

LAAPANOTES

When to Get Started in Music & Dance



The new school year is now officially upon us. As I mentioned last month, it's a time of great anticipation, excitement and learning many new things! At Laapa, our entire faculty and staff just had a fantastic training workshop sharing and discussing our teaching strategies and goals to ensure that our students have another awesome school year in their music lessons and dance classes!

During this time each year we love to welcome our eager new music and dance students to the Academy. Everyday we speak with so many new prospective families and students. One of the questions that we are asked most often is "How do I know when it's the right time to get started or if music lessons and/or dance classes are going to be a good fit for me or my child?"

Having three children ages 2, 5, and 8, I understand that kids show an interest in many things, and it can sometimes be hard to predict what will stick. What I have personally found is that many times you just don't know until you try it out! Our children have tried gymnastics, soccer, karate, art, theatre, among other things (in addition to piano lessons of course).

If you find your children jumping up to the piano to sing and play, leaping all around the house or

banging on pots, pans, and other things - you may want to consider exploring those areas a little more! Case in point - my oldest son Patrick literally cannot stop himself from singing - ever (he is a Disney nut and really would sing himself to sleep if we didn't ask him to sing in his head at bedtime so his little brother can fall asleep). So this Fall we didn't hesitate to enroll him in voice lessons.

Even when children show an interest in something, on occasion they may find that their new after school activity isn't exactly what they had in mind when enrolling. With music and dance lessons at Laapa, this is definitely a very rare situation since we have so many different programs offered. If piano lessons don't work out, the student can easily transfer to guitar or drum lessons, etc. We always want to ensure that both our programs and teachers are the right fit for the goals and personalities of our students which is key to the enjoyment and success of instruction here at the Academy.

Finally, I always like to mention that music and dance classes are more than just the instruction - they build the character and feed the soul of students. Whether or not they choose to continue in the arts down the road, the skills they have developed will always be a part of who they are.

Ryan P. Cullen
Academy Director

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE:



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IMPORTANT DATES:

September 7 - Labor Day Holiday
No Classes

September 1-30
Fall Registration Open to All!

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 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 101 Students who began lessons this August!

Megan W.
Layla M.
Lily-Rose H.
Bankston N.
(thanks to Seth M!)
Gracie D.
(thanks to Chloe D!)
Russell G.
Sidney C.
Anna H.
Peytan P.
Maya P.
Jessie H.
(thanks to Danielle J!)
Laurel M.
Madeline M.
Christine T.
(thanks to MARRISA G!)
Mettah M.
Kaden S.
Carmen T.
(thanks to MARRISA G!)
Cullen T.
(thanks to MARRISA G!)
Jillian S.
Doijer C.
Angelina M.
Hunter S.
Jaxon S.
Lila M.
Trayzi D.
Trellis D.
Alexander S.
Davey B.
Kennedy M.
Jannah B.
Tasneem B.
Harry S.
Kamryn T.
Ayah B.
Alyssa L.
Aubrey B.
(thanks to Shyanna B!)
Caitlin B.
Mattie N.
Sofia M.
(thanks to Gabriel M!)
Nicholas V.
(thanks to Anthony O.)
Diana K.
Brycen R.
Sophia D.
Zariah C.
Linnette G.
Kathy B.
Margaret P.
Simone G.
Hue T.
Anh T.
Soleila L.
Asiah H.
Kacey M.
(thanks to Tammy H!)
Vada F.
Luke V.
Chloe W.
Egan G.
Porter G.
Kate C.
Jonathan C.
Kylie C.
Edgar J.-F.

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Student News

Mandeville School of Music voice student, **Rebekah Russell**, was accepted into the CLAPS program for the summer and performed in 4 musicals.



Ashleigh Stoltz, a student of the Mandeville School of Music (pictured left) made the 2015-2016 show choir at Mandeville High School.

Mandeville School of Music voice student, **Cort Hawkins**, made the final round of Ponchatoula's Got Talent for his vocal solo.

Covington School of Music student vocal student, **Ryan Washington**, was cast as one of the professional cast members for a lead role in Shrek the Musical at Playmakers Theater in Baton Rouge and will be pursuing a career in Broadway this Fall in New York.

River Ridge School of Music & Dance student, **Fraelle Mhae Bade** (pictured right) won Little Miss Asian American lion for this year. Her talent was voice. She takes voice lessons with Ms. Katarina and piano lessons with Mr. Russell at Laapa.



Mandeville School of Music vocal student, **Cindy Van Duyne**, recently went into the studio to begin recording her debut album. A release date will be announced soon!

River Ridge School of Music & Dance student, **Gracie Silva**, recently performed as a Munchkin and Flying Monkey in the Jefferson Performing Arts Society production of "The Wizard of Oz".

**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



Laura Chapman, instructor of dance at the River Ridge School of Music & Dance has been signed to dance professionally with Storytellers Dance Project, a New Orleans based Contemporary Company.

Students of the Month - Ken, Lisette, & Amelie Gowland



River Ridge School of Music & Dance students, **Ken, Lisette, & Amelie Gowland** take guitar and drum lessons here at 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 at Laapa? (Ken) *guitar - 1 yr, (Lisette) drums - 1 yr, (Amelie) guitar - 4 mos.*

What kind of music do you listen to? (Ken) *Everything from progressive metal to classical (Lisette) Katy Perry & Taylor Swift (Amelie) Country & Pop*

What is your favorite part of the lesson each week? (Ken) *I've been doing composition work with Bill and it's been a great way to reinforce playing & theory together. (Lisette) Playing free style. (Amelie) When Mr. Aaron brings a cool instrument to class like when he brought in an accordion.*

What are your other interests/hobbies? (Ken) *Just work, kids, and music. What else do you need? (Lisette) Tennis, reading, running (Amelie) Gymnastics & art*

What do you enjoy practicing each week? (Ken) *Scales/exercises, writing new ideas (Lisette) My books (Amelie) Scales and songs*

What made you choose LAAPA? (Ken) *Very organized, professional, first class operation all the way!*

Student Shout Outs!

"The lessons are absolutely wonderful! Haley is excited each week to go to her lesson. Jessica is a perfect fit for her. The staff recommended Jessica for us from the beginning and it's been the best experience. Jessica notices all the things that Haley needs to work on, and that's what they do. Haley is a shy girl, and Jessica noticed that she crosses her arms across her chest, or shrugs her shoulders when she sings. Haley was amazed when this was brought to her attention. The staff has been wonderful. Whenever I have a question, I'll e-mail the staff and they respond quickly. We plan on being here for a long time!"

~Alice Hickman

Fall 2015 Referral Contest - Will 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 with their new dance shoes at Open House with Ms. Mary

September Edition:

- When to Get Started in Music & Dance
- Will you Win an Apple Watch?
- Student & Faculty News
- Students of the Month - Ken, Lisette, & Amelie Gowland
- Welcome to our 101 new August Students!
- Happy September Birthdays!



Back to School Music Lessons & Dance Classes!

We're now coming to the end of the busiest summer to date in our 37 year history at LAAPA, and we are expecting an even busier Fall! Many of our instructors have remained nearly or completely booked throughout the summer and have limited Fall openings. We encourage students who took a break over the summer to avoid the "Back to School" rush and give us a call as soon as possible so that we can try and accommodate your scheduling requests early!

Welcome to Our 101 Newest Students (continued)

Michael M., Joseph G., Hadley C., Wade H., Ashlyn F., Lyla F., Leah V., William M., Aylin C., Sophia L., Alyssa L., Lee K., Chris G., Emma M. (thanks to Amber M!), Scarlett K., Bo F., Boyu H., Mike H., Abimbola M.-P., Nadia H., Faris E., Hannah H., Rojon Z., Barbara D., Sophia R. (thanks to Sam R!), Akshara M., Kameron D., Mariah M., Sam R., Pam P., Caden B., Claire J. (thanks to Madeline H!), Camille V., Madison Page T., Avery B., Zachary M., Claire S., Dane D., Connor R.

Happy September Birthdays!

(Students) Abbey A. (15), Adam C. (12), Adriana M. (9), Aiden T. (9), Alisa T. (9), Alison A. (11), Ananya K. (6), Andrew (11), Angelina M. (5), Ashley B. (16), Avril S. (8), Braden G. (14), Braxton D. (9), Brett S. (13), Brooke W. (12), Brooks B., Caleb H. (9), Cameron E., Cameron S., Carleigh Q. (12), Carolina H. (5), Cataleya P. (3), Clark L. (6), Dorian L. (14), Dusty K. (17), Egan G. (6), Elle G. (6), Emily T. (14), Evy V., Hadley C. (3), Hannah H. (15), Helen W., Isha S. (6), J.R. Robinson, Jaivik B. (3), Jake S. (15), Jarvis C., Jaylin C. (11), Jeff F., Jonathan H. (11), Joseph G. (14), Jude C. (13), Kashish W. (14), Katelyn P. (15), Lathaniel G. Jr. (10), Liam M. (14), Lillian S. (10), Lillian D. (3), Lindsey S. (14), Linnette G., London T. (8), Macie H. (5), Malaya B. (6), Melody M. (11), Meredith P. (17), Neha G. (10), Oliver S., Patrick D. (9), Sarah D. (14), Sarah H. (12), Seth R. (9), Shelly H., Shriya G. (10), Sofia M. (6), Swathi K. (14), Trayzi D. (8), Trellis D. (8), Victoria P. (9), Wyatt T. (7), Wyatt G. (5), Zachary G. (10), Zelvin C. (12), Zubin D. (6)

(Faculty) Rebecca P., Ben H., Josh T., Bonnie T., Kayla B., Peter G., Layla S., Dr. Mark W.

