

June 2020



The things we miss:

- ♥ In person lessons with students;
- ♥ Our spring fundraising concert;
- ♥ Our spring student recital;
- ♥ Making music!



"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."
Aldous Huxley

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A Beacon of Hope - Cheryl Drewes

I have managed to stay in touch with all of my students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most are continuing their piano study by working on independent projects. In addition to the practice routine, they complete listening assignments, and maintain a practice journal. I have received a number of video performances of pieces perfected – a sure sign that the students are engaged, setting goals for themselves, and experiencing the reward of accomplishment.

Zeal is one of my piano students, a second grader who began lessons last September full of joy and eager to begin the adventure! Zeal lives up to his name in his inexhaustible curiosity, love of learning, and abundant energy. As I teach him the rudiments of music, he shares the wonders of animal life, the marvels of physics, and whatever else he has just discovered – the narwhal being of special interest, especially the rare two-tusked one!

I make special mention of Zeal because he has not only coped well while having to shelter in place, as all my students have, but he has also found opportunity to thrive. He has latched on to the idea of video recording with such intensity – most earnestly presented with a bow each time, sometimes with additional commentary. As with all of my students, I email in reply with praise, suggestions, and observations. His mom, Anastacia, tells me that he is really grooving on the pen-pal like exchange, and looks forward to each week's new adventure with great anticipation.

So many parents are home with their kids now. For Zeal and Anastacia, who is a public school teacher and a musician herself, piano lessons have become that mother-child experience of yesteryear, exploring music together. She tells me that he says the funniest things – which I can imagine! For both mother and son, the sheer joy of music has become precious during these uncertain, and frankly, terrifying times.

During one of the first videos, the cat wandered into the picture as Zeal performed with fervent concentration. I was so impressed, not only with his efforts, but also by the scene, surely a Norman Rockwell moment. So I made a sketch, and sent it to Zeal, much to his delight! His story is a beacon of hope, a testament to resilience, and an inspiration to navigate whatever situation we find ourselves in; a path offered by a child with a zeal for life that persists, and finds joy in the moment, in discovery, in music.



Hi Zeal! 3/27/20

Bravo on your videos, so well played! I heard good tone, careful counting, and full concentration. Great work!

I'm glad you liked Peter and the Wolf, and noticed the sounds of the instruments. I also liked the reader best. 😊

Thank you for practicing 5 days this past week! You sure have learned a lot, and your practice journaling was very thoughtful. Will be in touch soon! ~ Cheryl

From our Board President

As you can well imagine, the last several months have been trying for arts and education nonprofits, and Jump Into Music is no exception. While some students are able to take lessons virtually with their teacher, the majority of our lessons have ceased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant measures required to keep everyone home, safe, and healthy.

For Jump Into Music, that specifically means cancelling our annual spring faculty and board fundraiser concert, cancelling our spring student recital, and ceasing all lessons at our home base of Spanaway Lutheran Church. Furthermore, we grieve that the measures we are taking to limit the spread of the virus also widens the wealth and opportunity gap for the more vulnerable among our population, many of whom directly benefit from Jump Into Music's programs.

The theme of "separation" is especially profound for me at this time. While I am grateful to live with supportive friends and housemates, I am unable to be physically present with my parents, my new nephew, my church community, and especially my students and the ability to nurture them and make music with them. I also feel a more existential separation- separation from hope, from joy, from opportunity, from love.

The hope that I can cling to is that this time of seeming separation, just as with a chrysalis, a pregnancy, and bulbs waiting to blossom, is waiting to give birth to something far more enlivening than we could ever dream possible. Among the myriad ways our world will be forever changed by this pandemic, the ways in which we relate to each other will be that much more precious and valuable. We will not take for granted another lesson, opportunity, recital, chance to create art and spread joy. We will relish in these opportunities, and nurture those who will seize and live into them.

I also want to take this opportunity to express our deep commitment to serving everyone in our community, especially People of Color. Jump Into Music unequivocally believes and supports Black Lives Matter and is committed to a diversity of students and teachers. This commitment stems from our mission, "To give every child the opportunity to nurture their innate musical abilities, guided by enthusiastic and compassionate teachers, without regard to financial circumstance or demographics, empowering each child to be a positive influence in the world." We are grateful for the opportunity to serve all people in our community, especially young children and youth of color, to empower them and amplify their voices and spirits.

While we are unable to have a fundraiser concert at this time, we thank you for your ongoing support to the mission of Jump Into Music. In lieu of a fundraiser recital this spring you are invited to watch videos of our teachers and board members on our website, www.jumpintomusic.org, and if you are so moved, to click the "Donate" button on the top of our website, on posts on our Facebook page, or by sharing a contribution via the envelope enclosed in this newsletter.

While we all take measures to stay home and stay safe, I, for one, am excited to see the new world that will be born out of our current crisis- one where we treasure each other, our diversity, and our art that much more dearly. But even more so, I am excited to help nurture the next generation, who will respond with greater tenacity and creativity and hope than we could ever imagine.

Thank you for joining me, and Jump Into Music, in that journey.

Kevin Peterson
Board President



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Thanks to our community partners including:



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