

**Hello Students, Parents, Teachers and Friends of the Do Re Mi Music School!**

We have had a very exciting and fabulous year! Our staff has very much enjoyed teaching the children about so many different kinds of music, composers, and instruments, and we thank you for being part of our program!!

Here, you will find the summary of all the themes covered and things accomplished over this 2008-2009 school year!

**September 08**  
**The Life of Beethoven**



We learned about his 5th and 9th symphonies, covered stories from his childhood, inspirations for writing such glorious music, and his triumph over his loss of hearing. Other Beethoven masterpieces such as "Für Elise" and the "Pathétique Sonata" we also discussed, showing the differences between his symphonic works and those for solo piano. To top it off, we dawned our disco shoes for the "Fifth of Beethoven" freeze dance!!!!

**March 09**  
**Scott Joplin - Ragtime**

We took a trip to the southern US to learn about Scott Joplin's new style - Ragtime. Is it classical, or is it jazz? The kids debate where ragtime fits in our musical history with this fabulous, syncopated-yet-strict music of the turn of the century.



**October 08**  
**Families of the Orchestra**

Each week discussing the various instruments of each section of the orchestra. We celebrated each family with an exciting musical example for each section, for example, "Also Sprach Zarathustra" showed how percussion can really take the spotlight!!

**April 09**  
**Carnival of the Animals**

We explored the many ways an instrument can characterize movement or a setting, with Camille Saint-Saëns' "Carnival of the Animals". With a clarinet for a cuckoo, a xylophone becoming dinosaur fossils, and the cello as our swan, the kids easily recognized what musical traits made our animals come to life!

**November 08**  
**Music of Brazil**

We took a trip to Brazil, to learn about the heartbeat of the Rio - the bossa nova. Everyone grabbed their claves and experienced the syncopated beats of Jobim, and got our samba dance moves ready for the Carnival!

**January 09**  
**Johannes Brahms**

We learned how to conduct a "waltz", and saw how an inspiring trip to Hungary resulted in the fiery, gypsy violin of the "Hungarian Dance No. 5".

**May 09**  
**Rhythms of Latin America**

**Salsa, Merengue, Tango and More**  
For salsa, we learned about Celia Cruz' unique singing style, and what exactly a timbale is. For the tango, we learned that if we don't change directions during the "syncopat" rhythm, someone might get stepped on! We also brought in an accordion/violin duo to show that even instruments in little numbers can create a lot of drama! Finally, for the Merengue, we learned that even a musical style with complex conga rhythms can make for a fun, easy dance!

**December 08**  
**Popular Classics**

We saw how great classics such as "Sabre Dance" and the "Hall of the Mountain King" can transcend into popular culture, making their way into movies because of the obvious moods they represent!

**February 09**  
**Tchaikovsky**

We introduced the graceful world of the ballet "Swan Lake", "The Nutcracker Suite", and finished it all up with the ever popular "Sleeping Beauty." We also studied Tchaikovsky's great works of classical literature, from the cannons of the "1812 Overture" to the sweeping strings of "Romeo and Juliet."

