



The CATHEDRAL of
ST. PHILIP
SERVING ATLANTA AND THE WORLD

August 2015

Dear Parents,

I am thrilled to lead the Allegro/Musikgarten program at the Cathedral of St. Philip. I have been singing in the Cathedral's adult choirs for over 25 years and have watched this wonderful program grow since its inception. As an early childhood music specialist myself, I know the many benefits children gain by taking part in a music and movement program encompassing musical, physical, emotional, social and cognitive growth.

I am a licensed Musikgarten educator, and I use this internationally recognized program with all age groups in the Allegro and Musikgarten Programs. The activities are based on research that proves language development, self expression, memory skills, concentration, social interaction, fine motor skills, listening, problem solving, teamwork, goal setting, and coordination are all impacted by early music and movement education.

Musikgarten has several curriculum options for each age group, each one offering home materials such as CDs, instruments, song books and activity suggestions for families to use between each weekly session. These home kits are included as a part of the tuition fee for each class to give you the materials you need to reinforce your child's fun and education. Not only are the children more confident with songs and activities that are familiar to them, but you can enjoy spending musical time with your child each day.

An important component of the Musikgarten program is family involvement in the child's musical experiences. In addition to the home activities, parents and caregivers are welcome to attend the weekly classes with the children. The baby and toddler classes are for children and caregivers together. Older children begin to develop self-individuation in their classes. However, even if there aren't activities that specifically involve the parents and caregivers, there is much to be gained by being present in the classes. You will get to see the children as they grow in all of the developmental areas being addressed in the activities, you will learn the songs and activities so that you can continue the child's experiences at home, and you will leave smiling at the joyful sounds of children raising their voices to God.

I look forward to getting to know all of you and your children as the classes progress. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me. You can also read more about Musikgarten's philosophy and curriculum at musikgarten.org.

I leave you with the following information from Musikgarten, reiterating my beliefs about why music and movement are so vital for all children.

- Music is a language, and children are oriented toward learning language.
- Music evokes movement, and children delight in and require movement for their development and growth.
- Music engages the brain while stimulating neural pathways associated with such higher forms of intelligence as abstract thinking, empathy, and mathematics.
- Music's melodic and rhythmic patterns provide exercise for the brain and help develop memory. Who among us learned the ABC's without the ABC song?



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- Music is an aural art and young children are aural learners. Since ears are fully mature before birth, infants begin learning from the sounds of their environment before birth.
- Music is perfectly designed for training children's listening skills. Good listening skills and school achievement go hand in hand.
- Developmentally appropriate music activities involve the whole child—the child's desire for language, the body's urge to move, the brain's attention to patterns, the ear's lead in initiating communication, the voice's response to sounds, as well as the eye-hand coordination associated with playing musical instruments.
- Music is a creative experience which involves expression of feelings. Children often do not have the words to express themselves and need positive ways to release their emotions.
- Music transmits culture and is an avenue by which beloved songs, rhymes, and dances can be passed down from one generation to another.
- Music is a social activity which involves family and community participation. Children love to sing and dance at home, school, and at church.

This will be an exciting year. I can't wait to see what we all will accomplish.

Brenda Pruitt

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