



Just a Note from Music

Seven Hills
& Beacon
Preparatory

Happenings in music

Our first month of school has quickly gone by. In Music, we have been working on getting our voices back to singing and getting started with new music.

Over the past month, we have been covering different topics at each grade level:

- In Kindergarten, we have been singing familiar tunes and getting used to music class. We have, also, been learning about different voices and different ways that music tells us to move.
- In 1st grade, we have been learning how to notate music using solfage. We have learned to dis-

tinguish between high and low voices speaking "Grandma's Glasses" and "3 Lil Monkeys"

- In 2nd grade, we have learned an African piece and the rock game that goes with it. We have also learned "Engine, Engine" and have been moving like trains.
- 3rd graders have been busy singing patriotic songs and learning to sing independently. We have learned the Canadian Nation Anthem as well as a song about the provinces & territories of Canada.
- 4th graders have talked about the lines/spaces and the staff.

We are preparing to use our recorders.

- 5th grade has been singing "Four White Horses" and adding 8 count patterns to it using plastic cups & sticks. We have also talked about the blues, dynamics, tempo and pitch. We will be playing recorders. Did you bring yours to school?
- Beacon Preparatory School has been reviewing the staff and the theory behind music in general. We have been singing "COFFEE" and "Rufus Rustus" and started a great body percussion piece, "Syncopation Celebration"

Featured Instrument



The instrument that is featured this month is the **piano**. It can be used in orchestras, jazz bands, pep bands and for solos & small ensembles. Many young people learn to play the piano as it is a backbone to learning music. It can fall under several families of instruments. First it can be in the 'percussion' family because we strike the keys and then the key strikes many mechanisms in the inside of the piano. It can also fall under the family of 'strings' be-

cause the sound is produced from the strings vibrating. Sometimes we will find it under it's own family named 'keyboards'.

Facts about the piano:

- The first pianos were called harpsichords.
- Between 1790-1860, the piano underwent changes to become the piano that we know today.
- Strings are stretched very tightly across a very large and thick piece of metal. This is what produces the sound by vibrating when struck by hammers

inside the piano.

- The modern piano has 7 1/4 octaves for a total of 88 keys.
- The pattern of keys is repeated every 7 notes, CDEFGAB, and has a pattern of black keys, 2 then 3 then 2, etc.



- Famous piano composers: Beethoven, Bach, Handel, Mozart & Chopin.

Featured Composer

Our featured composer is a famous piano composer. I would say he is the most famous of all composers. His music set the tone for new music that was to be written. His name was **Ludwig van Beethoven**.

Beethoven was born in Germany in 1770 and died in Vienna, Austria in 1827. He was born into a family that was not very distinguished. He had a miserable childhood because of a father that wasn't very nice and would make him practice all night.

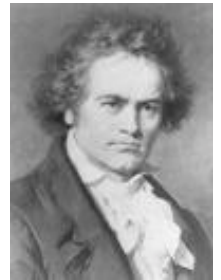
His family consisted of Ludwig and two younger brothers and their father. He was just 17 when his Mother fell ill. Beethoven never mar-

ried because he would fall in love with women that he did not have the social status to marry.

In 1796, just 26 at the time, he began to lose his hearing. He had severe 'ringing' of the ears. He would often avoid conversations and social outings. By 1814 he was totally deaf and depended upon other ways to feel the vibrations of the music. Much of what we know of Beethoven came from his conversation journals from this time. People would write their questions or thoughts in these journals so that Beethoven could understand what they were saying and asking.

Beethoven would write many types of compositions throughout his lifetime including symphonies, string quartets and piano music. He would write some music for different princes'. He spanned the bridge from classical music to romantic music. He helped to shape the ear of Romantic music.

20,000 people came to mourn the death of Beethoven on March 26, 1827. They lined the streets of Vienna for "The Great One."



Challenge your music knowledge

Circle the words that are dynamics:

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Piano | Adagio |
| Staff | Mezzo Forte |
| Fortisissimo | Mezzo Piano |

Write a rhythm in 4/4 time using tas, ti-tis, rests, and ti-ka-ti-kas.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Announcements & music events (school & community)

4th & 5th Graders: please remember to purchase or bring your recorders to school.

4th—7th Graders: you may join choir which is held on Friday mornings. We started Oct. 2nd. Students may join through Friday, Oct 23rd.

6th—7th graders may join the first ever band that will be held various

mornings (M, T, or TH) and then will be every Thursday morning and rotating Tuesday mornings. We will start band the week of Oct. 19.

If you have or know of someone wanting to rid themselves of a band instrument let Mrs. Wood know and she will help it find a good home.

Anyone with a guitar that isn't being

used, that is in good shape, please let Mrs. Wood know as well. I would love to play along on a few songs here and there with the students.

Please let me know of any concerts that are coming up so that I can let others know about them. It can be an orchestra concert, a play or something happening in the community.