

LAAPANOTES

Congrats to our Recital Performers & Happy New Year!



So here we are now in 2016! I'm still waiting for my flying car to be invented (either self-driving or manual would be just fine) and a hoverboard that actually works. Will this be the year? One thing is for sure though, we have missed you all and are thrilled to have our students and faculty back on campus to kick off another exciting year of music lessons and dance classes!

As we begin this New Year, I wanted to take a moment to congratulate and thank all of our students, parents, faculty, and staff once again for 12 outstanding Christmas Concerts. From the planning and organization to the quality of the performances, I thought that they were some excellent productions and here now are four of my many thoughts on this year's performances:

1.) The programs were incredibly diverse! In addition to the solo performances by our music students (piano, voice, violin, guitar, drums, bass, clarinet, flute, trumpet, saxophone, and more!) we also had our preschool music classes perform and so many exciting duet, trio, quartet, and ensemble performances. Our dancers at the River Ridge School of Music & Dance were absolutely fantastic!

2.) So many of our students have been performing with us year after year. It's easy for me to remember some of their first performances when they were brand new beginners and perhaps a little more nervous than they are today! I'm always excited to see and/or hear what they've been working on. Every year I see them perform, they continue to improve and gain self confidence. I can't really think of

anything more rewarding to me here at LAAPA than being able to watch our students grow in their skills and love of music and dance.

3.) I wanted to share an excerpt from a note that I sent to our faculty following our concerts which I feel highlights our mission beyond providing the best music and dance training here in New Orleans: "Faculty - thank all of you so much for everything and just being there for your students and taking the time to care about them and their success. Whether or not they had an incredible performance or hit a few clunkers is not always the most important thing. What really matters is how they have grown as people as the result of their training and having you in their lives. What have they gained and how are they stronger?..."

4.) This year you, the LAAPA Community, were so generous with donations to the Teresian Sisters and the Batesville Mission in Batesville, Texas. Not only did we fill over 80 contractor bags full of gifts, but we also raised close to \$2,000 in cash donations! When we dropped off the gifts and donations to the Teresian Sister's main provinciate in Covington, LA, Sr. Dolores was so excited to see us (even at 10:30 PM Saturday and Sunday evening)!

So thanks so much for an awesome 2015, and here's to an even better 2016! LAAPAFEST, our annual music festival will be here before you know it. More on that next edition!

Happy New Year,
Ryan Cullen, Academy Director

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IMPORTANT DATES:

March 5

LAAPAFEST - Covington

March 12

LAAPAFEST - Mandeville

March 19

LAAPAFEST - River Ridge

CONTACT US:



E-mail your news,
comments, etc. to us:
contact@laapa.com

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Lessons and Dance Classes!
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Reserve your Time.

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

Welcome to Our New Students who began lessons in December!

l'Miri J.
Samantha C.
Ryon W.
Bryan H.
Toni R.
Sophia Q.
Nicholas F.
l'Janae J.
Sam F.
Aarya K.

(thanks to Pooja Makhija)

Nathan D.
Brianna D.

(thanks to Bryce DePino)

Jane N.
Stella B.
Maya R.
Amy C.
Tyee H.
Riley S.
Kelly S.
Oliver R.

(thanks to Bryce DePino)

It's a pleasure to have you all joining us and we look forward to helping you achieve all of your goals!

Student News



Mandeville School of Music student, **Colette Bergeron**, was cast as "Cinderella" in her school play. Colette takes voice and piano lessons with Mrs. Joy.

River Ridge School of Music & Dance former guitar student, **Ken Gowland**, will be playing at the Banks Street Bar & Grill January 15 with his band, "Violet" from 9-10 PM. Faculty member, Bill Solomon will be playing with his group "Stella!" from 10-11 and the evening concludes with Oliver Bonie's group, "Mister Sister."

River Ridge School of Music & Dance Student, **Evan Massa's** (pictured right) football team "Low Profile" won the Little Farm's flag football championship. Final score was 23-0! Evan takes piano lessons with Mrs. Katarina.



River Ridge School of Music & Dance Student, **Lathaniel Green, Jr.** (pictured left) won three ribbons at the Mid-South Regional Jr. Student Convention held this past November. He won 1st place in Mixed Duet, Male Solo, and Instrumental Solo. Lathaniel takes piano lessons with Mrs. Bethany.



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

Happy January Birthdays!



(Students) Abby W. (16), Abby T. (17), Aidan P. (10), Akshara M. (8), Alex J., Alex M. (4), Alexis M. (11), Alicia A. (5), Alyssa S. (14), Amaris Raquel O. (9), Amelia S. (8), Anna H. (8), Aria J. (9), Armani G. (5), Averie D. (16), Blake M. (17), Brayden B. (8), Brooklyn H. (12), Bruce M., Caitlin W. (16), Carmen V. (8), Catherine E., Cecilia V. (9), Charlie V. (13), Christian M. (6), Christopher P. (8), Claire H. (7), Colette B. (9), Cullen T. (9), Daniel J. (9), Dian Evans, Dominick L. (9), Dominique G., Eleanor S. (8), Elijah J. (5), Eva F. (14), Evelyn O. (10), Frankie M. (10), Gabriel B. (16), Gabriella K. (14), Garrison T. (17), Gracie G. (12), Greg D., Hannah S. (9), Hannah P. (9), Hasini S. (7), Holly S. (8), Hudson M. (6), Isabel R. (16), Ivan Y. (10), Jaiden D. (6), James L. (6), James P. (14), James K., Joan L., Jordan V. (16), Joshua M-P. (11), Juliet D. (8), Kacey M. (12), KC N. (16), Kylie W. (10), Laynie C. (7), Lillian B. (10), Lucas P. (14), Madison A. (4), Malinee S., Mallory W. (9), Margaret P., Marissa G. (13), Martine M. (8), Memphis James O. (6), Mettah M. (4), Mike G. (6), Mina P. (10), Patrick C. (9), Saishreya G. (11), Sijun Y., Sophia H. (9), Taeyoon K. (5), Tammy R. (9), Xander C. (8), Zachariah V. (10), Zachary D. (13)

(Faculty)

Ms. Laura C.
Ms. Meghan S.
Ms. Amy G.
Mr. Gabriel P. & Ms. Mary S.

River Ridge School of Music & Dance Piano Lessons student, **Hannah Sthormes**, recently drew her teacher, Mrs. Katarina this awesome keyboard picture!



Student of the Month - Grace Grundmann



Covington School of Music student, Grace Grundmann takes voice lessons here at LAAPA! We recently had a chance to speak with her and learn a little more about her voice lessons and interests!

Tell us about yourself and how long you've been taking lessons at Laapa.

I've been taking lessons for eight or nine years. I'm 18, and I go to SSA and am going to LSU next year. I study voice here at Laapa.

What has your instruction at Laapa helped you to accomplish?

I got a singing role in a play last year. It really helped me a lot. I sing sometimes at mass. I used to be really shy about singing in front of people, and I guess it just helped me feel more confident about my voice.

Outside of music, what are some of your other hobbies and interests?

I really like outdoorsy things. I like to ride bikes. I like to write, and I like art.

Are you pursuing music at LSU?

Yes, I will major in art, and minor in music.

Student Shout Outs!

"Gracie has done really well with her songs.

She never wants to miss a lesson, she's enjoying them so much.

We are so happy!

Since music runs in the family, we are thrilled that Gracie is getting a music education, and we can't wait for recital.

LAAPA is a total class act and everyone is so nice."

~Gaudet Family

Will You Win Tickets to Jazz Fest?

Congrats to River Ridge student Jace C. who won an Apple Watch in our Fall Referral Contest Giveaway. Our Winter Referral Contest is now underway! Will You Win?!

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

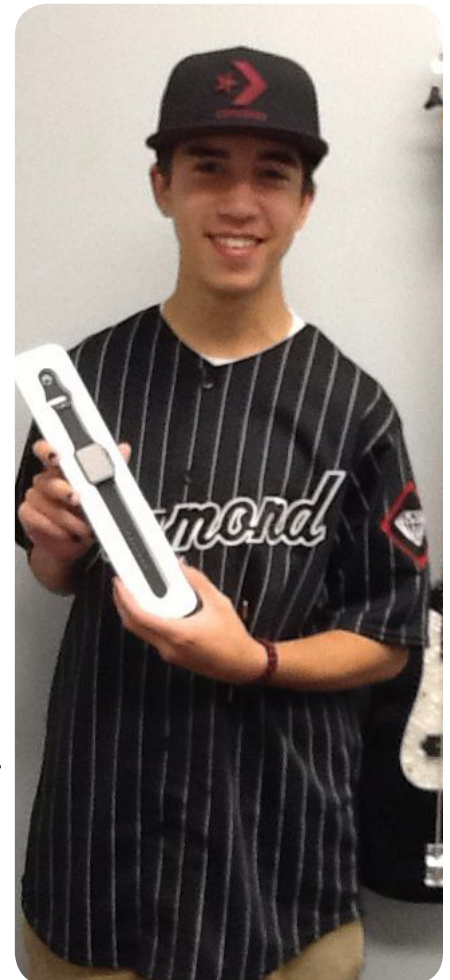
- You will receive a free lesson in any program.

- You AND your friend will be automatically entered into our drawing this April 1 for a WWOZ FM Jazz Fest Brass Pass (\$500 value)! The pass allows you to attend the entire jazz fest lineup. Different people may use the pass each day if you can't attend every day. You'll also get access to the WWOZ FM Hospitality Tent for free refreshments.

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) April 1!

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



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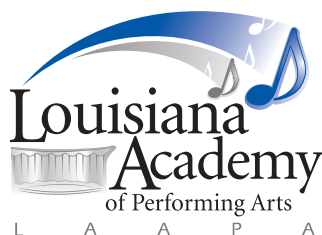
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(pictured above) Madison is loving her violin lessons with Mrs. Bonnie!

January Edition:

- Congrats to our Recital Performers and Happy New Year!
- Student & Faculty News
- Happy January Birthdays!
- Student of the Month - Grace Grundmann
- Will You Win Tickets to Jazz Fest?
- Welcome to our newest Students!



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Whether you're brand new to music and dance or already experienced, we've provided tens of thousands of students with the **tools, inspiration, and motivation** necessary to **achieve a life-time love of music & dance** for the past 37 years and would love to do the same for you. ***It's Easy to Get Started, just give us a call at (504) 208-2301 or request more info at laapa.com!***