

The Classy Keys Music Note



Publisher: Classy Keys Volume Number: 01 Issue Number: 02 Date: October 2008



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Contact: advertising@classykeys.net

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Musical Games and Ideas

Each month check out the games on our website. There will be new features or words added to this game page.

www.classykeys.net



Questions and Answers

1. How should my child care for her flute?

Please look on page three for an article about the flute by Bob Cooper.

2. What is important in music lessons?

The student and teacher should have a rapport with each other. It is very important that the teacher teaches note reading, fingering, counting, music theory, and ear training. All these are important basics. Unfortunately not all teachers teach these things.

3. What makes music sound scary?

Most scary music is in a minor key. The next step to making music sound scary is to make sudden changes in the dynamics of the music. Also unusual instruments can be used. Create unfamiliar sounds. This confuses our senses and makes us 'scared'.

If you have a question you would like answered by Catherine please email her at: MissCathy@classykeys.net



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Welcome To Our New Staff Writers

I would like to welcome, Bob, Tori, and Renusha to The Music Note.

Bob Cooper is the repairman for band instruments at Total Entertainment in Daytona Beach, FL. He has many years of expertise working in this field. He will be writing articles about the care and maintenance of band instruments.

Tori Giuliani and Renusha Indralingam are high school students who have been studying piano for several years. Renusha is also studying the guitar. Both will be writing articles that will be for Middle and High School students.

Welcome to The Music Note, Bob, Tori, and Renusha.



Contest:

Write lyrics that would fit the Thanksgiving theme. The lyrics should be sung to a tune everyone knows such as Mary Had A Little Lamb, or Row Row Row Your Boat. Submit your lyrics to: contest@classykeys.net. The best lyrics, in each age group, describing Thanksgiving and fitting the tune will be listed in the November issue of this magazine. Deadline is October 31, 2008. Remember to tell us which song is the tune for your lyrics.

Christmas and Hanukkah are coming in December. This contest will be to compose a song for the season. Please tell which holiday your song is for. Your song will be recorded and placed on the website where everyone can hear it.

By entering you give permission for The Classy Keys Music Note to publish both in the magazine and on the website your entries. You keep your ownership of the works.



Bob's Band Room

By Bob Cooper

I want to thank Miss Cathy for inviting me to write for this great E-Zine; I've never done anything quite like this before, and I hope I can make it interesting. Each issue, I plan to take one of the instruments found in the school wind ensemble and devote a few paragraphs to topics that may interest players or parents of new students. Since band instrument repair is one of the hats I wear here at Total Entertainment, I want to offer suggestions about care and handling of the instrument that can prevent accidental damage and needless repair bills.

Today, we take up the flute. Everyone loves the flute's soft, caressing tone. When we close our eyes, we feel transported upon velvet clouds away from the hard, rough edges of our life to a place where we float effortlessly, and as the flute's melodic lines soar across over three octaves, we feel as if we can move just as easily.

Composers from the time of Bach to the present have relied on the flute's lyric character. The instrument itself, however, has changed a great deal. When Bach wrote for flute, the instrument that would have played the notes he penned would have been played on an instrument more like our modern day recorder. These instruments produce sound by blowing air into a mouthpiece that has a narrow wedge fitted inside it. When the air passes across the joint of this wedge, or "fipple", the air stream is split, and the vibrations created by that motion are passed into the body of the instrument, where the player's fingers determine the pitch of the sound. The modern flute, also called the transverse or ducted flute, produces its sound when the player blows across an opening near the end of the instrument. Everyone has, at one time or another, taken an empty bottle and blown across the top, producing a deep hooting sound. This is the principle behind the modern flute.

The flute used in bands and orchestras today is pitched in C, and comes in three parts; the head joint, the body, and the foot joint. To assemble the instrument for playing, the player should first grasp the body at its upper end, on or near the collar that receives the head joint. Then, with the other hand, grasp the head joint and slide the head joint into the receiver with a twisting motion. If this is done carelessly, the soft metal of the head joint will gradually wear, making the flute hard to assemble. Often, when players encounter an instrument which has suffered damage from careless assembly, they may consider applying some grease or oil to ease the process. This is NOT the best solution to the problem. The grease quickly thickens and collects dust and grit, making the problem worse. These surfaces were machined to go together clean and dry, and if they do not fit, they should be taken to a repairman who has the tools to correct the problem. The foot joint, at the other end of the body, is placed on its short receiver at the other end of the body, using the same twisting motion. Careless assembly here leads to a foot joint that can fall off, a VERY bad thing if you're marching in the big parade! Once the foot joint is in place, the post where the keys attach should be aligned to point to the middle of the last key on the body, adjusting for the length of the player's pinky finger.

As a repairman, there is one other item I must mention, because it causes a lot of flutes to be brought in to the repair shop needlessly, and that is the crown nut. At the upper end of the head joint is a round cap with knurled edges. Players, especially younger ones, will fiddle with this nut, not realizing what it does. The crown nut is attached to the crown cork, a plug of cork inside the head joint that sets the tuning for the overall instrument. The cork can be moved forward and back with this adjustment, but once it's set from the factory, it almost never needs to be changed. If your flute came with a cleaning rod, however, there is something you could do with regard to your crown cork; on the end opposite the hole for the cleaning cloth, you should find a line on the rod about 2 inches from the end. Place the rod inside the head joint, and if the mark is visible in the center of the hole in the lip plate, you know that your crown cork is in the right place. If it's not, you can try moving it to the correct position with the crown nut. However, many times the cork is stuck so tight that a trip to the repairman is necessary.

I hope you found this story useful, and that it will help flute players to better enjoy their beautiful sounding instrument.

This magazine is a monthly magazine that can be found on The Classy Keys website. If you have any suggestions, questions, or interesting musical stories to tell our readers please contact us at:

themusicnote@classykeys.net



Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers By Catherine Imbert

Use your pots and pans and other kitchen items to make a rhythm band with your preschooler. Then go to our website for march music or use a CD and play your rhythm instruments with the music. You can even march around as you play.

Have your preschooler draw a picture of a drum. Perhaps look online to find out about different types of drums.

Remember to go to our website for musical activities to do with your preschooler. Look under lessons and then preschool music.

Have Fun!!!



Elementary School Ages Children

By Catherine Imbert

Did you write your own a cappella song last month? If so, you can share it with us by sending your music to me at: MissCathy@classykeys.net

Since we were talking about voices today I'll tell you about the different singing voices.

The large groups are soprano, contralto, tenor, and bass. The soprano is the high voice. The alto is lower than the soprano and usually harmonizes to the melody that the soprano usually sings. These are mostly women's voices. The two men's voice groups are tenor and bass. The tenor is the higher and the bass is low. Sometimes women with a lower sound quality to their voice are considered being tenor.

Tessitura is the range in which a given voice has it's best timbre and texture. In other words, where the sound of that voice sounds it's best. Some people sound better higher and others sound better lower. So, the tessitura helps a conductor or teacher decide what part of the music you would sound better singing.

Parents should be aware that often times music teachers in school will put your child who sings soprano in the alto section if they have a quick ear or know how to read music. This can be a good thing because then your child learns to hear a part other than melody. But many times this can hurt your child's voice. Remember that the music teacher is looking out for the sound and good of the group, not always each individual child. If you have a question about this talk with someone who can help you assess your child's voice.

This month learn about the word "tessitura".



Goodbye Stress

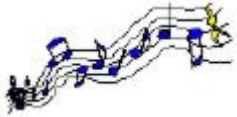
by Renusha Indralingam

Music helps soothe pretty much anyone. Doctors have been known to learn how to play an instrument to help with their long hours and hectic jobs. My dad, who worked as a doctor in Sri Lanka, knew how to play the violin, and feels like it really helped him with his nerves. Maybe that's why Arthur Conan Doyle wrote a lot about Sherlock Holmes' love of the opera and violin. He was obviously a busy detective with chaotic twists and turns throughout his investigations. Maybe with his talent for playing the violin, he learned to balance out both the negatives of the stress and the positives of a job.

Because music soothes people, it would explain why music is always played by preschool teachers during naptime. All throughout daycare, pre kindergarten, and kindergarten itself, the teachers would play calming music. But what was interesting is that in almost all of the music, I think none of it had singers or lyrics. It was all instrumental, with just piano chords or guitar strums. However, when I go back to my old preschool to help out, I notice that my old teacher now plays music that has vocals or even opera singers. A lot of the kids have trouble falling asleep, maybe because of the singers (or just because they've had too much sugar to eat). Either way, personally, I feel like instrumental music with no distracting singers (because I tend to get wrapped up in what they're saying, instead of the sound of their voice or even the music) is the most calming and relaxing.

Now, with being in high school and having deadlines for papers and projects and daily homework thrown at me, music is a necessity. After a hard and I do mean *hard*, day at school, the only way I can relax and unwind from all the pressure and tension is to put my iPod into my ears. Some of the songs put across emotions that I went through throughout the day and end up being a catharsis for me. To have a musician mysteriously know what I went through and how difficult the situation was (or how great it was in some cases), is like having my own personal support system with me in my pocket. And some songs that have nothing to do with me in general, just take me to another place, which can be so relaxing. I think high school students in general are better off with music, so as to keep us sane. Stress can be overbearing, but music of any genre, as long as it's the kind that a person likes, can lift the weight of stress.





Tori's Question Of The Month

By Tori Giuliani

These High School Students answered the question of the month. Thank you for your participation.

“If you could play any instrument, what would it be?”

Flute: Lucia Cervantes

Guitar: Alexis Brown, Angela Zimmerer, Emilie Johnsen, Linsey Burr

Violin: Caroline Given

Drums: Sarai Liso, Nicole Rivera.

What is your favorite instrument?



Discovery Page:

Find out the answers to these questions and then see how many of your family and friends know the answers.

1. The term Halloween is the shortened form of what?
2. True or False. Halloween has its origin in an ancient Celtic festival.
3. True or False. The festival of Samhain was a celebration of the end of the harvest.



Answers:

1. All Hallow's even or the eve of All Hallow's Day, which is also known as All Saint's Day.
2. True. The festival is Samhain.
3. True.



A Walk On Halloween

By Catherine Imbert

The first system of music is in 4/4 time. The right hand starts with a *fff* dynamic, playing a dotted quarter note followed by a quarter note. The second measure has a *ff* dynamic with a dotted quarter note and a quarter note. The third measure has a *f* dynamic with a half note. The fourth measure has a *mf* dynamic with a half note. The left hand plays a constant bass line of two octaves of G.

The second system of music is in 4/4 time. The right hand starts with a *mp* dynamic, playing a half note. The second measure has a *mf* dynamic with a dotted quarter note and a quarter note. The third measure has a *f* dynamic with a dotted quarter note and a quarter note. The fourth measure has a *ff* dynamic with a half note. The left hand plays a constant bass line of two octaves of G.

The third system of music is in 4/4 time. The right hand starts with a *fff* dynamic, playing a half note. The second measure has a *ff* dynamic with a half note. The third measure has a *f* dynamic with a half note. The fourth measure has a *sfz* dynamic with a half note. The left hand plays a constant bass line of two octaves of G.

Do you know all the markings in this song. It starts off very loud and gets softer. Then it gets loud and soft again. And ends suddenly loud. Don't forget the staccato notes.

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