



My Music Garden

*Enriching the musical life
and culture of children*

About Us

- ◆ We specialize in first-rate extracurricular music programs, including 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 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 respect for each other's musical gifts within a warm and supportive setting.
- ◆ Teachers go through a rigorous selection process and mentorship and are college-conservatory trained in Music with Bachelor or Masters degrees, and training in Dalcroze, Kodaly, Orff or Suzuki.
- ◆ The directors are highly experienced teaching professionals with a proven track record, who oversee the development of each student and teacher.

Directors and Staff

Erasmia Voukelatos

Executive Director, Piano

Trained at Royal Conservatory of Toronto, University of Western Ontario, and CUNY, New York. Over 15 years of experience, including faculty positions at United Nations International School, Stevens Cooperative, River School, Mustard Seed School, Far Brook School.

Ashley Horne

Associate Director, Violin

Trained at The Juilliard School. Violinist in American Symphony Orchestra, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Young Frankenstein, The Producers. Taught at Harlem School of the Arts.

Jennifer Apsel, piano

Hubert Chen, violin

Ning Chen, piano

Brendan Kibbee, piano

Hilary Kostanoski, early childhood

Sam Westley, piano

Why Study a Musical Instrument?

- ◆ Advances physical dexterity, gross and fine motor skills and sharpens the analytic process.
- ◆ Provides cultural enrichment, develops self-discipline and focus, and increases confidence and poise
- ◆ Exposes student to peers at various levels of musical ability, and brings joy, pride, and sense of achievement in one's personal and musical growth

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.

Where are you located?

Our current Jersey City locations are:

107 Gifford Avenue

489 Jersey Avenue, home of *A Sound Start*

Grace Church, Erie and Second Streets

Schools: Hamilton Park Montessori, Primary Prep, The Ethical Community Charter School, Learning Community Charter School

How do we get started?

Please visit our website www.mymusicgarden.com, or call 201-433-0880 or email mymusicgarden@gmail.com