

CCA's Noteworthy News

April & May 2010

Here are the musical happenings at CCA for the remainder of our school year:

1st Grade: We've been singing some fun songs, such as "Summertime, Please Come Soon" and "Couch Potato" (something we'll strive NOT to be over the summer!), as well as other favorites, such as "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," "America the Beautiful," and "There's a Hole in the Bucket." They really enjoy the last one because the boys take the role of Henry and the girls take the role of Liza and they sing the song back and forth to each other. We will deepen our learning of Jazz this month. We're learning that jazz is a kind of music that developed in America, with African and African American roots, and that jazz musicians "improvise." We will learn specifically about Louis Armstrong and Charlie Parker. We are also working through a notation packet, which helps us recognize and understand whole, half, and quarter notes and rests.

2nd Grade: The children enjoy listening to many of Bach's compositions, but none as much as "Tocatta and Fugue in D minor," which was actually composed as church music, but is found in many movies/TV shows today, and seems more "scary" than sacred. We've just wrapped up learning about Bach's life. Next we will be listening to a story CD containing Vivaldi's music "The Four Seasons," which the children are already familiar with. We are also working through a notation packet, which helps us recognize and understand whole, half, and quarter notes and rests. We've been singing some fun songs, such as "Summertime, Please Come Soon" and "Couch Potato," as well as some of our favorites from the year, including "Clementine," "The Erie Canal," "Home on the Range," and "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad."

3rd Grade: We recently listened to and learned the story behind Rossini's "William Tell Overture." We will be learning more about this composer during the month of April. We are currently in the middle of a study of the string instruments – which strings are found in a symphony orchestra and which aren't, and we're learning to identify the similarities and differences between the violin, viola, cello, and double bass. We're singing some fun songs, as well as some of our favorites from the year, including "Polly Wolly Doodle" and "America, My Country 'Tis of Thee."

4th Grade & 5th Grade: We will be learning to recognize and name the different vocal ranges – both male and female. We continue to work on our recorders. Learning to hold the rests in our songs has been a challenge for us, but we are getting better. We'll be reviewing a lot of the elements of music that Core Knowledge calls for us to know, such as time signature, sharps, flats, notes, and rests. We will be completing some fun activities to help us remember the notes on the treble clef staff.

Junior High: We will finish the year off by learning about opera, specifically Rossini and his comic opera "The Barber of Seville." We will also study American musical theatre, and we will view a musical in class.