



Happy Fourth of July!

Friendly Reminders

- ****NEW**** All checks must be made payable to **Karen Lecky-Springer** (NOT the studio itself). Thank you!
- There are **5 Tuesdays and Wednesdays** in July.
- There will be **NO LESSONS** on **Thursday, July 3rd and Friday, July 4th.**
- Students, please *continue to practice* over the summer.
- Don't forget, you can always log in to the

Celebrating the Summer, but Looking Ahead

Music opportunities continue all year long

Now that it's summer, the world seems to come alive with activity and excitement. This is true of the musical world as well; I can't begin to tell you how many camps, productions and master classes are going on during these hot summer months! Although it is only July, I am looking at programming events far ahead through the Fall, Winter, Spring and even NEXT Summer (yikes!).

The studio will hold a Fall Recital in late 2014, and a Spring Recital in 2015. Beyond those two events, I am working to hopefully give students the opportunity to participate in these additional events:

- **Vocal workshop/Masterclass-** Students will sing one or two pieces for another NATS teacher in the area. They will have the opportunity to work with the teacher for a 10-15 minute period on their pieces and vocal technique and also receive written comments regarding their performances. Particularly great for students preparing for College

[Studio Website](#) to see your upcoming lessons on the Calendar.

- Please plan to arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before your lesson time to ease congestion issues.
- I must keep lessons running on time- late arrivals will still end at scheduled time.

Log in to Music Studio Website

auditions! Small participation fee required.

- **Fundraiser Concert-** It is important to give back to our community. I would love to arrange a concert to raise money/food/clothing for a cause. If you have an organization that you would like this fundraiser to benefit, please let me know.
- **Music Theory Workshops-** Students will spend an afternoon playing games and engaging in activities designed to help build their Music Theory skills. Available for a minimal workshop fee.
- **Studio Musical Viewing Party-** Students will be invited to the studio one afternoon to view a musical production (Musical Theatre show) of their choice. Students will get to vote on the production to be shown and pizza will be provided.

****IMPORTANT-** Please click on the link [here](#) to answer a BRIEF survey regarding your thoughts on these new activities.

Music lessons for children boost 'executive brain function' throughout adult life

by James Vincent (The Independent)

A new study has suggested that children who receive regular music lessons display increased brain function through the rest of their adult life.

Research published in the journal PLOS One found that children who had received private music lessons for at least two years showed increased activity in the areas of the brain associated with executive function – the cognitive processes that enable people to process and retain information, solve problems and regulate their behaviour.

“Since executive functioning is a strong predictor of academic achievement, even more than IQ, we think our findings have strong educational implications,” said senior study investigator Nadine Gaab, PhD, of

the Laboratories of Cognitive Neuroscience at Boston Children's Hospital, in a press release.

"While many schools are cutting music programs and spending more and more time on test preparation, our findings suggest that musical training may actually help to set up children for a better academic future."

Previous studies on the effects of musical education at a young age have shown similar results, with a study published in November 2013 showing that adults who played instruments as children (but had not played in decades) who faster brain responses to speech sounds.

Research in September last year also found that individuals who played instruments were able to spot errors more quickly and accurately than non-musicians.

This most recent study compared 15 musically trained children aged 9 to 12 with a control group of 12 untrained children of the same age alongside two groups of adults divided into professional- and non-musicians.

The researchers controlled for various demographic factors including parental education, job status and IQ and found that cognitive function (measured by a "battery of tests") and brain activity (tested using functional MRI imaging) were improved for both adult and child musicians.

"Our results may also have implications for children and adults who are struggling with executive functioning, such as children with ADHD or [the] elderly," said Gaab. "Future studies have to determine whether music may be utilized as a therapeutic intervention tools for these children and adults."

However, the researchers also noted that the link between musical training and executive brain functions may not be causative and that "children who study music may already have executive functioning

abilities that somehow attract them to music and predispose them to stick with their lessons.”

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