

MUSIC NEWS

October/ November 2022 Update



How To Practice Efficiently

Consistency is key. Figure out what time of day works best for your child, and block it out on the calendar. When practicing becomes a routine, much like brushing your teeth or sitting down to family dinner, it's more likely to get done. Find a practice area that is comfortable and where you won't be distracted. Frequent practicing is better than cramming. Much like learning a language, music takes slow and repetitive practice.

The goal is to be able to speak (play) a sentence (phrase) naturally. If you have awkward pacing or have to think a lot to nail the phrasing and pronunciation, you haven't mastered it yet. Playing is different than practicing, effective practice is a step-by-step process designed to acquire a certain desired skill through a cycle of execution, evaluation, and adjustment. Playing for fun is part of the journey as well and is important in aiding the love of music making. Do not expect perfection, practice is a life-long skill and can be applied to many facets of life. Parent encouragement is also so important, many MPA students tell us how they love playing for their families. Performing for others is a gift musicians will have for a lifetime.

MPA Music Logo

Do you love Music at MPA and want to show it off to the world? The music department is in the midst of creating some new performance wear for students to have as an option. Stay tuned!



Concerts In October and November

Grandparents and Special Friends Day quickly upon us on October 19th. This morning event will showcase our lower and middle school students in a lovely performance after Bingo and classroom visits.

The Upper School Band and Orchestra students will perform their annual concert together on November 3rd @ 7:30 P.M. [Students arrive at 6:15 for yearbook photos.](#)

The Upper School Vocal Concert is November 9th @ 8:00 P.M. [Students will arrive at 6:30 for warm up and yearbook photos.](#)

Upcoming Concert Dates

Grandparents & Special Friends • Oct. 19 @ 11:00 AM
U.S. Instrumental Concert • Nov. 3 @ 7:30 PM; warm-up at 6:15 PM
U.S. Vocal Concert • Nov. 9 @ 8:00 PM; Choirs warm-up at 6:30 PM

Concert Dress

Grandparents & Special Friends- *no special requirements, look beautiful and express yourself.*

U.S. Instrumental- Orchestra students can wear white or black on top and black bottoms. Skirts should be knee length when sitting. **Band students** are to wear all black, formal concert attire. **All instrumental students should be aware of skirt length when sitting and comfortable shoes for walking up and down the stage stairs.*

U.S. Vocal- *School concerts at MPA are considered a formal occasion and Upper School Choir members are asked to dress in concert black. We want to affirm your student's identity and attire choices. Here are some options your student can choose from:*

- a long sleeve black dress shirt
- a pair of black dress pants (no leggings, yoga pants, etc.)
- a long black dress or long black skirt with black tights or hose
- a black belt
- black dress socks (if not wearing tights)
- a pair of black dress shoes (no heels higher than an inch)
- Your student should not wear jewelry and make-up should be kept to a minimum.

What's Happening In Music?

M.S. Vocal Music

5th Grade are currently in their final preparations and rehearsals for the Grandparents & Special Friends Day program. We are discovering the joy of making music together through exploring world drumming, music theory, navigation of choral scores, as well as healthy singing techniques.

6th Grade musicians are soaring to new and great heights with their singing voices! We have enjoyed learning rehearsal routines and procedures, new vocal warm-ups, and their love of class jobs such as "Timekeeper" and "Posture Patrol." We are also in final preparation for GPSF Day.

7th - 8th Grade choirs are developing their singing voices as many begin or continue to move through their first voice change. They are working on singing in parts and are enjoying songs ranging from vocal swing music to music written by local composers here in the Twin Cities.

Orchestra

5th grade orchestra is off to a great start of the year! We now can make our first sounds and have officially started using our bows. All students are continuing working on note reading and the geography of their fingerboard while making big beautiful sounds!

6-8th grade orchestras have started working on their concert music. We are playing everything from the Jaws theme in a fandango style, a classic Scottish folk song, and Mozart. This year our focus is great tone and balance. If students can create a sound they love, they will be more motivated and enjoy practicing.

U.S. Orchestra and Chamber are working hard on music that really showcases their best skills. We have fast and furious heavy cinematic music and some beautiful landscape picturesque pieces that really bring the music to life. Our goal is to exaggerate our expressive playing techniques to enhance the sound quality and fine tune our intonation.

Check This Out!

In 7/8th orchestra we are playing a version of "Black is The Color of My True Love's Hair". Scottish in origin, this song is from 19th century Scotland and immigrants who settled in the Appalachian Mountains around North Carolina made it popular in America by oral tradition. Nina Simone does a cover of that is so beautiful and expressive. Click to hear [Nina's Version](#)

Band

5th Grade band is making SOUND! We are having a blast learning basic techniques such as posture, breathing, and articulation. Students are also working on their first five notes and basic rhythmic counting. In addition to playing we are continually reviewing accountability, practice routine development, and rehearsal expectations.

6th - 8th Grade bands are working hard on concert repertoire. Our winter selections offer a variety of beautiful contrasting moods and upbeat energetic fun. In addition to rehearsing, students are learning what it is like to work with their new director "Mr. Skrove". Mr. Skrove has had a blast getting to know everyone. As an ensemble our goal is to have fun and strive to achieve one homogenous sound.

M.S. Jazz Band is back at MPA! We have had our first rehearsal and are looking forward to building the group this year.

U.S. Concert Band has been working on a variety of technical exercises, scales, and diverse repertoire. This concert cycle's selections offer a little bit something for every listener. Our works instill a range of fast, percussive and dynamic passages to more lyrical and legato passages. Goals of ours include striving for balanced intonation, maintaining steady consistent tempi, and making musical statements as a collective unit.

U.S. Jazz Band and Chamber are working on a variety of works that range from classical woodwind quintet repertoire to 1980's classic rock. All ensembles are working towards balanced intonation, dynamic range, rhythmic integrity, articulation, and musical time feel/nuance.

U.S. Vocal Music

The Upper School Choirs have been preparing for their fall concert on Wednesday, November 9.

Varsity Choir will sing several familiar tunes include "The Journey" which incorporates "Simple Gifts and "Going Home." They are also working on a rhythmically complex treatment of the folksong, "The Cuckoo" along with Bob Dylan's "Knockin' on Heaven's Door."

Madrigal Singers have studied some early American tunes, along with the part-song, "You Stole My Love" and a mouth-reel by Acadian composer, Marie-Claire Saindon.

Concert Choir will round out the program with a movement from Vivaldi's Gloria, Eleanor Daley's "Lake Isle of Innisfree," and "Kwela, Kwela," which combines traditional Sotho and Zulu songs. We look forward to sharing what we have learned with you.

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Photos & Fun



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Composer Biographies

Composers performed during upcoming concerts

Yukiko Nishumura **Doug Spata**

[BIOGRAPHY LINK](#)

[BIOGRAPHY LINK](#)



Randall D. Standridge

[BIOGRAPHY LINK](#)



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

[BIOGRAPHY LINK](#)



Richard L. Saucedo

[BIOGRAPHY LINK](#)



Tyler Arcari

[BIOGRAPHY LINK](#)



Deborah Baker Monday

[BIOGRAPHY LINK](#)



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