



Enriching the musical life and culture of children

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About Us

- ◆ We strive for first-rate private and group instrumental instruction and early childhood music education.
- ◆ Our teaching approach comes from a solid high level pedagogy based on classical repertoire.
- ◆ 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.

Director and Staff

Erasmia Voukelatos, piano

Executive Director, My Music Garden

Associate Diploma, Royal Conservatory Toronto.

Bachelor of Music, University of Western Ontario.

Master of Music, Brooklyn College. Kodaly, Orff training.

More than 20 years performance and teaching experience,

including United Nations International School, Stevens

Cooperative, Mustard Seed School, Far Brook School.

Accompanist and Assistant Director of Cantigas

Women's Choir.

Ashley Horne, violin

Bachelor of Music, The Juilliard School. Member of

American Symphony Orchestra, Brooklyn Philharmonic,

Broadway shows. Taught at Harlem School of the Arts.

Sam Westley, piano

Bachelor of Music, Manhattan School of Music. Regular

performances classical, jazz and pipe organ. 10 years

teaching experience.

Sarah Dutcher, piano

Bachelor of Music, University of Georgia. Currently

working on Master of Music at Hunter College.

Performances at Lincoln Center, New York, and

Interharmony Festival, Italy. 7 years teaching experience.

Why Study a Musical Instrument?

- ◆ Advances physical dexterity, gross and fine motor skills, sharpens the mental analytic process, and develops grit for personal challenges.
- ◆ 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

musical experiences as possible, live and recorded.

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 a

temporary alternative.

Should my child practice every day?

We ask students to practice 5 to 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:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 440 Hoboken Ave

Grace Church, Erie and Second Streets

How do we get started?

Visit our website www.mymusicgarden.com

For a [free consultation](#), call (917) 402-9775 or email

mymusicgarden@gmail.com.