

## CCA's Noteworthy News October 2009

There are only 10 music classes left before the Christmas Program; therefore, all classes will begin to work diligently on the music they will be presenting for you. You may want to mark your calendars now, as the holiday season gets so busy so quickly. **CCA's Christmas Program is scheduled for Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30. It will be held in the auditorium at Weld Central Junior High School.** CCA's Junior High students will not be performing at the program, but may choose to work "behind the scenes" if they so choose.

Besides working on our material for the Christmas Program, here are some other musical happenings at CCA this month:

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: We've finished our study of "Peter and the Wolf." The kids really seemed to enjoy this! We've been listening to "A Little Night Music" by Mozart, as well as learning more about this musical genius. We are also beginning to sing "America the Beautiful," and we will learn the history and meaning of the words in this poem turned song. We also continue to review whole, half, and quarter notes.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: We've wrapped up our study of Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals." We will listen to Beethoven's "Für Elise" and will learn a little bit about this interesting figure in music history. Beethoven went deaf, but still continued to compose music. He would compose on the walls and shutters of his apartments. He could be very moody and cranky, and worried about little else (such as eating and changing into clean clothes regularly!) but his music. This month, we will be singing "Home on the Range" and "This Land is Your Land."

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: We have been listening to a piece of music featuring the clarinet. It is "Rhapsody in Blue" by Gershwin. We've learned that Gershwin became rich and famous at the age of 19, thanks to his musical ability. He became obsessed with himself and his music. When he was being driven somewhere, he would tell the driver, "You've got Gershwin with you, so drive carefully!" Another piece of music we'll be listening to is "Prelude to Afternoon of a Faun" by Debussy. It is a dream-like piece of music, featuring a flute. We will be playing a music game called "Board Wars" where the children spell words out of the notes of the treble clef. I give them a word, such as "café" and they must find the c, the a, the f, and the e notes.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: We are beginning a study of George Frederick Handel, and his famous work "The Hallelujah Chorus" from *The Messiah*. We've also been listening to a piece called "Symphony No. 94" by Haydn. It is also known as "Surprise" because of the loud boom in the music, purposefully composed to wake sleeping audience members! The kids are doing a great job with their recorders! We will be playing the recorder with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the Christmas Program. Our piece will be "Jingle Bells." We've been singing

“The Caissons Go Rolling Along.”

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: We finished our study of Beethoven up. We will be learning about dynamics and the Italian terminology used (piano=soft; forte=loud). We’ll be practicing “Jingle Bells” on our recorders, as that is what we will be playing at the Christmas Program with the 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades: We’ve wrapped up our study of Bach, and we will be moving on to Handel, who is best known for his composition the “Hallelujah Chorus” from *The Messiah*. Both of these composers were from the Baroque era, which we will continue to learn about.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns, and look for the next “Noteworthy News” to be posted here on the website the beginning of November!

Warmly,  
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