

The Teaching Studio

Why I chose Musikgarten (<http://www.adrenewong.com/the-teaching-studio/why-i-chose-musikgarten>)

4/25/2016

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There are so many music programs for the little ones currently in the market. To an uninformed parent, they are all the same. And they are, in a way. Because at the core of every early childhood program is the belief that music education will benefit their child in more ways than one. So from among the sea of programs, I dived deeper into Musikgarten (MG) and I am liking what I find there so far. I wished I learnt about MG when I first started teaching. Here are the reasons why I chose MG.

#1 Follows the development of the child from 0-9 years

It is a well-thought out program with the end in mind: to nurture a child to be a literate, independent and expressive musician, ready to take on a specific instrument with ease. In the babies class, parents are taught how to relate musically with their babies. Rocking and bouncing songs are aplenty here. Toddlers class caters to toddlers (read: curious walking ones with a developing sense of identity!) with many songs for movement. Besides music appreciation, these classes encourages the development of language, gross and fine motor skills, social interaction, memory and concentration skills. At 5.5years old, they are ready to put musical terms to what they have been singing (ie major, minor, chords, solfege, harmony etc). MG is an excellent program to build musicianship skills, something so vital for every musician.

#2 Encourages bonding with parents

The classes have many activities that can be replicated at home. And that's the beauty of it. That's how its supposed to be. So that the happy moments experienced during class continues at home or in the car or at the restaurant waiting for dinner to arrive. The children may remember the song well. But what's more important than the songs is the love and security the child experiences when mummy or daddy plays with them. Parental presence is necessary from babies right up to the keyboard classes.

#3 Top quality recordings

Most of songs are recorded using real instruments, not digital sounds. The children get to listen to how a violin sounds, or a flute, or even a cow, or a train. Songs are a mixture of solo instrument, ensemble and orchestra.

Hi there!

Thanks for dropping by. I hope to write about my journey as a piano teacher in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

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#4 Bridges well into keyboard playing

The traditional approach to learning to play an instrument is to learn the individual notes on paper and then playing these notes, resulting in an unfamiliar song. What happens at MG's keyboard class is that the child approaches the keyboard with familiar songs first. That makes the experiences of playing on the keyboard an enjoyable one because he is playing a song he knows and a song he has been singing with his parents.

#5 Play by ear

We didn't learn to speak by learning to spell. We spoke because we heard our parents speaking. Approaching the instrument is the same. We play what we have been hearing and singing because music is a language. Music literacy will be taught, but first, aural skills need to be built and honed.

#6 Movements are part of class time

Games and movements takes up a bulk of the time spend in class. This is very helpful for the children because they learn through play. I especially enjoy this part!

If that sparks off your curiosity, you can continue to read more about MG here (<http://www.musikgarten.org/>) and here (http://musikgarten.biz/V2_why_musikgarten_forparents.htm).

That said,
programs may be good
but it's the teacher AND the parents that does it justice.
Or not.


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A very well written post. That is why I am still a musikgartdn teacher for 13 years and still loving it!

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