EKS MUSLETTER

2026 November Issue

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A Season of Music, Gratitude, and Giving!

NOVEMBER IS HERE,
and there's so much to celebrate and look forward to at EKS Music School! As we enter this season of gratitude and giving, we're excited to share the latest happenings and upcoming events with our EKS community.
In This Issue:

- 🎃 Fall Recital Highlights – Celebrating our Halloween performances at Braintree Public Library!
- ❄️ Winter Recitals 2026 – Mark your calendars for our upcoming December performances.
- ❤️ Play It Forward: Save the Dates! – Two exciting fundraising events bringing music and community together.
- 🎶 Faculty News – Celebrating the latest updates and accomplishments of our talented faculty.

Thank you for being part of our musical community. Let's continue to make music, share joy, and give back!

From the Music Director

Let's Play It Forward! ❤️🎶



What if the music we make could do more than fill a room with beautiful sounds? What if it could spread kindness, bring smiles, and make someone's day a little brighter?
That's the heart behind our theme this year, "Play It Forward: Make Music. Give Back." As we enter this season of gratitude and giving, I invite our EKS families to reflect on how we can use our gifts, musical or otherwise, to make a difference in someone's life.
Keep an eye out for our upcoming events and performance opportunities! There will be plenty of ways for our young musicians to share their talents, spread joy, and give back to the community.
After all, the best gifts aren't always wrapped in boxes—sometimes, they come wrapped in melodies! 🎁🎵
Ms. Kuan
Music Director, EKS Music School



highlights

FALL RECITALS

Fall Recitals

Spooktacular Performances!

What a wonderful way to celebrate Halloween with music! On Saturday, October 31, EKS Music School students took the stage at the Braintree Public Library for our annual Fall Recital, sharing their musical talents with family, friends, and the community.

From beautiful melodies to spirited performances, our young musicians brought excitement, creativity, and a little Halloween magic to the stage! We especially loved seeing everyone dressed in their festive costumes, adding an extra touch of fun to the celebration.

A big THANK YOU to our dedicated faculty, supportive families, and the Braintree Public Library for making this event possible. Most importantly, congratulations to all our performers for their hard work and courage in sharing their music!

Enjoy some of our favorite moments from this spooktacular celebration below! 📸🎃






































THE CLAW
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ANNOUNCING A NEW ALL-SCHOOL EVENT IN JANUARY 2027:



The EKS Playathon for MMTA's Music Connect Program

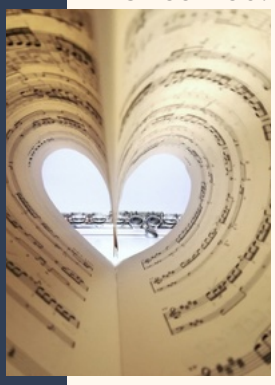
MMTA
MASSACHUSETTS MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Leading by Mrs. Gentile's Studio, we're excited to share an exciting opportunity for our students to engage with our school theme of community service. Playathon participants will play and sing at the event and collect donations from sponsors to benefit the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association's (MMTA) Music Connect Program.

Music Connect provides scholarships for private music lessons to students in need. By participating, students can support greater access to music education. Since the beginning of the program in 2018, Music Connect has granted scholarships to over 70 students experiencing financial need. Complete event and sign-up details will be shared in mid-November. For now, please save the date!

Event Details

- Date and time: Sunday, January 10, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Snow date: Sunday, January 17
- Location: M. Steinert & Sons Music, 1069 Washington Street, Newton, MA
- Performance schedule: Students will sign up for a 30-minute performance block.
- Audience: Family and friends are invited to attend the event. The event will also be live streamed.





Participation Commitment

Each student is asked to find at least two sponsors. There is no minimum fundraising amount—every donation, regardless of size, will make a difference!
Please consider signing up for the Playathon and supporting music education in our community! We look forward to a long list of participants and a large audience of family and friends to cheer them on.

#EKSPlayathon

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!

MORE “PLAY IT FORWARD” EVENT

Keys for Paws

SAVE THE DATE

A Fundraising Concert by Piano Student Cody Lin



Cody Lin, student of Musi Director, Ms. Ellyses Kuan

Saturday, December 12, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.
St. Chrysostom's Church, Quincy
Join us for a special piano recital featuring EKS piano student *Cody Lin*, who will share his musical talents to raise funds for the **Quincy Animal Shelter!**

In addition to monetary donations, we'll also be collecting much-needed items for the shelter's furry friends! 🐶🐱 Stay tuned for details on how you can contribute.

❤️ FACULTY STUDIO COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS 🎶

At EKS Music School, we believe music has the power to bring people together and make a difference! As part of this year's theme, “Play It Forward: Make Music. Give Back,” each faculty studio, led by its instructor, is organizing a community service project to inspire students to share their talents and give back to others.

We are excited to share what each studio has planned!

🎄 December 2026

- Dec. 5 | **Ms. Akshi's Studio**: Holiday recital bake sale supporting music education for underserved communities.
- Dec. 6 | **Ms. Kuan's Studio**: Holiday concert for residents at The Village at Duxbury.
- Dec. 12 | Cody Lin: Keys for Paws, a fundraising piano recital benefiting Quincy Animal Shelter.

❄️ Winter 2027

- Jan. 10 | **Mrs. Gentile & EKS Community**: EKS Playathon at M. Steinert & Sons, supporting MMTA's Music Connect program.
- February | **Ms. Jen's Studio:** Valentine's concert at a local senior center.
- Winter/Spring | **Mr. Fred's Studio:** Community outreach performance, possibly at the Weymouth Festival of Trees.

🌷 Spring 2027

- **Ms. Freda's Studio:** Senior living community performances and a donation drive.
- **Mr. Robby's Studio:** Outreach concert at a local library or senior living community.
- **Mr. Lucas's Studio:** Clothing drive or volunteer project supporting local families in need.
- April | **Dr. Ben's Studio:** Student composition concert featuring original works!

Stay tuned for more details and ways to get involved! Together, let's Play It Forward—one note and one act of kindness at a time! ❤️🎵

2026

WINTER RECITAL

❄️ Save the Dates! 🎶

The holiday season is almost here, and we're excited to celebrate with music! Our Winter Recitals are a wonderful opportunity for students to share their musical progress and spread a little holiday cheer with family and friends.

Please find your teacher's studio below and mark your calendars!

Saturday, December 5

Thayer Public Library | Braintree

- 1:00–2:15 p.m. – Dr. Benjamin Yee-Paulson
- 2:30–3:00 p.m. – Mr. Lucas Barry
- 3:00–4:00 p.m. – Ms. Akshi Viswanathan

Village at Duxbury | Duxbury

- 2:00–3:30 p.m. – Ms. Ellyses Kuan

Sunday, December 6

St. Chrysostom's Church | Quincy

- 1:00–1:45 p.m. – Ms. Freda Locker (Recital 1)
- 2:00–2:45 p.m. – Ms. Freda Locker (Recital 2)
- 3:15–5:00 p.m. – Mr. Fred Springer

Saturday, December 12

St. Chrysostom's Church | Quincy

- 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m. – Mrs. Rosemarie Gentile
- 1:00–2:00 p.m. – Ms. Jen Pearl
- 2:00–3:00 p.m. – Mr. Robby Brown

Sunday, December 13

St. Chrysostom's Church | Quincy

- 3:00–4:00 p.m. – Mrs. Susan Bill

We look forward to celebrating the season with our talented young musicians! More recital details will be shared as the dates approach. For now, save the date, keep practicing, and get ready to make some wonderful holiday memories! ❄️🎹❤️



Mrs. Susan Bill's November Concerts!

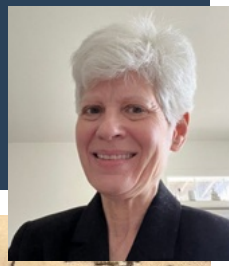
Mrs. Bill's ensemble, **the Atlantic Youth Orchestra,** will present the first concert of its 2026-27 season on **Friday, November 20**, at Atria Marina Bay in North Quincy. The program will include music by American composers, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the foundation of our country. It will also feature a performance of "Autumn" from the Four Seasons by Vivaldi. The concert is primarily for the residents of Atria Marina Bay, but if you would like to hear us play, please ask Mrs Bill for more information.

The **Southeastern Philharmonic Orchestra,** Nathaniel Meyers, music director, will present the first concert of its 2026-27 concert season on Sunday afternoon, **November 1, at 2:30 at Weymouth High School**, 1 Wildcat Way, Weymouth. The first half of the program will be presented by the Weymouth High School band under the direction of Tristan Jenner. The second half of the program, featuring the SPO, consists of American music. Admission is free but the Weymouth Food Pantry asks for donations of nonperishable food. You can ask Mrs. Bill for more information.

The **Wampatuck Symphony Orchestra**, Susan Bill, music director, will present the first concert of its 2026-27 season on Sunday afternoon, **November 15th, at 2:00** at House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Hingham. The program will feature a long-lost symphony by German composer and contemporary of Mozart Carl von Dittersdorf. Suggested donation $20. A reception will follow in the church Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

MTNA Teacher Enrichment Grant Recipient: Ms. Freda Locker

A big shout out to the **MNTA teacher enrichment grant** program ! Receiving a grant to study the **Taubman approach** to piano pedagogy and playing is amazing! The Taubman approach, developed by Dorothy Taubman, is a comprehensive method for teaching and playing that focuses on eliminating tension and preventing injury through a detailed understanding of the body's natural coordination at the keyboard. I am profoundly reshaping how I instruct my students and piano playing.The grant covers a series of intensive training sessions with a certified Taubman instructor Barbara Banacos, including hands-on coaching, practice in diagnosing and correcting technical problems at their source rather than merely treating symptoms. Beyond the direct benefit to my teaching, this study supports my playing. The approach demands that teachers internalize the technique in their own hands before passing it on to students. I anticipate sharing my insights in the studio! – Ms. Freda





Ms. Freda Locker during her time as Principal Piano Accompanist for the Boston Ballet. 🩰🎹



Mr. Lucas Barry Performs with Opera Cambridge!

Opera Cambridge (formerly known as the Cambridge Chamber Ensemble) will be presenting "Coming to America - An Evening With Kurt Weil," which includes Kurt Weil's one-act opera Down in the Valley. Mr. Lucas Barry will be one of two saxophonists featured in the orchestra. The performance will be held at the Multicultural Arts Center in Cambridge. Information and tickets can be found here: https://www.operacambridge.org/

Children ages 6-12 are invited to attend for free.



Mr. Fred Springer Performs at Quincy Thomas Crane Library!

We're excited to share that EKS Senior Guitar Faculty Mr. Fred Springer will be performing a solo classical guitar concert as part of the 2026-2027 Concerts at the Crane

📅 **Sunday, November 15, 2026**

📍 **Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy**

Come support Mr. Springer and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful guitar music!

Learn more about Concerts at the Crane



Ms. Kuan Performs for a Meaningful Cause! ❤️

Our Music Director, **Ms. Ellyses Kuan,** will join cellist **Dr. Julie Reimann** as *Duo Amie* for the **Vietnam Vascular Anomalies Center (VAC)** 2026 Benefit Concert. Together, they will share beautiful music in support of VAC's mission to provide medical care for children in Vietnam.

Saturday, November 14, 2026 | 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Maliotis Cultural Center | Brookline, MA

Proceeds will help VAC purchase medical equipment, train healthcare professionals, and expand medical services for children in need.

🎶 Another wonderful way to ***Play It Forward: Make Music. Give Back!***

Learn More & Support the VAC Benefit Concert