

New Music Program Coming Soon to Mills Montessori School!

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.”

-Plato

Numerous studies show children’s development and capacity to learn are stimulated, increasing academic performance, when exposed to music education. Training in expressing oneself musically and rhythmically helps develop coordination and concentration, and sparks creativity and musicality that can continue to grow and be of benefit to the individual over a lifetime.

Beginning in September 2011, Mills Montessori School will introduce an exciting new music program led by Ms. Laura Sullivan, M.A. The program will involve two components, the first being:



Classroom Music Education

A lively weekly classroom music curriculum of singing, theater and drama, and movement, comprised of developmentally appropriate songs, games, and participation in rhythm instrument exercises, will be integrated for involvement by all the children in the school. Material will be presented in a playful way, allowing the children to engage in joyful expression, while exposing them to a variety of styles to enhance ear training and an appreciation for musical diversity. Songs and dramatic work will be showcased at the end of year show, with all children in the school participating.

In addition to classroom music, Ms. Laura will be offering piano training at Mills Montessori School through our new program:

Mills Montessori Piano Academy

Piano lessons will be offered starting in September 2011 onsite at Mills Montessori School. Families who are interested may choose either private lessons or to involve their child in small group lessons of between 2-4 students. Ms. Laura holds the philosophy that every child can learn to play the piano, given the opportunity, just a child has the capacity to learn to speak, read and write their own mother tongue. Ms. Laura teaches her own piano curriculum she has developed over the years based on piano pedagogy similar to the practices of Suzuki as well as



traditional classical and contemporary theory and repertoire, presented in a fun way. Using these techniques, children have a wonderful opportunity to advance quickly in their playing ability, learn to read music, and feel joy and confidence in the accomplishment of playing an instrument.

Mills Montessori Piano Academy will top off the year with a recital in which every student is welcome to participate in a performance for family and friends.

Look for more information about the Piano Academy coming soon, as well as a signup sheet for any family who is interested in having their child participate in a free, no obligation, trial piano lesson.

About Ms. Laura Sullivan, M.A.

Laura Sullivan is a pianist, composer, singer and recording artist whose original music is distributed internationally. Her 5 albums have been signed to various record labels including Northstar Music and Orange Music (in Asia), and are also available on her independent label, Sentient Spirit Records. Her music can be found on Amazon.com, iTunes, Rhapsody, and many other digital and retail stores on and offline. Her discography currently receives airplay on radio stations around the world, including Sirius, XM Radio, Pandora, Whisperings Solo Piano Radio, and Music Choice's Soundscapes Channel. Her albums have charted in the top 20 on New Age reporter. Her release, *Mystical America*, was named #1 New Age Album of 2004 by *Wind and Wire*.



Laura holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music with an emphasis in Piano Performance and Pedagogy, as well as a Master's Degree in Psychology through the School of Education at the University of San Francisco. She has had further graduate training at the New School for Social Research in New York City. Laura grew up in a musical family in Northern California and started her first troupe of children's performers when she was in college. This group, called "Star Company Children's Theater" performed six of her musical productions that she composed herself.

Laura has taught piano to young students for many years, in addition to her training as a student teacher to college adults. Soon after graduating with her Bachelor's Degree, she was employed for nearly 6 years as a Piano and Music Teacher at Mills Montessori School when it was at its Millbrae location where she developed a thriving music program, until she left to study in New York City. It is with great pleasure and excitement that she is returning to teach at Mills Montessori School once again!

To learn more about Laura and hear her music, you are welcome to visit her website at <http://www.laura-sullivan.com/>