



Music News

FALL 2017



908-654-5899

Our Kids **SING** With Puppets,  
**DANCE** With Scarves,  
**LEARN** the Magic of Music,  
 And - **STAR** on a Small Stage!



## OUR FALL MUSIC



BACK TO SCHOOL! OFF TO DAY CARE!

Whether you're weeping in your car as you pull away from the drop off zone, or rushing home for some serious "me time", or off to another day at work... Fall is the season for transitions: vacation to work; t-shirts to sweaters; greens to golds, yellows and reds.

The musical menu for our FALL SESSION features seasonal songs, animal songs, many traditional favorites, heaping helpings of instrument and movement and puppet play - and don't forget the side of classical music!

Seasonal themes are celebrated with **Autumn Time is Coming** and **I'm a Little Pumpkin**, and we bring Fall colors into the mix with **Can You Paint It?**

We are all about animals this Fall! Whether it's that **One Little Hamster**, or the **One Bat Hanging in the Steeple**, or our friend **Mr. Bushy Tail** - we love singing about these little creatures. Of course, traditional children's songs like **Hickory Dickory Dock** and **Baa Baa Black Sheep** are right at home in this category, too.

While we are on the subject of animals - let's have a carnival! A **Carnival of the Animals** by composer, Camille Saint-Saëns, is a Sing a Song favorite. The children love engaging with these rich orchestral selections from this popular Suite. The music evokes images of elephants and lions and fish, and we love "becoming" those animals. Scarves make excellent noses and tails!

Our curriculum is rounded out by our interactive music. **Mary Wore Her Red Dress**, **The More We Get Together**, and **Movement Song**, will engage our students with name recognition, and fine and gross motor activities. **Puppet play** will encourage song writing and story telling. Finally, we would never leave out **Instrument Play**!

**AUTUMN, HERE WE COME!**

[Receive updates about our weekly featured music by "liking" us on Facebook!](#)

## CLASSICAL MUSIC EXPOSURE: CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

**Camille Saint-Saëns, Composer**



Every new study that looks at music and childhood development ends up with a similar conclusion.

**MUSIC IS GREAT FOR KIDS!**

Music is an invaluable component for teaching young children. We use it to teach language, numbers, seasons, and letters. (Admit it. The ABC song still goes through your head when you're filing alphabetically, right?) Music is also a vital part of exposing our small students to parts of this amazing world that are beyond their immediate comprehension.

Classical Music exposure is very important to us, at Sing a Song. The rich texture and variety of sounds stimulate cognitive development for our students. When a child's brain gets new input, it needs to forge new neural pathways. The creation of these pathways enable the developing mind to grow intellectually, emotionally, and socially. This is why we are always exposing our children to new and different musical genres. So, there's the answer to that question; "Why Classical Music?"



**Carnival of the Animals**, by 19th century composer, Camille Saint-Saëns is a popular Suite of music that features many different animals. This session we engage our kids with movements featuring "The Elephant", "The Aquarium" and "The Royal March and Entrance of the Lion." Teachers integrate these lush, classical pieces into our Sing a Song classes with fine and gross motor activities, allowing each child to take ownership of this delightfully vast and rich musical genre!



## FROM YOUR TEACHER

Your Sing a Song teachers have a plan.

A Lesson Plan, of course!

One of the wonderful aspects of the Sing a Song program, is that we offer the flexibility for each teacher to bring their own, individual and unique talents to every class they teach. But, we could never have that freedom without the solid, underlying structure that is the Sing a Song lesson plan.

Every Sing a Song class is built on the foundation of a lesson plan that is carefully structured to keep students engaged and focused. While teachers have the wiggle-room (some times literally) to tailor each lesson to the needs of each class, we make sure every class includes specific, developmental building blocks.

**HELLO!** - Young children respond to structure. Every class starts with our **Hello Song**. We welcome each child, by name. This lets them know it's music time: time to listen, follow and play along!

**SMALL MOVEMENT** - The ability to focus is learned! In order to develop this important skill, teachers use songs and rhymes that stress hand and finger motions. Stressing fine motor skills at the beginning of class captures the child's attention, drawing them into the flow of the class, naturally.

**LARGE MOVEMENT** - Sitting still for class is often difficult for our students - another learned skill. It is vital that we give our students a break from that sitting, to get them up and moving. We like to get up and dance, or pretend to be animals, or even paint the air with scarves.

**RYTHM FOCUS** - We like to introduce our kids to the rhythmic elements of music as early as possible. Using brightly colored, musical note illustrations along with fun clapping games and rhymes, we are amazed at how quickly our students begin to understand the basics of musical rhythm structures.

**SPECIAL ACTIVITIES** - We love our specials! This is where each teacher can offer something new and different. Maybe a different instrument collection, or a favorite story book, maybe even a demonstration of an interesting instrument, or introduction to new music from your teacher's personal collection.

**INSTRUMENT PLAY** - It just wouldn't be Sing a Song without our instrument play alongs!

**REVIEW & GOODBYE** - While every class begins with Hello, every class ends with Goodbye. We know that we need to prepare our students for the transition back to their regular school activities. So after a quick review, we wind down each class with our **Goodbye Song**. Children know that music is over - but only until our next HELLO!

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT THE POWER OF PUPPET PLAY

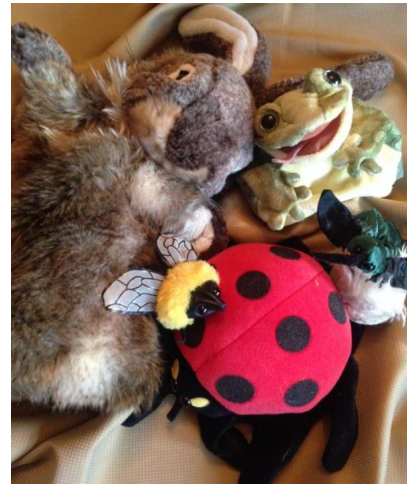
During our Fall Session, Sing a Song teachers will be introducing our classes to a variety of puppet friends.

Why? Well - First of all... PUPPETS ARE FUN.

But, more importantly, they are invaluable teaching tools. For more on the topic here is an excerpt from an expert!

Carolyn Webster-Stratton, Ph.D. wrote, "Tips for Using Puppets to Promote Preschool Children's Social and Emotional Development" for the web site [The Incredible Years](#), and we think you will find it most informative.

"Preschool children are working to accomplish the important developmental milestones of learning social and friendship skills including beginning to share, help others, initiate social interactions, listen, and cooperate with peers. They are also working on emotional regulation skills including emotional literacy, self-control over aggressive behaviors, ability to wait and accept limits, and beginning problem solving skills.



One of the ways to promote your preschool child's social and emotional skills is through the use of puppet play. Puppet play is effective because it helps the parent/teacher enter into the child's imaginary world and allows children to experience the feelings of other characters (early empathy development) and learn important social behaviors and conversation skills.

With puppets... you can act out stories you are reading with children, make up fantasies, and explore solutions to pretend problems. You may be nervous at first using puppets, but try it out and before long you will experience the joy of entering into your child's thoughts, feelings and imagination, one of the most intimate places you can be at this age."

*Convenient online registration is available on our website.  
Go to [www.yoursingasong.com](http://www.yoursingasong.com) to register today.*

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