Kindermusik for the Young Child

Kindermusik for the Young is a 4 semester program designed to introduce young children to music reading and prepare them for future instrumental study.

Semesters 1 and 2

Through the use of movement activities and singing games, children learn to internalize a steady beat and feel the difference between quarters and eighths. They develop a sense of pitch by singing and memorizing the songs they will eventually play on their glockenspiels (Year One) and recorders and dulcimers (Year Two).

We also study the life of Mozart and Beethoven, listen to and visually identify all the instruments of the orchestra using Peter and the Wolf and Carnival of the Animals.

Musical concepts presented are forte and piano, legato and staccato, crescendo and decrescendo.

Using their glockenspiels, they become familiar with a keyboard instrument and learn to read the notes f, g, a, c, d with rhythmic patterns of quarter notes, eighth notes and quarter rests. The children learn about the importance of home practice as they master these folk songs. Songs are reinforced through dictation and other ear training activities. All songs are played by memory and can easily be played on the piano at home.

The children attend 50 minutes of class with the teacher and parents and siblings join for the last 10 minutes. A home activity is assigned each week.

Semesters 3 and 4

For families that choose to continue in Young Child for two more semesters, a 2 string dulcimer is introduced in the 3rd semester and the recorder is taught in the 4th semester. The students continue to play the glockenspiel.

By the end of the 4th semester, the children know all the notes of the C Major Scale and can clap and count rhythms which use quarters, half notes, dotted half notes, whole notes, eighth notes and their corresponding rests. They are introduced to the treble clef, F-sharp and B-flat and time signatures.

Upon completion of both semesters, they are thoroughly prepared to begin a string instrument or keyboard and when they are older, a wind instrument.