

MUSIC CURRICULAR OVERVIEW - SPRING 2023

TEACHER: VICTOR LISSABET

Nursery School

This spring Music Time became a time of togetherness in the Nursery. Some of the moments shared have been very special. The complex social skills of musical turn taking, active listening, and expressing musical ideas have become routine with this group. Students continued learning repertoire with voice and various percussion instruments, as well as taking turns improvising on accordion or xylophone. They learned new songs, and were introduced to some musical stories such as, *The Foolish Frog*. Sometimes the class reached the limit of their attention span, but for the most part students are very cooperative and able to use their voices and instruments creatively, joyfully, and with musical intent. With substantial guidance students:

- Created musical ideas through clapping, playing various percussion instruments, accordion and xylophone.
- Explored their singing voices through a repertoire of songs and singing games.
- Shared their contributions through playing together simultaneously, or taking turns for solos.
- Were socially aware and attentive to the musical contributions of their peers.

Pre-K

The Pre-k had an exemplary year in Music Time. They became a true singing class with a lovely sound. They learned the value of creating musical space through listening, and then shared that space with each other. As a class, they performed on stage with overwhelming joy and happy silliness in front of an audience. They also visited the music barn for a recording session of the song they performed on stage. They had the chance to meet a trumpet named "Louise", and saxophone named "Al", as well as enjoy regular visits with "Old One", "Panther", and "Victoria". The class also participated in improvised jam sessions and played full size instruments, and demonstrated some surprising skills. With guidance the students:

- Created musical ideas through clapping, playing various percussion instruments, accordion and xylophone.
- Explored their singing voices through a repertoire of songs and singing games.
- Shared their contributions through playing together simultaneously, or taking turns for solos.
- Were socially aware and attentive to the musical contributions of their peers.

Kindergarten

The kindergarten made fabulous music in the Music Barn. They developed their ability to listen collectively and express themselves collaboratively. As a class they learned and performed the song *Write My Name* at the Lower School Concert. Students also continued learning a repertoire of favorite songs, dances, games, and stories. The Circle of Love continued to stretch their social awareness and helped students learn how to generously give attention to the voices of their peers. Overall, kindergarteners made great progress as social music makers. With limited guidance these students:

- Created musical ideas through clapping, playing various percussion instruments, accordion and xylophone.
- Explored their singing voices through a repertoire of songs and singing games.

- Shared their contributions through playing together simultaneously, or taking turns for solos.
- Were socially aware and attentive to the musical contributions of their peers.
- Learned and performed a group piece for their school community.

1st Grade

First grade continued their work on creating the shared musical space called the Circle of Love. The group became skillful in detecting and acknowledging when collective listening was (and was not) occurring, and students became more aware of their part in the group dynamic. First graders prepared and performed two pieces, *Freight Train* by Elizabeth Cotten and *Boat Up River* by John Jackson, for the Lower School Concert, in which they did an excellent job. The last few weeks after the concert, students worked very hard to make mallets. They selected wood from the nature trail, and felted colored wool directly on the sticks. Students were able to proudly take their mallets home at the end of the year. With limited guidance, the students:

- Create musical ideas on a variety of instruments.
- Read and recognized some basic rhythms in musical notation
- Explored their singing voices through a repertoire of songs and singing games.
- Shared their contributions through playing together simultaneously, or taking turns for solos.
- Were socially aware and attentive to the musical contributions of their peers.
- Learned and performed a group piece for their school community.

2nd Grade

Second graders made great progress in their collective drumming, and became skilled at creating and maintaining The Circle of Love. Earlier in the spring students made mallets and composed the motto, “We follow, and listen to our heartbeats, together.” They then prepared and performed an original drum piece at the Lower School Concert. After the concert, students continued the exploration of rhythmic chanting, which helped increase the clarity of the patterns they improvised on the drums. Second graders continued developing proper drumming techniques through basic warm up routines that were inspired by the Kodo Taiko. The group found a collective energy and sound that was at first chaotic and disjointed, and then became organized and strong. The students were able to:

- Create musical ideas on a variety of instruments.
- Read and recognize some basic rhythms in musical notation
- Explore their singing voices through a repertoire of songs and singing games.
- Share their contributions through playing together simultaneously, or taking turns for solos.
- Focus social awareness and attend to the musical contributions of their peers.
- Through rehearsal, refine musical ideas and techniques
- Learn and perform a group piece for their school community.

3rd Grade

The third grade did an amazing job preparing and performing *Tomorrow Never Knows* by the Beatles at the Lower School Concert. They exhibited notable command of the sound of their instruments, and the two chord progression. The class surprised the audience, and themselves! This year, having shared so much interest in The Beatles, it was an appropriate choice for the group to perform. Throughout the process of learning this repertoire, many students took a great leap towards playing an instrument, singing, and wanting more. The students were able to:

- Create musical ideas on a variety of instruments.
- Read and recognize some basic rhythms in musical notation
- Explore their singing voices through a repertoire of songs and singing games.
- Share their contributions through playing together simultaneously, or taking turns for solos.
- Focus social awareness and attend to the musical contributions of their peers.
- Through rehearsal, refine musical ideas and techniques.

- Learn and perform a group piece for their school community.

4th Grade

The fourth grade's performance of *Let It Be* by the Beatles at the Lower School Concert was excellent. It was wonderful to see so many of the students connect to music more personally, express a desire to learn an instrument, and do more performing. In a reflection after the concert, the group processed what they would have changed and/or kept the same about their performance. Many students stated that they would have kept the musical performance as it was, and the group shared a sense of genuine accomplishment. The students were able to:

- Create musical ideas on a variety of instruments.
- Read and recognize some basic rhythms in musical notation.
- Explore their singing voices through a repertoire of songs and singing games.
- Share their contributions through playing together simultaneously, or taking turns for solos.
- Focus social awareness and attend to the musical contributions of their peers.
- Through rehearsal, refine musical ideas and techniques.
- Learn and perform a group piece for their school community.

5th Grade

Fifth graders continued their work on *Dreams* by Fleetwood Mac for the Upper School Concert. They did an excellent job playing through the song together, following the chord progression and overall arrangement with minimal mistakes, and emerging artistry. In the weeks leading up to the concert, the students made significant progress on their chosen instruments, and became invested in the performance. A lot of emerging interest and talent became evident. After the concert, the group processed what they would have changed, and what they would have kept the same from the performance. The students felt proud of themselves, and expressed their desire to perform more. These students were able to:

- Explore their musicality of a variety of instruments.
- Learn and rehearse a piece for performance.
- Demonstrate craftsmanship, connection, and expressive intent.
- Focus social awareness and attend to the musical contributions of their peers.
- Through rehearsal, refine musical ideas and techniques.
- Perform a group piece for their school community.

6th Grade

The Sixth Grade did an amazing job at the Upper School Concert. The class was split into two groups. One group performed *Meteor Shower* by Cavetown, and the other group performed *Chamber of Reflection* by Mac Demarco. In the weeks leading up to the performance, the students became adept at rehearsing constructively. They were able to reach a level of performance that incorporated concepts like dynamics (expressive use of volume) and groove (rhythmic solidity). After the performance, the students processed what they would have changed, and what they would have kept the same from the performance. Many of them felt proud of their performance, and they spoke candidly about what they felt could be improved.

The students expressed their desire to continue their pursuit of music. They were able to:

- Explore their musicality of a variety of instruments.
- Learn and rehearse a piece for performance.
- Demonstrate craftsmanship, connection, and expressive intent.
- Focus social awareness and attend to the musical contributions of their peers.
- Through rehearsal, refine musical ideas and techniques.
- Perform a group piece for their school community.

Experimental Band

After the Experimental Band's debut performance at the Upper School Concert, the group was feeling very accomplished and pleased with the risks and rewards of performance. After the performance students reported how nervous they were about performing, but how pleased they felt afterwards, and that they wanted to perform more in the future. All of the students expressed a desire to continue playing and took advantage of the weeks following the Concert to rehearse a skit for the Variety Show, the famous "More Cowbell." They also learned the main riff from *Don't Fear The Reaper* by Blue Oyster Cult to add a musical element to their skit. With a little guidance, these students were able to:

- Explore their musicality of a variety of instruments.
- Learn and rehearse a piece for performance.
- Demonstrate craftsmanship, connection, and expressive intent.
- Focus social awareness and attend to the musical contributions of their peers.
- Through rehearsal, refine musical ideas and techniques.
- Perform for their school community.

Advanced Band

The Advanced Band did an incredible job at the Upper School Concert. They prepared three pieces; *A Certain Romance* by Arctic Monkeys, *In Your Eyes* by Peter Gabriel, and *Love Story* by Taylor Swift. The weeks leading up to the performance, the group had excellent rehearsals and every member made noted growth and improvement. After the concert the band pursued two new songs, *Head Over Heels*, and *Everybody Wants To Rule The World*, both by Tears For Fears. They prepared the pieces in only three rehearsals and performed them at the Variety Show. It was a pleasure seeing these young musicians:

- Explore their musicality of a variety of instruments.
- Learn and rehearse a piece for performance.
- Demonstrate craftsmanship, connection, and expressive intent.
- Focus social awareness and attend to the musical contributions of their peers.
- Through rehearsal, refine musical ideas and techniques.
- Perform for their school community.