

# LAAPANOTES

## Congrats to our Recital Performers & Happy New Year!



Dear Parents and Students - Happy New Year!

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 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

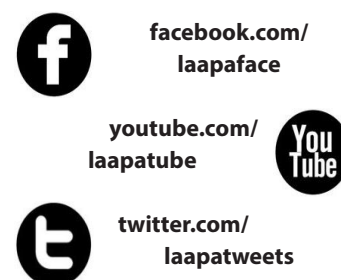
best music and dance training here in New Orleans: "Faculty - thank all of you so much for everything and just being there for your students and taking the time to care about them and their success. Whether or not they had an incredible performance or hit a few clunkers is not always the most important 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 \$5,000 in cash donations! Up from \$2,000 last year! Sister Angeles and all of the Teresian sisters were so grateful and excited for all the families that they will be able to minister to this year because of your generosity and support! Wanda Cullen, Assistant Director, visited the Sisters at their main provinciate in Covington on New Year's Eve and uploaded a video showing all of the donations and how they process them to our facebook page, so check it out when you can!

So thanks so much for an awesome 2016, and here's to an even better 2017! LAAPAFEST, our annual music festival will be here before you know it. More on that next edition!

Happy New Year,  
Ryan Cullen, Academy Director

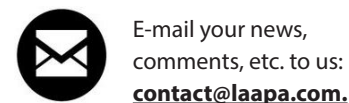
### CONNECT WITH US ONLINE:



### IMPORTANT DATES:

**March 11**  
LAAPAFEST - Covington  
**March 18**  
LAAPAFEST - Mandeville  
**March 25**  
LAAPAFEST - River Ridge

### 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 THE NEW YEAR!

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 in December!

Alisa T.  
Amani W.  
Ann B.  
Annabelle W.  
Ashley H.  
Braden C.  
Emily L.  
Isla B.  
Jaidynn G.  
James E.  
Jayla D.  
Jean B.  
Jennifer B.  
Jerome L.  
John C.  
Juliet L.  
Kameron A.  
Lori H.  
Meghan S.  
Meredith S.  
Monet S.  
Nathaniel C.  
Olivia C.  
Taya S.  
Vincent N.  
Zoe B.

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

## Student and Faculty News

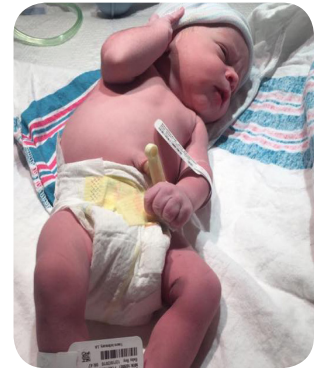


Mandeville School of Music voice lessons student, **Kaitlann Runnels** recently performed at the Byram Swinging Bridge festival on the main stage. She takes lessons with Mrs. Katarina.

Covington School of Music, **Maddy Rose Monlezun** got the part of "Mrs. Claus" in her school Christmas musical! She was extremely excited about it and was able to work on her many solos in her voice lessons with Ms. Alexandra!

Former River Ridge School of Music and Dance drum lessons student, Zelin Collins II, has written a new book available on Amazon.com. It's entitled, "[Tyrone's New Life.](#)"

LAAPA welcomed two new babies this December! Mr. Curtis Staples, instructor of guitar, and family recently welcomed Adelyn Staples (left) into the world on Dec. 8th! Mrs. Katarina Boudreaux and her husband welcomed Kuillin James Osborn (right) into the world on December 16!



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

## Happy January Birthdays!

**(Students)** Abby W. (17), Aidan O'C. (10), Akshara M. (9), Alejandro R., Alicia R. (7), Alyse K. (3), Alyssa S. (15), Amelia S. (9), Andrew B., Angelle A., Armani G. (6), Artemas P. (2), Ashlyn P. (7), Averie D. (17), Blaze C. (11), Brandon R. (13), Brayden B. (9), Brooklyn H. (13), Bryan H., Caitlin W. (17), Carmen V. (9), Cecilia V. (10), Chance K. (15), Christian M. (7), Claire H. (8), Colette B. (10), Di'Ayren M. (6), Dominick L. (10), Dominique G., Eleanor S. (9), Elinor F. (7), Emma L. (3), Ethan H. (12), Ethan T. (8), Evelyn O. (11), Gabriella K. (15), Gabrielle S. (9), Genevieve N. (7), George S. (1), Hannah S. (10), Holly S. (8), Hudson M. (10), Hudson M. (7), Isabel R. (17), Jace D. (2), Jack H. (9), Jackie H., Jacob L. (14), Jaiden D. (7), James P. (15), Jean Paul C. (7), Joan L., John K. (6), John F. (6), Jude S. (10), Juliet D. (9), KC N. (17), Kylie W. (11), Luna A. (4), Lyric H. (8), Madison H. (7), Madison L. (8), Margaret P., Mettah M. (5), Mina P. (11), Patrick C. (10), Peyton K. (9), Raylon D. (2), Rylan L. (8), Rylie M. (4), Saishreya G. (12), Sijun Y., Siya P. (5), Sophia H. (10), Teresa C. (13), TJ T. (6), Tony B. (10), Trey N. (16), Victoria D. (9), William B. (3), Xander C. (9), Zachary D. (14), Zayda J. (9)

**(Faculty)** Ms. Amy G., Mr. Gabriel P., Ms. Meghan S., Mrs. Mary S., Ms. Yvette F.



**Above:** Crowd shot at one of our Christmas recitals! **Right:** River Ridge Christmas Concert stage



## Student of the Month - Rojon Zamin



**River Ridge School of Music and Dance student, Rojon Zamin** takes violin lessons here at LAAPA! We recently had a chance to speak with her and learn a little more about her violin lessons and interests!

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

I've been taking lessons for about two years.

**What kind of music do you listen to?**

I like anything at all really, I like all kinds of music.

**What is your favorite part of the lesson each week?**

When Ms. Denise teaches me new songs.

**What do you enjoy practicing each week?**

I love Persian songs because my grandparents and my mom can sing along when I play.

**What are your other hobbies/interests?**

I'm very athletic; I like volleyball, tennis, softball, and basketball. I also love to sing, dance and draw on the side.

### Student Shout Outs!

"Drum lessons are going really well for Kyler as are piano lessons for Emma. They are both enjoying them and learning alot!"

~Nicolle S.

"William absolutely loves his preschool music class. He can't wait every week to come and asks me everyday if it's Monday yet, because he enjoys it so much. He also loves Mrs. Mary and she's very patient!"

~Quiana T.

### Will You Win a Home Recording Studio?

Congrats to River Ridge student Zachary D. who won a Jamstick + Bluetooth Guitar 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:**

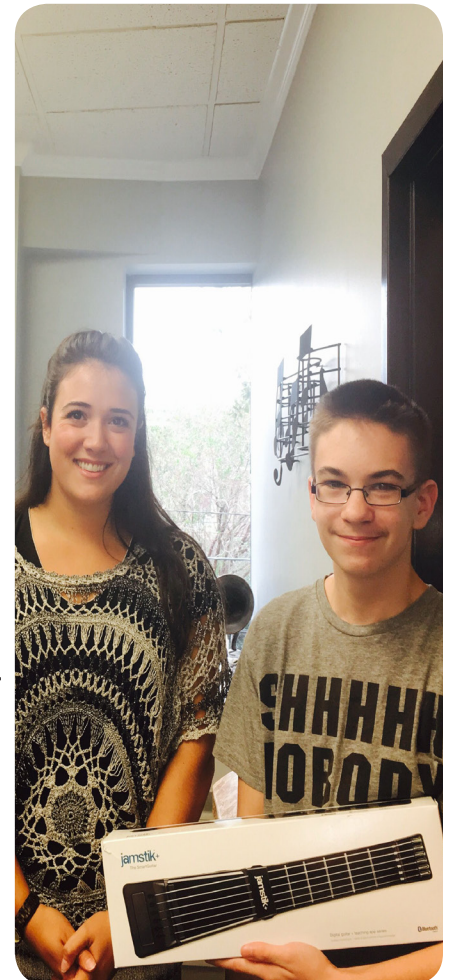
- You will receive a free lesson in any program.

- You will be automatically entered into our drawing this April 1 for a complete **Home Recording Studio** (\$500 value)!

**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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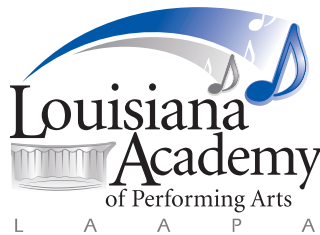
Louisiana Academy of Performing Arts  
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www.laapa.com | (504) 208-2301



(pictured above) Ballet class at the River Ridge School of Music & Dance Christmas Recital

## January Edition:

- Congrats to our Recital Performers and Happy New Year!
- Student & Faculty News
- Happy January Birthdays!
- Student of the Month - Rojon Zamin
- Will You Win a Recording Studio?
- Welcome to our newest Students!



## Ready to have *FUN* this New Year with Music & Dance Lessons?

Louisiana's  
Largest, Private School  
for Music & Dance  
since 1978.  
Kids - Teens - Adults



We offer the **Most Comprehensive Music & Dance Program in New Orleans** with lessons in **Piano, Guitar, Voice, Violin, Drums, Ballet, Hip-Hop, Jazz, Tap, Brass, Woodwind, Bands, Preschool Music**, & MORE all in one location.

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 39 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!***