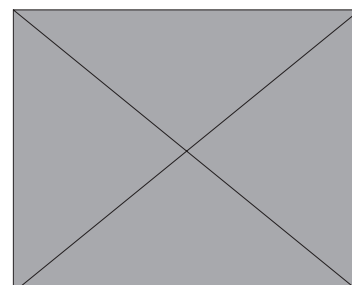


# LAAPANOTES



## Having Fun with Music & Dance is a Commitment



Dear Parents and Students,

This month I wanted to discuss the importance of "commitment" with music and dance lessons. We've covered this a bit before in a video entitled, "Practicing Music: The Path to Musical Success for Students, Parents, and Teachers." You can find it on our YouTube channel, if you haven't already checked it out, and everything in the video applies to dance classes as well.

In the video, I mention that it's important to anticipate the highs as well as lows along the way in your journey. There will be periods of immense joy as well as occasional periods of lowered interest (mostly due to the technical challenges that need to be overcome through commitment and of course, good old-fashioned practice). Think of a sine wave with ups and downs in the curve for a visual representation of this. What everyone should understand is that ups and downs are perfectly natural.

When we begin something new, as many students have this past year - everything is FUN because it's all new to us. New dance shoes, leotards, new instruments, accessories, and we were probably also able to learn a few new tricks quickly and easily with little to no effort right? Instant gratification is what we crave more than ever in today's culture! This is a high point in the curve.

Eventually as students progress in their studies, they will be challenged more and more so that they can meet the technical demands of the music they love and want to perform! To have fun doing this though, they will have some practice to do outside of classes. While some students love practicing, many more love playing (I know I do)! When it comes time to practice, it's easy for students to practice what they already know and spend

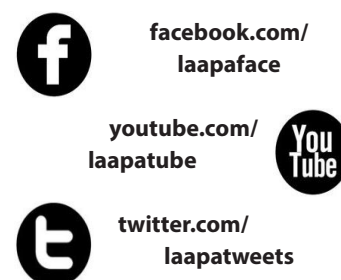
less time on the newer songs/parts/choreography that require some elbow grease. Parents - check LessonMate and assignment books to ensure that students are spending enough time on working on new material and not just things they already know. If you are only hearing or seeing highly polished performances all the time, chances are they need to spend a little more time focusing on new material. Otherwise, loss of interest will settle in since they will (as well as everyone else in the house) tire of only being able to perform the same songs.

It is the low and humbling points of the sine wave (i.e. our hard work and efforts) that produce the greatest rewards (such as being able to play, dance, or sing the music we love which may have been previously beyond our ability). It is through these efforts that we begin to zip back upwards in the sine wave which then leads to amazing recitals/performances and awards!

By the way, I mention all of this from my own personal experiences having taken lessons in piano, guitar, violin, saxophone, flute, trumpet, bass, (and Mrs. Mary also thinks I should start dance-still thinking on that one). I enjoyed all of them and was equally frustrated with all of them at times too! Years later, I ended up with both a Bachelor of Music degree and a Master of Music degree and guess what? I'm still overjoyed at times when I'm able to express my thoughts through the art of music, and I'm also equally frustrated at times with technical challenges that I need to spend time practicing to work out. You see, I too just want to be able to play whatever I want and RIGHT NOW gosh darn it! If only it worked that way, but you see, having FUN long term with music and dance is definitely a commitment for everyone! So, practice to have the most fun in your journey!

Ryan Cullen, Academy Director

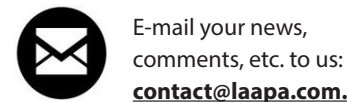
### CONNECT WITH US ONLINE:



### IMPORTANT DATES:

- March 2-8:** Mardi Gras Break - No Lessons
- March 16:** LAAPAFEST Covington Campus
- March 23:** LAAPAFEST Mandeville Campus
- March 30:** LAAPAFEST River Ridge Campus
- April 27:** Faculty & Honor's Concert

### 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 SPRING!

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 February!**

- Amethyst P.
- Anabel V.
- Annalise S.
- Anushree C.
- Asia B.
- Athena P.
- Aurelia R.

(Thanks Mary S.)

- Bria F.
- Camila P.
- Caroline S.
- Charlize K.
- Connor B.
- Cooper D.

(Thanks Jake S.)

- Dorothy M.
- Edwin L.
- Elaina P.
- Eli V.

- Elizabeth M.
- Elizabeth E.
- Emma M.
- Gabriele M.
- George C.

Gwendolyn R.

- Hadley D.
- Hezekiah J.
- Jason A.
- Jessica G.

(Thanks Kathryn T.)

- Jolie D.
- Kate L.
- Katherine C.
- Kayla J.
- Keya P.

- Leilani A.
- Liam R.
- Lindsay H.
- Madison D.

- Nick F.
- Petra R.
- Pili C.

- Piper M.
- Remy R.

(continued on p. 3)

**Student News**



Mandeville School of Music & Dance student, **Sarah Stone** (pictured left), recently participated in the NSMTA Solo + Duet Festival and Hymn Playing Festival. Sarah earned superior ratings for both! She's been taking piano lessons with Ms. Rebecca for 5 years. Great work, Sarah!

Mandeville School of Music & Dance Contemporary/ Modern & Hip Hop III students (pictured right) **Anna Wilson, Kylie McDonnel, and Kaitlyn**



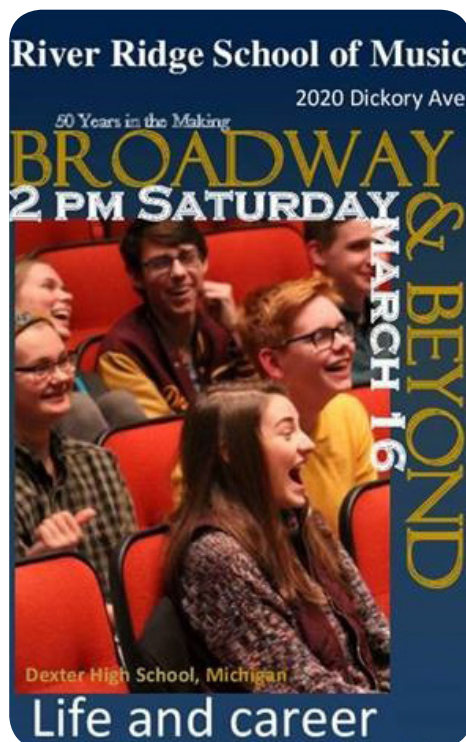
**Tribou** recently performed in "All I Really Need to Know I learned in Kindergarten." They did a fabulous job! Great work, you three!



The LAAPA Dance Department held a Choreography Workshop and Showcase last month. (Pictured left) **Camila A., Carietta Y., Elizabeth T., Paris L., & Victoria W.** had the opportunity to train alongside choreography professional Mrs. Elle. Keep it up, ladies!

**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)**

**Upcoming Events at LAAPA**



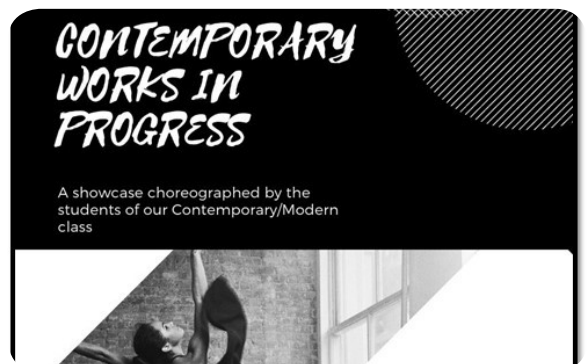
**Contemporary Works in Progress Student Showcase**

Mandeville School of Music & Dance  
March 31st at 2:00 PM

**Lecture: Broadway & Beyond by Peter Sklar**

River Ridge School of Music & Dance  
March 16th at 2:00 PM

Stop by the front desk for event info.





## Student of the Month - Brady Smith



**Covington School of Music** student, **Brady Smith**, takes voice lessons and is also a part of the Rock/Pop Band here at LAAPA! We recently had a chance to speak with him and learn a little more about his lessons and interests!

**How long have you been taking lessons at LAAPA?**

"March will be 2 years. I started in Mandeville right before the Spring recital. I was able to participate, and I really enjoyed it!"

**What are some of your interests/hobbies outside of music?**

"I like drawing, painting, filming and editing videos. I am a part of the talented art program at school."

**What style of music do you love to play the most?**

"I like mostly pop but also older music like Motown."

**Who is your favorite musician/band/artist?**

"Twenty One Pilots and Electric Light Orchestra are my favorite bands."

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

"Right now, I would love to be a musician when I grow up."

**What is your favorite thing about taking lessons?**

"The recitals! I love being on stage performing."

**(Mom) What made you choose LAAPA?**

"The initial phone call. I had heard back from a lot of the schools, but the first impression I got from LAAPA felt the best. It's definitely worth the drive from Ponchatoula!"

### Student Shout Outs!

"I have been a student at this establishment for 2 months and all I can say is that I wish I had been a student at an academy of this caliber for 20 years! The staff is comprised of friendly supportive open and informative team members on all levels. My drum/percussion instructor, Chris H., is a deeply talented, multi-dimensional teacher and musician, who in a very brief period of time has me playing 50 measures into a piece that was well beyond my capabilities just a month ago."

~Alissyn H.

## Happy March Birthdays!

**(Students)** Alice Catherine D. (4), Allie-Grace G. (11), Anderson B. (6), Andre M. (9), Andres G. (11), Anna W. (17), Anson P. (12), Anthony N. (4), Arinna L. (5), Ashleigh H. (14), Asia B. (13), Aubrey W. (11), Aubrie C. (8), Ava H. (5), Ava G. (10), Benjamin C. (11), Brendan M. (7), Brianna D. (12), Carlos A. (17), Carolina R. (10), Caroline S. (8), Charles S. (55), Christopher P. (39), Daian T. (15), Daniel D. (23), Elizabeth T. (8), Emily R. (15), Emma M. (16), Evan L. (11), Evangeline T. (5), Felix P. (3), Frank S. (4), Gabriel S. (6), Gabriele M. (10), George S. (4), Gideon S. (7), Hezekiah J. (3), Izabella L. (13), James W. (8), Japheth O. (18), Jayla F. (15), Jeremy H. (46), John G., Jr. (10), Journee J. (9), Kacey C. (12), Kennedy M. (13), Kingston M. (7), Laney T. (18), Leanne B. (8), Leilany M. (4), Lenny L. (58), Lily C. (8), Linda R. (53), Luke K. (9), Madison R. (11), Madison D. (14), Marissa D. (12), Mason J. (7), Michael E. (12), Patrick M. (8), Payton C. (9), Piper M. (3), Presley S. (10), Preston O. (10), Rakshitha R. (15), Rebekah H. (43), Ryleigh B. (11), Samantha B. (7), Sarah S. (12), Sarah M. (18), Sarah C. (17), Sophia M. (9), Sophie H. (7), Sophie M. (10), Steele A. (7), Svaraathmika B. (5), Treyvon H. (5), Vera M. (4), Victoria W. (12), Vivian A. (7), Zach D. (5)

**(Faculty)** Christopher T., DeMarcus R.

## Welcome New Students (continued)!

Samantha G., Sanaa L., Savannah M., Sean M. (Thanks Chris T.), Shawn D. (Thanks Jake S.), Skylar M. (Thanks Jaclyn B.), Sophia P., Tom A., Tuck D., William P., William F., Xenia T. (Thanks Lisa L.)

*It's a pleasure to have you joining the LAAPA Family - welcome and we look forward to helping you achieve your goals!*

# LAAPANOTES

Louisiana Academy of Performing Arts  
105 Campbell Ave #2  
Mandeville, LA 70471  
www.laapa.com | (985) 231-0875



(pictured above) Amelia Rick sporting her Mardi Gras spirit at Mandeville

## March Edition:

- Having Fun with Music & Dance is a Commitment
- Student & Faculty News
- Upcoming Events at LAAPA
- Student of the Month - Brady Smith
- Happy March Birthdays!
- Welcome to our newest Students!
- Join us for Summer Camp!



**Now Enrolling for**  
**Summer Music & Dance Camps!**  
**This July • Choose 1, 2, or 3 Weeks • Ages 5-16**  
**A GREAT WAY for students**  
**to discover their interest and talents**  
**in a variety of programs!**

Our Summer Camps provide all students ages 5-16 with a choice of over 30 instrumental, vocal, and performing arts programs to explore! 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 [www.laapa.com/camp](http://www.laapa.com/camp) or call (985) 231-0875!**