

# LAAPANOTES

## The Most Important Part of Music & Dance Lessons



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 13 outstanding Christmas Performances. The programs were all 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 as well as so many exciting duet, trio, quartet, and ensemble performances. Our dance students who participated in the production of "The Night Before Christmas" were fantastic!

I wanted to share a brief summary from a video 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. Music and Dance are more important today than ever before because of the cognitive, physical, creative, and emotional outlets that they provide in a tumultuous world! 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?..."

Also, I just wanted to thank all who were able to

support the Teresian Mission during our concerts. Not only did we fill over 80 contractor bags full of gifts, but we also raised over \$4,000 in cash donations! Sisters Dolores, Angelus 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! The sisters attended a few of our concerts and were able to give their thanks in person - we have provided a video of their talk on both our Facebook and Youtube Channels so please check them out when you can!

Now that the new year is here, it's time to put down the eggnog and get back to music and dance lessons! It's been a bit too quiet here over the break and we can't wait to see our students again!

Did someone in your family get a new instrument for Christmas? Or are they ready to get started in dance or singing? The New Year is a popular time to get started and join in the Fun here at LAAPA!

We offer lessons for kids, teens, and adults in just about any area of music and dance! Call or Text us today for more information on how you can MAKE 2018 the YEAR YOU learn to PLAY, DANCE, or SING!

So thanks so much for an awesome 2017, and here's to an even better 2018! 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:



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laapatube



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laapatweets

### IMPORTANT DATES:

#### March 10

LAAPAFEST - Covington

#### March 17

LAAPAFEST - Mandeville

#### March 24

LAAPAFEST - River Ridge

### CONTACT US:



E-mail your news,  
comments, etc. to us:  
[contact@laapa.com](mailto: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 THE NEW YEAR!

It's Easy to Get Started in Music  
Lessons and Dance Classes!  
Call/Text 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!**

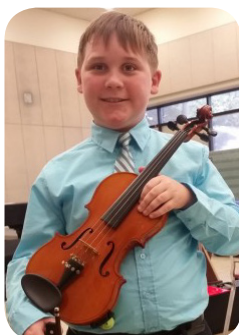
Alan A  
Bailey W  
Cassie P  
(thanks to Pamela A)  
Chase B  
(thanks to Charlie R)  
Delaney G  
Dillan W  
Evan G  
Jacob B  
Jeremie G  
Johnny P  
Keith H  
Koi C  
Linden L  
Lola H  
Melvin B  
Ryleigh R  
Savannah K  
Shyla G  
Trinity F  
Zoey P

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



**Above:** Crowd shot at one of our Christmas recitals! **Right:** Christmas Dance Production at Loyola

## Student and Faculty News



River Ridge School of Music and Dance student, **Robert Wood**, auditioned for violin in the New Orleans Youth Orchestra and was accepted into their Philharmonia. He studies cello with Denise Bonis and piano with Lisa Wiggins.

River Ridge School of Music and Dance student, **Courtney Carroll**, auditioned for and was selected to perform with the District VI treble youth honor choir. Their performance will take place at Loyola University on January 21, 2018. She takes voice lessons with Ms. Alexandra.

Mandeville School of Music & Dance voice lessons student, **Gracy Dunavant** saved up tickets from receiving Superior ratings in her lessons and got a Laapa water bottle!

River Ridge School of Music & Dance guitar lessons student, **Bella Brocato** is now an Intern at See-Hear Productions where she is responsible for setting up microphones, cables, spotlights, special effects, and audio.



Mandeville School of Music & Dance voice lessons student, **Addison Fitzmorris** was selected for the Talented Music program at Lancaster Elementary. She takes voice with Ms. Rebecca.



**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. (adult), Addison S. (11), Akshara M. (10), Alexander O. (9), Alicia R. (8), Alina M. (14), Alyse K. (4), Alyssa S. (16), Amelia S. (10), Amelia T. (6), Andrew B. (adult), Anna S. (16), Armani G. (7), Artemas P. (3), Blaze C. (12), Bo B. (5), Brayden B. (10), Brighley R. (2), Brooklynn B. (12), Caitlin W. (adult), Carmen V. (10), Cayden D. (7), Cecilia V. (11), Christian M. (8), Colette B. (11), Cooper H. (7), David B. (6), Deme M. (adult), Devin R. (adult), Di'Ayren M. (7), Dominick L. (11), Elad T. (9), Eleanor S. (10), Elinor F. (8), Ethan K. (9), Ethan T. (9), Evelyn O. (13), Ezekiel A. (2), Gabriella K. (16), Giovanni B. (4), Hanna J. (4), Hannah S. (11), Holly S. (10), Isabel R. (adult), Jack R. (7), Jackie H. (adult), Jacob L. (15), James P. (16), Janet P. (adult), Jean Paul C. (8), Jessie Z. (12), Joan L. (adult), John K. (7), Jorden S. (9), Joseph M. (13), Jude S. (11), Julia P. (14), Julie M. (10), KC N. (adult), Leah P. (adult), Mettah M. (6), Michelle D. (9), Noelle C. (9), Owen Z. (10), Patrick C. (11), Peyton K. (10), Princeton B. (8), Rasheeka B. (adult), Roman H. (5), Sarayi R. (8), Siya P. (6), Sophia Ha. (6), Sophia H. (11), Teresa C. (14), Trey N. (17), Vivian F. (16), Yvonne S. (6), Zachary D. (15), Zayda J. (10)

**(Faculty):** Ashlie S., Gabriel P., Mary S.





## Student of the Month - Laysha Gomez



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

**How long have you been taking lessons with us?**

• *I have been taking lessons for 1 year!*

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

• *Christian music! It's the best kind, and my favorite song is Jesus Loves Me.*

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

• *I get to see Mr. Richard and I love my Flash cards. They help me very much.*

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

• *When we practice Go, Tell It On The Mountain.*

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

• *I love to dance and color all the time!*

**What made you choose LAAPA (Ms. Kitsy)?**

• *My mother's friend told me about the school and the staff is very helpful and sweet. We signed right up and it has been a blessing. We love it.*

### Student Shout Outs!

"We LOVE Katarina! She is brilliant, compassionate, and an AMAZING teacher. We are so lucky to have her!"

~**Brandy B.**

"Shelbie is LOVING her dance classes with Ms. Mary. Shelbie always has the biggest smile on her face when she comes to class. She is having a really great time!"

~**Tania S.**

# Congrats to student Shanmugaval Thanigaivel! \$400 Winner!



Will you be our next referral contest winner?

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 will be entered into our next big giveaway (announced next month)!

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!

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

# LAAPANOTES

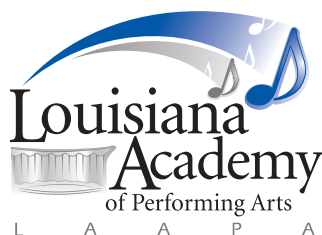
Louisiana Academy of Performing Arts  
105 Campbell Ave #2  
Mandeville, LA 70471  
www.laapa.com | (504) 208-2301



(pictured above) Pre-Ballet students on the Red Carpet with Ms. Mary after one of our performances!

## January Edition:

- The Most Important Part of Music & Dance Lessons
- Student News
- Happy January Birthdays!
- Student of the Month - Laysha Gomez
- Best Buy \$400 Gift Card Winner
- Welcome to our newest Students!



# MAKE 2018 the year YOU learn to PLAY, DANCE OR SING!



The New Year is a great time to **JOIN THE FUN!** 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 40 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!***