



SING A SONG LLC

Where Kids Sing, Dance, Learn and Star!

Music News

WINTER 2017



908-654-5899

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



OUR WINTER MUSIC



READY FOR A WINTER WONDERLAND!

Time to pull out those sweaters and blankets from bottom drawers and linen closets. Dig out those scarves and caps; search for the match to those favorite mittens. Here comes Winter!

Our Winter Session music celebrates the coldest season with songs like **Dancing Snowflakes**, **Sleigh Ride**, **Dressing for Winter**, and **What's the Weather Today?** Rounding out our seasonal songs are **Jingle Bells** and **Will You be my Valentine?**

But let's keep warm, too! Your Sing a Song teachers will be bringing the tropical heat to classes with a wide variety of Caribbean music throughout this session. Children will be introduced to the guiro, a gourd-like rhythm instrument, widely used in Calypso music. With songs like **Let's Learn a Language Today**, **Tingalayo** and **Mosquito One, Mosquito Two**, and instrumental selections for play alongs, our students will enjoy staying warm with music from this rich and extensive musical genre.

This session it's ALL ABOUT ME, as we celebrate - your child! Their uniqueness, their growing bodies, their well being, and everything that makes them who they are. **Wiggle and**

Clap, and Fingers are Fun celebrate some of the great things we can make our bodies do. **Fruits and Vegetables I Need to Eat** reminds us to take care of those bodies, by eating good foods. And, our Sing a Song classics, **Be My Friend**, and **I Am Special**, top off our celebration.

Our Winter curriculum wouldn't be complete without the seasonal, classical treat: **The Nutcracker Suite**. Our students will be swaying to **The Waltz of the Flowers**; leaping with the **Russian Dance**; tip-toeing along with **The Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy**, and stepping high with **The March of the Toy Soldiers**. We love introducing this timeless music with fun, physical activities that allow them to engage with the music holistically - and with the maximum amount of fun possible!

WELCOME WINTER!

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

CLASSICAL MUSIC EXPOSURE: THE NUTCRACKER SUITE

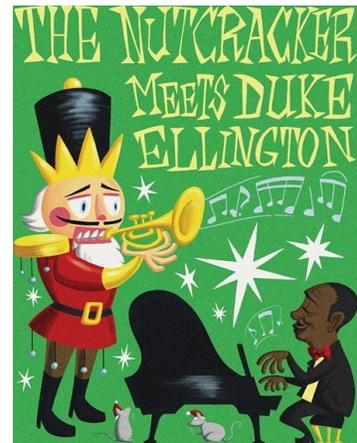
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky



We love bringing iconic, classical music into our Sing a Song classes. Come December, music from Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" is positively inescapable. You will hear it at the mall, in the supermarket, and in so many commercials... too bad Tchaikovsky's heirs can't collect on the royalties!

Since its premiere in March of 1892 (nine months before The Nutcracker ballet premiered), this classical suite has enjoyed incredible popularity and success. When the ballet premiered, it was not as well received. The ballet version would not become as popular until the 1950's.

The popularity of "Nutcracker Suite" can best be exemplified by the amazing number of adaptations it has received, over the centuries. Tchaikovsky's music has been re-imagined, re-worked and played in a stunning array of different styles. In the 1940's, two separate bands recorded arrangements of the suite that lay between dance music and jazz. Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn composed jazz interpretations from Tchaikovsky's score in 1960. One of the most popular pieces in this version is "The Sugar Rum Cherry." The sixties also brought a boogie-piano adaptation of "Marche" called "Nut Rocker," that soared to the top of the charts in the UK. "Nut Rocker" was covered by bands into the 1970's, including Emerson, Lake & Palmer, The Ventures, and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.



Over the years the music has been re-styled with arrangements for guitar, trance-fusion jam band, progressive metal/instrumental rock, rappers, hip-hop artists, and a cappella voices.

In 1998, the Shirim Klezmer Orchestra released a Klezmer version of "Nutcracker Suite." The recording became the basis for "The Klezmer Nutcracker," which premiered, off-Broadway, in 2008.



If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" has received 125 years worth of flattery. We just can't get enough of it!



FROM YOUR TEACHER: MAKE JOYFUL NOISE!

Submitted by, Maren Sugarman

As the Holiday Season comes rushing upon us, this is a time of year that many of us head to the attic, or basement, for decorations. Maybe it's a time for pulling out those old, family recipes. Is it time to wrangle the family for the annual portrait?

No matter what heritage, upbringing, religion, or culture - T'is the season for TRADITION.

Above all - one of my favorite traditions is singing grace with my family, at the dinner table, on Christmas. (Did you guess it had something to do with music?) We do have some strong vocalists around our table - but EVERYBODY sings. It's an old, traditional round (*For Health, and Strength, and Daily Bread*) that my mother, and my aunts grew up singing at their summer camp. We've been singing it around our table for decades.

No matter how or what you celebrate, this season brings you, and your family, loads of opportunities to MAKE MUSIC with songs, prayers set to music, carols, even good old *Jingle Bells*! Seize the opportunity to SING, even if (especially if) you don't think you can. Teaching our children the music of a family's shared past give them a fuller understanding of their place within the larger context of the family. By extension, this leads them to the next step of understanding their family's place within their community. Our traditions teach our children where they come from, and who they are. Seek and find the opportunities for making music a part of your seasonal traditions. Music creates connections that can stretch over generations, and bridge cultures.

Do not be shy about singing out loud this season! Go ahead and sing along with "Frosty the Snowman" while doing your shopping. It's a delightful distraction for the baby or toddler, strapped to that cart. If you have older children, there's the added bonus of embarrassing them in public! (Sorry kids, it's in the parental contract: MUST embarrass my children!)

It makes no difference, where, why, how, or with whom - MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

CULTURAL SPOTLIGHT MUSIC OF THE CARRIBEAN

There is perhaps no musical genre more diverse, varied and complex than music from the islands and coastal areas in and around the Caribbean Sea. A region, with a tumultuous and

often brutal history of colonization and slavery, the Caribbean encompasses The Bahamas, Tobago, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Cuba, Jamaica and The Dominican Republic.

Despite, but also because of this difficult history, the region spawned music influenced by an incredible mix of Central and South American, European, African, Asian and Indigenous cultures. It is this unique fusion that gives us the numerous sub-genres of Caribbean Music.



While boundaries between different styles of Caribbean music are often fuzzy, here are samples of some of the styles and their geographic relationships:

Haiti: Meringue and Compas - Jamaica: Reggae, Ska and Mento - Columbia: Salsa - Cuba: Afro-Cuban Jazz - Bahamas: Calypso - Trinidad: Calypso and Soca ... to name only a very, very few. Well known artists in this genre include Harry Belafonte and Bob Marley.



The heart of all Caribbean music is the rhythm. Though rhythmic structures vary from the "one-drop" rhythms of Reggae, to the syncopated structures of Calypso and Soca, almost every type of Caribbean music is known for the way it just makes you want to get up and move!

There are many rhythm instruments that trace their origins to cultures and traditions that merged in the Caribbean region. One of them being the *guiro* - a ribbed, hollow, gourd-like instrument, tapped or skimmed with a small wooden stick. Students will have fun getting to know the *guiro*, and its singular sound!

Convenient online registration is available on our website.
Go to www.yoursingasong.com to register today.

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