



Just a Note from Music

Seven Hills
& Beacon
Preparatory

Happenings in music

Our first few months of school have quickly gone by.

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

- In Kindergarten, we sang 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 the difference between beat and rhythm. We have a saying "Beat is in our feet and rhythm is to the words in our hands."
- In 2nd grade, we have been adding individual instrumental parts to "Old Mother Witch" and "Starlight." We have been playing the Orff xylophones.
- 3rd graders have been busy singing "Indian Summer" and "I'm a Little Acorn." We have, also, been studying tempos.
- 4th graders have started playing recorders and have a great sound. We have, also, been talking about tempos and dynamics.
- 5th graders have been playing recorders and starting to branch out into two part pieces with other added in instruments. We have also been working on our body percussion piece "Greeting" that they are preparing for the winter concert.

- Beacon Preparatory has been reviewing the staff and working on various aspects of theory. 6th graders are continuing to work on a body percussion piece. We have introduced a new part to our everyday music class. While listening to a piece of music we write about it. For example, 'how it makes us feel or what it reminds us of.' We have listened to Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" and "What a Wonderful World."

Featured Instrument



The instrument that is featured this month is the **timpani**. It can be used in orchestras, concert bands and for solos & small percussion ensembles.

It falls in the family of 'percussion' because we strike the top of the drum with 2 mallets. The sound is produced when the head of the instrument vibrates from being struck.

Facts about the timpani:

- The timpani is a large bowl made of copper.
- Because of their bowl shape, they are often called kettle drums.
- Timpani mallets have many different heads on them: from soft to hard, from wrapped with yarn to a soft rubber.
- Timpanists will change mallets many time during a song.
- Timpani's are often placed in sets from 2-5. Most schools use sets of 2-3.
- To tune a timpani to the correct pitch a tuning fork can be used. When you hum a definite pitch into the timpani it will hum back when it is in tune.
- Timpani players first learn to play the snare drum and other percussion instruments and then move up to the timpani.



Featured Composer

Known as 'Pops' or 'Satchmo,' he is one of the greatest jazz legends to have ever lived. He wrote songs such as "What a Wonderful World" which we have all heard at sometime or another. This great jazz legend was **Louis Armstrong**.

Armstrong was born in New Orleans in 1901. Being surrounded by the sounds of New Orleans and jazz he learned at a young age sounds and rhythms.

Louis Armstrong had a tough childhood. His father left when he was a toddler. This forced his mother to give Louis to relatives when she was unable to provide for him. He

bounced from place to place. He went to a boys school for a while and then dropped out at the age of 11 and began supporting his family. One of the families he worked for loaned Louis enough money to buy a trumpet.

As a troubled teen-ager Louis developed his talents as a trumpet player. By the time he reached his 20's, he was becoming a well-known artist and was developing his own style of jazz: a style that would set new trends in the area of jazz. He also had a voice that was unique and heralded as the beginnings of the famous in 'scat' singing.

Louis would make his home at

times in great American cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans and New York. He made his permanent residence in New York City.

During his career he became friends and played with the greatest jazz greats such as Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and the list goes on. He died of a heart attack in 1971.



Challenge your music knowledge

Circle the words that are tempos:	ti-tis, rests, and ti-ka-ti-kas.
Presto	Adagio
Staff	Largo
Accelerando	Mezzo Piano
Write a rhythm in 4/4 time using tas,	

Announcements & music events (school & community)

Grades 4-7: Band and choir meet before school in the mornings. Students should be ready by 8:05. Please look at your calendar for practice days.

If you need a calendar contact

Mrs. Wood.

If you have or know of someone who has a band instrument to donate let Mrs. Wood know and she will help it find a good home.

Anyone with a gently used guitar that isn't being used, please let Mrs. Wood know as well. It would make a great addition to our music program.

Please let Mrs. Wood know of any concerts that are coming up so that she can let others know about them. I'm happy to share about an orchestra concert, a play or something happening in the community.

Upcoming concert for SHCA and BP: Dec. 17th at 6:30. Students should be in their classrooms by 6:15 in dress clothes. No blue jeans and preferably no T-shirts. It is a fun and exciting night and I look forward to seeing you all that evening.

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