

FANFARE

A Monthly Publication of Forte Fine Arts Academy — Lakeville, Minnesota

Inaugural session a huge success!

It's hard to imagine, but nine months ago Forte Fine Arts Academy was not even an idea. But once the proverbial ball started rolling, things quickly came together. Through the hard work, vision, and dedication of so many people we are happy to report that the first session of Forte Fine Arts Academy was absolutely beyond our expectations! We had over 50 eager students and supportive parents join us on this



Jocelyn, one of Forte's youngest fans!

journey. Thank you to you all: parents, our students, dedicated teachers & staff (and their family members) for helping to make this dream a reality! Our Forte family is GROWING!

Registrations for the January Session due (soon!)

Forte Fine Arts Academy recently eclipsed the 100 student mark! The word is obviously spreading fast. We have an exciting agenda planned for the coming sessions. The schedule above outlines some of our offerings. As always, there are private and semi-private lessons to take part in. Registration for January session is due by Friday, January 6th.

For a complete look at course offerings, check out our website: www.fortefinearts.org

A SAMPLING OF JANUARY CLASSES

Beginning Band Class

See story inside for details. Tuesdays or Thursdays for 3 weeks, starting Jan. 10th!

Drama with Perry Thrun

Scene Studies Tues 7-8pm;
Awesome Auditioning Tues 6-7 pm; Imagination adventure Mondays 5-6pm; Storytime Drama Mondays 6-7pm; Improv Tuesdays 5-6pm

Emotional Power of Classical Music with teacher Di Li
Tuesdays 6:30-7:30 pm

Origami & Paper Mache Hot Air Balloon classes with art teacher David Nyssen. Origami meets Thurs. from 5-6 pm and Balloons from 6-7 pm.

See our website for more information!

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Special points of interest:

- Nov. 1: Registration open for January & Second Session classes.
- Nov. 21-25: No Classes
- December 15: Student recital & Drama production, 6:30 pm, St. John's Lutheran Church, Lakeville.
- December 16: Concert for Forte groups & Drama production 6:30 pm, St. John's Lutheran Church.
- Dec. 19—January 8: No Forte classes due to Holiday Break.

Inside this issue:

Director's Score Joy Afdahl	2
In the Spotlight - <i>Big Bad and the Hood</i>	2
Student of the Month— Ben Boan	3
Cre8tive Opportunities With David Nyssen	3
"Honk, Toot, Crash!" Beginning Band Classes	4
News about Allegro Choral Academy	5

Director's Score

By Joy Afdahl, Executive Director

Where do I start?! Forte was just a thought a mere nine months ago. Now it is an established and quickly growing arts academy. I wish I could say that it is a dream come true, and in some ways it is. My dream of starting a school solely devoted to music quickly took on a life of its own and I learned that if I didn't just go with it, I would be left behind.

Today, Forte is made up of probably the most wonderful people I could ever work with. That includes

administration, teachers, volunteers, board, parents, and students. Without all of them, Forte would not exist. For the moment, I am lucky enough to be able to teach *and* be the boss. But the time will come when I will need to focus solely on my role as director. My current students will be transferred into the very capable hands of my fellow teachers. Forte will be constantly changing to meet the needs of the school and community. So I can't even begin to imagine what we'll be doing a year from now but if it's anything



Joy Afdahl, Forte Exec. Director

like we've done over the past nine months I know that it will be amazing and lots of fun!

In The Spotlight - *Big Bad and the Hood*

By Perry Thrun, Drama Teacher

Forte Fine Arts Academy's Drama Class is busy at work on its second-ever production, the fairy tale criss-cross adventure *Big Bad and the Hood*. This comedy is the story of the Big Bad Wolf (Ben Boan) right after his attempted feast on grandma (Emma Brown) of Little Red Riding Hood (Sarah Whipple). The Three Little Pigs also make their appearance in this production, though not as the characters you may remember. The smartest pig, Brainy (Abby Afdahl) instructs the other pigs to build some houses to keep them safe. Mud (Dalton Mills) builds a house of straw, and Chatterbox (Emily Afdahl) a house of sticks. The houses don't live up to the expectations of Dad Pig (Tommy Slane) however, and the trio finds out why shortly

after. Other Big Bad Wolf characters make their appearances along the way including Peter and The Boy Who Cried Wolf.

Come and see *Big Bad and the Hood*. You'll huff, you'll puff, you may even blow a house down!

"OH, BOTHER!!"

We are also proud to announce our third play production. *Winnie the Pooh* is coming to Forte! Each student in this class will audition and become a part of this beloved children's classic. Let your child visit the Hundred Acre Woods with Christopher Robin, Piglet, Rabbit, and the whole gang!

"The stage is not merely the meeting place of all the arts, but is also the return of art to life." — Oscar Wilde

IMPROV CLASSES!!!

We are currently offering "drop-in" Improvisation class Tuesdays from 5-6 and Thursdays from 7-8. Students are able to spend an hour learning different improv techniques. This is great for building children's confidence, getting them comfortable on stage, and sharpening acting skills and reactions.

Forte Student of the Month: Ben Boan

We have some pretty amazing students here at Forte—each and every one with their own unique talents. We could easily feature any one of our students in a given month. We hope you enjoy getting to know a few of them!

“It has been a blast working with Ben. The energy he brings to the role of The Big Bad Wolf really takes the show to another level. It’s obvious that when you watch Ben act he is having as much fun as the audience has watching him. His joy for performing is matched only by his determination in bringing the part to life. Each week he listens, follows direction, and takes notes extremely well which leads to new character traits that really shine on stage. It has been an absolute pleasure to be his director.” — Perry Thrun, Forte Drama Inst.

From Ben’s mother, Sherry Boan:

“Forte has been a blessing to our family as my once bored child has found his “thing” and is truly enjoying an activity outside of school. Ben’s attitude has changed and he seems more happy and confident than ever before. We are thrilled that Ben has found something that makes him so happy. I am thankful to Joy Afdahl and Laura Pettis for their hard work in creating this wonderful program.”



Ben Boan, Forte Drama Student

“Before I started Drama, I didn’t have any hobbies that I loved. But now I found what I like: Acting! I think anyone who wants to start acting should try Forte’s Drama classes because they have a great drama teacher named Perry. So if you like acting, music or art choose Forte.” — Ben Boan

Creative Opportunities at Forte with David Nyssen

Origami

Learn about the Japanese art of folding paper. In this class students will learn how to turn plain sheets of paper into sculptures. Students taking the Hot Air Balloon class will be able to use their knowledge from this origami class to create the basket for their hot air balloons!

Hot Air Balloons

Using paper-mache, students can create their very own hot air balloon. Those taking the Origami class will be able to use their knowledge of origami to create the basket that goes along with their balloon. Wear old clothes because this class could get MESSY! (Hurry! Don’t wait to sign up!

This class size is limited to 10 kids!

“To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong.” —

Joseph Chilton Pearce

This Newsletter is Brought to You by the Letter “H”

As in “Heather”. My name is Heather Buege and I have been asked to bring you all the exciting news about Forte Fine Arts Academy as “Fanfare” newsletter’s designer and producer. I have known Joy Afdahl for almost all of my life. She is the sister I never had!

I worked in the advertising industry for 11 years at the Post-Bulletin in Rochester, MN. Now I am full-time Mommy to Natalie (4) and Jocelyn (1). I live in Lewiston (which is *much* too far from Lakeville). Despite this, I keep close tabs on what’s happening at Forte. I look forward to this new opportunity to help spread the word about Forte.

I have a passion for creative design and communication. But more importantly, I strongly believe that all children deserve the opportunity to have music education in their lives.



A Message From Our Administrator

Hello Forte Friends and Families! My name is Laura Pettis and I am the Academy Administrator. It has been my pleasure to be a part of the development and growth of Forte over the past nine months. What an amazing journey it has been! I have been fortunate to work with a very talented group of professionals who share their passion for music and the fine arts with children and families. I love the fact that we have such a diverse group of teachers, we can meet the needs of so many students.



I have always enjoyed the arts. Music has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I was fortunate to have begun my music path as an 8 year old piano student. I studied piano for 10 years under the instruction of Irene Olson. She was an amazing mentor for me. She lovingly pushed me to go beyond what I thought I could do and perform in piano contests throughout the state of Minnesota. She is still inspiring students today and continues to teach well into her 90's. I was also fortunate to be a flute player in our school's band and sing in select choirs in high school and college. The opportunity to learn and grow in my music ability made a lasting imprint on my life. After years of teaching elementary students in Lakeville, and more recently raising my family, I have reignited my passion for music by teaching young piano students and spending time playing the piano for enjoyment myself.

My favorite part of working at Forte Fine Arts Academy is the fact that I get to talk with so many wonderful families who have a similar goal for their children. They understand the important influence of the arts and the lifelong impact it can make in someone's life. Forte Fine Arts Academy would not be the place it is today without the dedicated teachers and the committed families who understand the importance of the arts in developing a child's full potential.

“Honk, Toot, Crash!” Beginning Band Classes

Don't know what instrument you want to play? Come explore the world of band instruments with our talented and knowledgeable instructors. Forte Fine Arts Academy will be holding an introductory class on band instruments for those students thinking about joining band. This is a 3 week course.

Each week, you will learn about all the instruments and get to try them all. The different “families” of instruments will be featured each week, so you can learn about all the parts that make up a band.

Week one will teach you all about the wonderful world of woodwinds. The second week will be all about brass. The last week will have you hitting the percussion instruments.

Even if you have your heart set on a specific instrument, you might be surprised to learn there could be a different one that will be perfectly suited for you. We'll help you begin your journey & develop your musical talents!

Tuesdays: Jan. 10, 17, 24 (5-6, 6-7 or 7-8) or Thursdays: Jan. 12, 19, 26 (5-6, 6-7, or 7-8) Cost: \$30 (If students continue to take lessons from Forte, the \$30 fee will be applied to their first lesson!)



Preaching to (OK, About) the Choir...

By Jamye Casperson

Allegro Choral Academy is up and running in Lakeville! Prima Voce South (grades 4, 5, and 6), directed by Lisa Rossman, and Bel Canto South (grades 6, 7, and 8 by audition), directed by Jamye Casperson, are both rehearsing on Monday evenings at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lakeville.

The recent cuts to music education in area schools have further reinforced the need for an Allegro presence in the south metro.

As always, Allegro will continue to support, in whatever way it can, the important work our schools do in arts education. Allegro cannot replace our schools; it can, however, bolster the overall musical experience our children deserve.

We are thrilled with the fantastic singers that have joined us to sing this year! Our first concert is Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 7:00pm at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley. We invite you to attend! Please tell friends and family about our new choirs in Lakeville. If your child would like to join us for the second half of the year, please email Nicole Marschall at nmarschall@allegroca.org

Visit our website for more information! www.allegroca.org



We're Looking for Your Help!

As you can imagine, it takes a lot of "people power" to get a fine arts academy built from scratch. You already know about the amazing people that keep Forte running on a daily basis. We couldn't do it without them.

It also takes a lot of non-human resources too: instruments, sheet music, supplies, etc. If you (or someone you know) would be interested in donating an instrument or anything else that would be useful to us, please let us know.

As the end of the year approaches, you may also consider a monetary donation. Since Forte is a non-profit organization, your donation would be tax deductible.

Thank you for your continued support!





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Forté Fine Arts Academy is a community-based fine arts school devoted to providing a high-quality and accessible education to students of all ages and levels of ability.

Our teachers strive to instill a lifelong appreciation of the arts through creative teaching and nurturing learning experiences.

Forté is currently located at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lakeville. We are a separate organization and are not affiliated with St. John's. We thank the congregation for their graciousness in providing the space for Forté to grow!

If you have a story idea for a future edition of "Fanfare" or have any comments or suggestions, email heather@fortefinearts.org



...and these are orders from the General!



Small hands, BIG musical talent!

Photo courtesy of Steven Afdahl

"During the Gulf War, the few opportunities I had for relaxation I always listened to music, and it brought to me great peace of mind. I have shared my love of music with people throughout this world, while listening to the drums and special instruments of the Far East, Middle East, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Far North and all of this started with the music appreciation course that I was taught in a third-grade elementary class in Princeton, New Jersey. What a tragedy it would be if we lived in a world where music was not taught to children." H. Norman Schwarzkopf, General, U.S. Army, retired

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