

# THE **PLAYER!**

Quick Looks  
at Studio News

NOV/DEC '07

## EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

SPECIAL NOV/DEC ISSUE!  
KEEP UP WITH MORE STUDIO  
HAPPENINGS BY VISITING  
[www.letsplayarts.com](http://www.letsplayarts.com)  
EACH WEEK!

Happy Holidays! As we all prepare to enter the merriest time of the year, we thought we'd pack as much as we could into this issue to keep you informed of the latest studio happenings. There's many things to keep you posted on, some of which have already been discussed on our website BLOG. Here's the latest:



⇒ Let's Play created the Santa House concept and brought it to the Downtown Brookings organization.

Now they are teaming up to bring a place for Mr. Claus, Mrs. Claus, and maybe even an elf or two to visit over the next few weeks.

Located on Main Street, it is both open to the public and available for daycares, preschools, businesses, or other groups of children to make special appointments with the jolly man! Check out our website for public visitation

hours. If your child attends a daycare or other small group of children, have them call Let's Play to book an appointment! (Drop off your letters to Santa there as well!) Ho-Ho-Ho!

⇒ We're handing out a survey in mid-November to help us learn even more about you - the students! It will only take a few minutes to fill out, but the results will help us (and you) for a long time!

⇒ It's time for evaluations! In July we had parent/teacher conferences for any student interested. Now, in December our instructors provide written evaluations for all students who have been studying for six months or more. These are straight-forward looks at how we think the student is doing, where they need more work, their strengths, etc. Of course, you can always call to schedule an appointment with an instructor to discuss even further any specifics of a student. It's just another way we keep the doors to communication open!

⇒ We have updated our payment policy, and all students were sent home with a letter explaining the options. We are also looking at adapting the make-up policy to also make it more user-friendly, beginning soon. Stay tuned!

⇒ Wi-Fi is available at the studio for any parent who wants to sit and do some work while waiting for their little one. No strings (or cords) attached!

⇒ Lessons are like marriage: we see you in sickness and in health. But we would really like to just see you in health. So PLEASE keep up the hand-washing, coughing/sneezing into your sleeve (to keep your hands clean), and don't come to a lesson if you are contagious! We have to trust your judgment on that one!



⇒ Many of you have noticed our wonderful new "wall art" in the form of posters from more Broadway shows. These are a great addition, donated to us by SDSU Theater Dept. King Ray Peterson. He's been collecting them for many years and graciously allowed us to show them off for him. These are originals from original Broadway runs, and Ray is probably the only person in Brookings with such a collection. Thanks, Ray!

⇒ Our Musical Theater Workshops are going very well, so we've decided to keep offering them for several more months. This is a truly unique chance for 5-10 year olds to be exposed to multiple areas of theater, performance, and more while studying up on one production. We've done Annie, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, and are planning on Peter Pan, Wizard of Oz, Beauty and the Beast, and more in coming months. Talk to Randy to enroll.

⇒ We have another chance for beginner drawing students to enroll in a new session of Beginning Drawing (for either young ones or adults) beginning in January. Enroll ASAP to book a spot!

⇒ Make use of discounts! Most students who sign up for one class or other instruction option save 10% off of their total bill. Many times this means that you can add the offering for just a few dollars, or even be paying less overall by adding it! Right now, about 15% of our students have figured that out, and the rest are missing out!

⇒ Remember that Let's Play is not ONLY the place you go to study piano or learn to play guitar. It is a one-of-a-kind place where students have the unique opportunity to become well-rounded in the arts! Take advantage of the many possibilities in the new year!

⇒ There's always more information! Keep up to date by visiting [www.letsplayarts.com](http://www.letsplayarts.com)! And check back often!

**Happy Holidays from all of us at Let's Play!  
Thanks for being a part of our lives in 2007...  
And here's to a terrific 2008!**

**Let's Play! Celebrate Life Through The Arts**

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## Putting the L-I-S-T in 'Listen to Us'

With everyone so busy over the holiday season, we took the liberty to make out your Christmas Shopping list for you. You're welcome!

- Little Johnny* .....GUITAR LESSONS
- Little Suzy*.....VOICE LESSONS
- Pastor Roberts*.....THEATER (PUBLIC SPEAKING) LESSONS
- Teacher Paula*.....GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR ADULT DRAWING CLASS
- Brother Joe*.....LET'S PLAY T-SHIRT (RED)
- Sister Sally*.....LET'S PLAY T-SHIRT (GOLD)
- Grandpa/Grandma*.....HOLIDAY MUSIC CD\* OF MEAGAN
- With-Child Wendy*.....MUSIC & ME GIFT CERTIFICATE
- Blow-Hard Bill* ..GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR TRUMPET LESSONS
- Paperboy Pete* ..GENERAL GIFT CERTIFICATE (I HARDLY KNOW THE KID)
- Myself*.....FREE TIME 'CUZ I GOT IT ALL DONE AT LET'S PLAY!  
.....AND MAYBE SONGWRITING LESSONS!

\*FYI: The **Holiday Music CD** is a new gift idea, allowing the student to be recorded playing piano, guitar, singing, etc. Unique/fun idea for parents, grandparents, distant relatives, etc. Also, since many people may be unaware what kind of arts instruction 'Little Suzy' may desire, gift certificates can be purchased for any amount and the recipient can be free to choose from any of our services! Check out a gift certificate special, only available on our website BLOG (dated November 13, 2007).



## Note These Dates

### Class Schedules

- Piano Class for Beginners - 6-6:30pm - age 6-10.....**Mondays**
- Piano Class for Early Elementary - 7-7:30pm - age 7-12.....**Tuesdays**
- Piano Class for Beginners - 6-6:30pm - age 6-10.....**Tuesdays**
- Musical Theater Workshop - 4-4:30pm - age 5-10.....**Tuesdays**
- Music & Me - 9:30-10am - newborn - 24 months.....**Fridays**
- Music & Me -10:15-10:45am - 2-5.....**Fridays**

### Registration Deadlines

- Individual/group instruction/classes.....**ongoing**
- Last Day for "Santa Check-Ups" til Jan.....**Nov. 26**
- Musical Theater Workshop "The Wizard of Oz".....**Dec. 3**
- Youth/Adult Beginning Drawing classes.....**Jan. 3**

### Let's Play! Calendar

- Studio Closed for Thanksgiving.....**Nov. 22-25**
- Jan/Feb '08 invoice due.....**Dec. 1**
- Musical Theater Workshop/Oz- age 5-10.**Tue. 4-4:30pm -Dec. 4-Jan 30**
- Studio Closed for Christmas/New Years.....**Dec. 22 - Jan. 2**
- Watch for the Let's Play Santa House on Main Street.....**Nov. 24 - Dec. 8**

## Music = Smart Kids:

Or - "What We Keep Telling You Guys!"

"Learning music may help children's communication skills more than studying phonics, according to a new study. The study shows musical training enhances the same processing skills in the brain and nervous system that are needed for talking and reading because musicians use all of their senses to practice and perform music, such as watching other musicians, reading lips, feeling, and hearing the music.

In the study, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 29 adults with varying levels of musical training wore electrodes to measure brain activity in response to watching and listening to audio and videotapes of a cellist performing and a person speaking.

The results showed that trained musicians had earlier and larger responses to both speech and music in the brain stem than non-musicians. Specifically, those with more years of musical training had better sound-encoding mechanisms in the brain stem, which are also necessary for speech and communication.

Researchers say years of multi-sensory training through learning music may improve these communication skills in the brain and foster better literacy.

Learning music was also linked to improvements in other communication and literacy skills, such as more accurate pitch coding (needed to recognize a speaker's identity), emotional cues, and enhanced processing of timbre and timing cues common in speech and music."

Nice to know you are getting a head start in the world!

--Excerpts from article by Jennifer Warner, based on Northwestern University study

## 'Group' Goings-On

The musical written by Aaron Toronto and Heidi Grimsley gets performed at Penn. State in mid-December. Heidi will be flying out to see how it comes together, so send good vibes! If the stars are all aligned, it may be picked up to be produced elsewhere, and we'll let you know. Thanks to all the interested people who keep inquiring. Remember to attend when it plays at SDSU in February!



## Are there a lot of Flakes in Brookings?

It's Snow-Time! Remember our Winter Weather Policy (and to shovel your sidewalk!)

Let's Play cancels all lessons due to poor winter weather ONLY when one or both of the following occur:

- The weather has caused the Brookings School District to close that same day.
- The National Weather Service has issued an ongoing Blizzard Warning for Brookings County.

In the event of a studio closure, check out the outgoing voicemail message, our website home page, and Brookings Radio as we may not be able to contact all students. We may be busy shoveling our own sidewalk.

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★ **The Player!** is published monthly to convey information on studio students, events, and news. Recommend story ideas, or share your thoughts by dropping us a line.

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