

# My Music Garden

- ◆ We specialize in installations of first-rate extracurricular music programs, offering private and group instrumental instruction and early childhood music education.
- ◆ Our teaching approach comes from a solid pedagogical foundation based on the highest standards of classical music education.
- ◆ We value meaningful student-teacher relationships, and promote a warm, gentle but firm approach that is sensitive to each individual's goals and strengths.
- ◆ Regular musicales in lovely venues motivate individual achievement and a healthy respect for each other's musical gifts within a warm and supportive setting.
- ◆ Teachers go through a rigorous selection process and mentorship program and are college-conservatory trained in Music with Bachelor or Masters degrees, and additional training in Dalcroze, Kodaly, Orff or Suzuki.
- ◆ The directors are highly experienced teaching professionals with a proven track record, who personally oversee the development of each student and teacher.



## Private Instrumental Lessons



### Why Study a Musical Instrument?

- ◆ Provides cultural enrichment
- ◆ Develops self-discipline and focus
- ◆ Increases confidence and poise

- ◆ Sharpens analytic process (affects math skills!)
- ◆ Advances physical dexterity, gross and fine motor skills
- ◆ Exposes student to peers at all levels of musical ability
- ◆ Instills joy, pride, and sense of achievement in one's personal growth



## Our Locations

- ◆ 107 Gifford Avenue
- ◆ 489 Jersey Avenue, home of *A Sound Start*
- ◆ Grace Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Erie Streets
- ◆ Schools: Hamilton Park Montessori, Primary Prep, Learning Community Charter School, The Ethical Community Charter School

## Our Teachers



- ◆ Jennifer Apsel, piano
- ◆ Hubert Chen, violin
- ◆ Ning Chen, piano
- ◆ Ashley Horne, violin
- ◆ Brendan Kibbee, piano
- ◆ Hilary Kostanoski, preschool
- ◆ Allison McNeal, piano,violin
- ◆ Sam Westley, piano



## Frequently Asked Questions

**At what age can my child start private lessons?**

*The ideal age for starting lessons is between 5 and 7 years. Children under 5 benefit from general group music classes. All children should be exposed to as many quality live musical experiences as possible.*

**Do we need an instrument at home?**

*Yes. Please speak to Erasmia about purchasing or renting an instrument.*

**What about getting a keyboard?**

*An acoustic piano can be an inspiring and symbolic addition to your home, and a future family heirloom. No keyboard comes close to imitating the tonal and kinesthetic qualities of a piano, and children often respond to them as novelty items that soon lose their appeal. Keyboards should be considered only as very temporary alternatives.*

**Should my child practice every day?**

*We ask students to practice 6 days a week, 10 to 30 minutes a day, depending on the child's age. Practice should be a part of the daily routine, at a time when the child is fresh and alert.*

**How do we get started?**

*Visit our website or contact us at 201-433-0880 or [mymusicgarden@gmail.com](mailto:mymusicgarden@gmail.com) for more information.*



*Erasmia Voukelatos*  
*Executive Director*

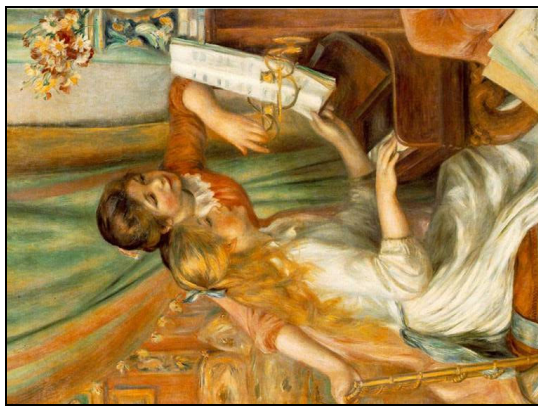
- ◆ Royal Conservatory of Toronto, ARCT diploma; University of Western Ontario, Bachelor Music; and CUNY, Master Music.
- ◆ Successful pianist, teacher, chamber musician, and choral director for 16 years.
- ◆ Founder and Artistic Director, West-Park Chamber Society, New York.
- ◆ Faculty at United Nations International School, Stevens Cooperative, Mustard Seed School, River School, Sol Goldman Y, Far Brook School.



*Ashley Horne*  
*Associate Director*

- ◆ Bachelor of Music, The Juilliard School, New York.
- ◆ Featured soloist throughout the U.S., Europe and Canada.
- ◆ Concertmaster Antara Ensemble and The New Black Music Repertory Ensemble, First Violinist of The Chanticleer String Quartet.
- ◆ Broadway shows include Young Frankenstein, The Producers, The Scarlet Pimpernel, Carousel and The Wild Party.
- ◆ Performs regularly with The American Symphony Orchestra, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Bard Orchestra.
- ◆ Taught at the Juilliard School and the Harlem School of the Arts.

# *My Music Garden*



*Enriching the musical life  
and culture of children*

