instruments are probably the hardest to find in excellent condition used due to constant moisture. Nevertheless, there are deals to be had with well maintained instruments (parts cleaned/lubricated, pads changed when needed, cork replaced when needed, etc). All around brands to consider are Yamaha, Selmer, Buffet, Gemeinhart. Slidell Music and Michon Music are our recommended retailers.

Finally, whenever buying anything used (warranty or no warranty), it's always worth the investment to have a professional accompany you to properly evaluate the instrument.

Have fun finding your new instrument!
Ryan Cullen, Director

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IMPORTANT DATES:

July 13

Summer Camps begin at the Mandeville & River Ridge Campuses

August 3

Fall Registration Begins

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 Summer! 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
this June!**

Adrian H.
Amber W.
Ashley Z.
Aubrey J.
Ava S.
Axxel H.
Blake S.
Brandon V.

(thanks Anna M.)

Brice H.
Briana H.
Cameron S.
Caroline S.

(thanks Erica B.)

Charlie V.
Christian M.
Christian C.
Daniel B.
Dante M.

Demetrius J.

Drew W.
Eleni Y.

Elisabeth S.

(thanks Addie C.)

Emily F.
Emily N.

(thanks Bill L.)

Enjoli B.
Ethan J.

Evan L.
Evy V.

(thanks Thomas H.)

Gabriel B.
Geneva C.
Hayes H.
Heidi L-W.
Isaack G.
Jack M.
Jaden L.
Jayden N.
Jaylin C.
Jennifer Z.
John G. Jr.
Jude C.
Julia S.
Kalev P.
Karlee B.
Katelyn D.
Kayla H.
Kaylin C.
Kristy B.
Kylie S.

(thanks Josh R.)

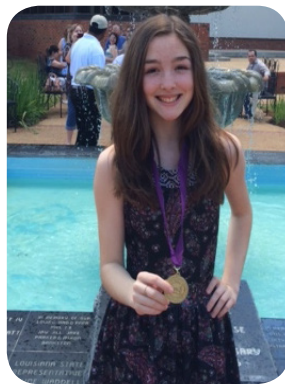
Laken W.

(continued on p. 4)

Student News



Rebecca Posey (Voice Faculty - Mandeville School of Music) performed a concert at Christwood Retirement Center in Covington on April 18. Everyone had a great time! Students who performed were: **Melissa Moore, Sarah Posey, Madeline Moore, Emily Ruli, Kate Gauthreaux, and Shannon Reuter**



Kate Rush, a 6th grader at Mary Queen of Peace Catholic School, was recognized in a state-wide ceremony at Northwestern State University of Louisiana for scoring in the 99th percentile on the ACT Explore test for 8th graders. Of the approximately 6,500 4th through 6th grade students in several states who took the test, only 286 qualified for state-wide recognition.

Kate was also recently selected by the Missionary Childhood Association as one of 24 Christmas artwork winners out of thousands of entries nationwide. Kate's pencil drawing of the three wise men will be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. in an exhibition that runs throughout the 2015 Advent/Christmas Season. Her drawing will also be featured on the children's website (www.MCAKids.org) as an e-greeting. Kate has been a violin student at LAAPA since 2008.

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

Summer Camps - Limited Openings Remain!



Our Summer Music Camps and Summer Dance Camps provide all campers (ages 5-16, beginning, intermediate, and advanced) with the opportunity to have fun exploring up to five of our instrumental, vocal, and performing arts programs. Campers (even those with little or no music or performing arts background) are able to take a hands on approach and see what programs and instruments interest them!

Perhaps your child has shown an interest in music, dance, piano, singing, guitar, violin, drums (just to name a few!)? Wherever his/her interest lies, we are happy to provide a formal introduction to the programs of your choice in a structured and fun environment!

Very Limited Space - only 25 campers enrolled each week.

For more information or to enroll, visit laapa.com/camp or call the office!

Students of the Month - Cole & Tate Wegener



Mandeville School of Music students, **Cole & Tate Wegener**, take piano lessons with LAAPA. We recently had a chance to speak with them and learn a little more about their lessons and interests!

How long have you been taking lessons with us?

1 year

What kind of music do you listen to?

Christian Rock, VBS Music, songs on the radio, Rock and Roll.

What is your favorite part of the lesson each week?

Playing tunes.

What do you enjoy practicing each week?

Songs.

What are your other interests/hobbies?

Soccer, basketball, Wii, playing with friends, reading, football (we like the Pittsburgh Steelers!), Pokemon, fishing

Molly (parent), what made you choose LAAPA?

We looked into a couple of places, but we needed lessons where the boys could take at the same time, so this was the best fit! Plus, the staff was enthusiastic!

Student Shout Outs!

"My son just finished a I live in New York City, but I was in New Orleans doing research for the summer.

I needed to find a camp for my young son and daughter. I did some research and decided that the LAAPA-River Ridge camp had a lot to offer for a very good price. My experience exceeded even my most ambitious fantasies about what the camp would be like. The camp is held in a very controlled and well-organized environment. The staff is very friendly and thoughtful. I would often observe the classes for a few minutes before leaving or come early and the students always seemed really excited about what they are learning. And yet, while making sure that learning is fun, the staff also manages to help students appreciate how important it is to be disciplined, to stay on task and remain focused, during lessons."

~ Michael Ralph

Is Your Teacher Completely Booked? Teachers with Waiting Lists

With over 1,000 students enrolled at LAAPA, our openings remain very limited, but there are still lesson spots available for Summer, so just give us a call to check. 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. Here's just a partial list of who's currently full at all campuses:

GIUITAR

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

GIUITAR/DRUM

Josh TU, WED, TH, SAT-BOOKED!
Ben SAT-1 spot! MON-1 spot!
MON, TU, WED, TH, FRI-BOOKED!
Kirk MON-BOOKED!
Aaron WED -2 spots! TU, TH-BOOKED!
Bill MON, WED, TH, FRI-1 spot! SAT-BOOKED!

WIND/BRASS/GUITAR

Danielle TU-BOOKED!
Mark MON, WED, TH-BOOKED!
David TH-2 spots! FRI-1 spot!
Layla FRI, SAT-1 spot! TU-BOOKED!
Kaleb MON-2 spots!

PIANO

Russell MON, TU-2 spots! WED, TH-BOOKED!
Mirka TU-1 spot!

Daniel TH, FRI-2 spots! WED-BOOKED!

PIANO/VOICE

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

VIOLIN/VIOLA/CELLO

Denise MON, TU, WED, TH, FRI-BOOKED!
Vanya MON-2 spots! WED, FRI, SAT-1 spot!
Gabriel MON-1 spot!
Kate MON-BOOKED!
Simona WED-2 spots! MON, TH, SAT-1 spot!
Lee TH-2 spots! FRI-1 spot!
Danielle TU-BOOKED!

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Louisiana Academy of Performing Arts

316 Girod St.

Mandeville, LA 70448

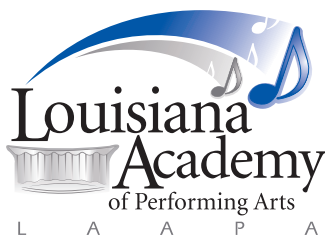
www.laapa.com | 985-231-0875



Ms. Laura's Dance Class taking a quick selfie during dress rehearsal week.

July Edition:

- Shopping for your New Musical Instrument
- Student News
- Summer Music & Dance Camps
- Students of the Month - Cole & Tate Wegener
- Welcome to our newest Students!
- Happy July Birthdays!



Welcome to Our New Students who began this June (cont'd)!

Layla M., Layla L., Leanna M., Liam V., Lilly C., Lucia S., Madelyn J., Malaya B., Marie B., Nithya R., Olivia S., Paul A. (*thanks Oliva A.*), Rachel G., Rhyne S. Jr., Riley W., Rondalyn W., Sam H., Samantha R., Sami S., Savanna B., Simon B., Sincere S., Steven S., Tammy R., Theran P., Timmy H. (*thanks Charlie H.*), Trey K., Vanessa T., Victoria M., Whitney H., Winston R.

Happy July Birthdays!

(*Students*) Aleah B. (4), Alexander H. (11), Alexandra J. (16), Angelina W. (6), Asa Z. (7), Ashlyn W. (14), Audrey Lane C. (11), Autumn P. (6), Baylen G. (5), Beck T. (16), Brian F. III (14), Brice H. (9), Caitlen M. (8), Camille C. (8), Christian W. (14), Christian H. (6), Christopher K., Christy H. (9), Claudia D., Cullen W. (6), Dario S. (9), Devin I. (8), Domenic M. (10), Edir G., Elliott L. (9), Emily B. (17), Gabby R. (9), Gavin M., George G. Jr. (6), Gina R., Gracyn D. (9), Haley V. (8), Hannah P. (9), Isabella M. (13), Isabella L. (11), Jack L. (6), Jaidyn P. (9), Jakob B. (15), Jaydn F. (5), Jennifer G., Jordan P. (7), Julian S. (11), Kate C. (11), Kate P. (14), Katelyn C. (14), Kayla M. (5), Kyla A. (7), Kylie S. (5), Lexie R. (11), Lily W. (7), Loreta H., Luke R. (8), Madeline M. (15), Madison L. (14), Marie C. (11), Mary Grace M. (14), Meghan T. (15), Michael C., Miya D. (14), Monique V. (12), Pamela K., Pat C., Pratyush S. (9), RJ H. (17), Ryan W., Sam G. (8), Sofia C. (8), Sophie N. (13), Tate W. (8), Tom C., Trey K. (8), Vanessa T. (4), Victoria G. (17), Victoria H. (9), William C. (10), Wyatt I. (10)

(*Faculty*) Kanako Fuwa, Carolyn Russell, Mirka Jichova, Robin Wallace, Jeannette Prater, Aaron Boudreaux