



C/O Spanaway Lutheran Church  
16001 A Street South  
PO Box 1300  
Spanaway, WA 98387

Thanks to our community partners including:



Spanaway Lutheran Church  
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Amazon customers can now use Amazon Smile—it is the same Amazon, but a portion of your purchase will be directed to the charity of your choice.

**Simply go to Amazon Smile, and select “Jump Into Music”.**

Jump Into Music is now a participant in **Thrivent Choice!**

This means that Thrivent members can designate a portion of their Choice Dollars to Jump Into Music!

**Simply visit Thrivent.com for more information.**

Are you a Fred Meyers shopper? **You are now able to link your Rewards Card to Jump Into Music.**

Whenever you use your Rewards Card when shopping at Freddy’s, you will be helping Jump Into Music earn a donation from Fred Meyer.

If you do not have a Rewards Card, you can sign up for one at the Customer Service Desk of any Fred Meyer store.

#### *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.*



## A Time to Pivot

by Kevin Peterson

As with many other activities, live in-person music lessons ground quickly to a halt with the onset of the global pandemic in March of 2020. I went from having a full studio of over twenty students down to a whopping total of zero. While none of us initially expected the lockdown restrictions to last longer than a couple weeks, now over a year later we find ourselves continually adjusting our expectations for when we can resume in-person activities.

While many activities can pivot well to online and virtual environments, music lessons is not one of them. Music teachers, including those of us with Jump Into Music, took a while to adapt to teaching over Zoom, learning as we went along with the students. Learning virtually requires a new level of patience and humility!

Three things in particular make distance-learning music lessons difficult:

- 1) **Latency**, the delay for sound and video to transmit over the internet, leading to awkward gaps in conversation or teacher and student talking over each other;
- 2) **Camera angle and width**, which limits our ability to see as much as we need and to change angles for our own observation; and
- 3) **Audio quality**, which is notoriously poor for music. Most microphones are geared for speech instead of music, and tend to pick up sound from other conversations (or barking, or cooking noises, or homework and paper shuffling...) in the vicinity.

**And yet, here we are.** Despite all the challenges of internet learning for music lessons we are grateful to have students and teachers willing to engage in distanced learning over this last year because we recognize the extraordinary benefits of musicianship still outweigh whatever frustrations Zoom lessons can throw at us. Music is a skill and a gift that improves grit, calms anxiety, soothes the soul, brings us joy, and resonates with our spirits. **No pandemic will ever change that; instead, it has made us realize even more just how crucial music is.**

Jump Into Music has met with leadership at our host building of Spanaway Lutheran Church, and we hope to resume in-person lessons soon in compliance with safety protocol and best practices advised by public health officials. In the meantime we celebrate the ongoing gift of music and musicians, of teachers and students, and even for all its difficulties, for the gifts of internet and laptops and webcams for allowing us to continue making music in this most extraordinary of times.

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## From our Board President, Cheryl Drewes The Moment has Come . . .

Dear Friends,

With great anticipation and hope, Jump Into Music is preparing to resume in-person lessons at Spanaway Lutheran Church beginning in mid-May. With our teachers approaching full vaccination status, and strict safety protocols tailored for the music studio in place, we are now equipped to offer lessons in compliance with Washington COVID guidelines.

For me, it will be sheer joy just to be in the same room with each student, a renewal of relationship after more than a year of remote teaching. When we meet, we will take time to catch up generally so that I may better understand how my students and their families are doing, and how they have managed through the pandemic journey. We will also acknowledge the challenges and gifts in making the best of distance learning, and bring attention to the emerging resilience that comes with patience and persistence while navigating the reality of the pandemic. It is a tall order to stay the course in perilous times, but these kids are doing so with poise and a maturity that belie their age.

When we launch into the lesson itself, finally able to explore music unencumbered by microphones, headphones and speakers, we will delight in the vivid beauty of *live music* experienced simultaneously, moved by the power of music unleashed in *real time*. I especially look forward to playing duets together (safely distanced on two keyboards, likely piano and organ), knowing that for all of my students, collaborative music making is especially rewarding.

How wonderful it will be to finally see my students again! Some are now taller than I, and all have grown in ways that will continue to blossom over a lifetime. I rejoice in the thought that all of our teachers will be reunited with their students, and whatever the new normal will be, the music will once again waft through the halls of Spanaway Lutheran as kids receive their lessons – piano, guitar, percussion, and more, intermingled in cacophonous joy.

Our deepest thanks you, as always, and especially throughout the pandemic year. Your encouragement and support is deeply appreciated as we move toward in-person lessons, and seek to reach more children. Thanks to your support, we are able to instill music into the hearts of children, a constant companion in a lifelong journey through an ever changing world.



## One year after the world changed

by Beth Ann Johnson

*In February of 2020, we were still offering in-person music lessons. We were also preparing for our Annual Spring Fundraising Concert and our Annual Spring Student Recital. We had ambitious plans for our Fifth Anniversary in the fall of 2020.*

*We had no way of knowing when we sent out our February Newsletter that everything was about to change. And what a set of changes it was! And while some organizations made the choice to simply close up shop until the storm had passed, we transitioned to online teaching via zoom, and hung in there for the long haul.*

*As part of that February newsletter, we shared this story from one of our students:*

My name is Alexis Perez, and I am ten years old. I have been interested in music ever since I was little. I wanted to start music lessons because I enjoy it.

I chose piano because it was relaxing to hear other people playing it. I started lessons two years ago, and just this year started violin lessons at school, because I like orchestral music very much.

What I enjoy about music is that it's calm, and it helps me focus when I'm doing homework. Other activities that I like doing are drawing and coloring.



*Here we are, a year later, preparing to have in-person lessons, for the first time in 14 months. As you have read elsewhere in this newsletter, it has been a challenging year. Many of our students struggled with the technology, making online music lessons difficult at times. Still, this December we hosted our first online recital, and the students and their guests had a great experience.*

*Financially, we weathered the pandemic in part thanks to a grant from ArtsWA. But today, as we launch back into live lessons, we are asking for your help. Please consider making a gift today. You can give online at [www.jumpintomusic.org](http://www.jumpintomusic.org) or by sending a check to **Jump Into Music, C/O Spanaway Lutheran Church, 16001 A Street South, PO Box 1300, Spanaway, WA 98387.***

*On behalf of the kids and their families, thank you in advance for your gift. And we look forward to sharing live music with you again soon!*