

WIN AN AMAZON GIFT CARD IN THE CMS BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRACTICE CONTEST!

Because of the success of our summer essay competition, we have decided to make California Music Studios contests a regular occurrence! We will keep all of our contests active on our website, www.CaliforniaMusicStudios.com, for our students to view and participate in as long as they are open, and will also keep links to our past winners! In honor of the Back-to-School season, this new competition is designed to help you shake off any summer cobwebs and get back into the swing of a regular practice schedule, while offering the chance to win some great prizes!

Grand Prize: \$100 Amazon Gift Card
1st Runner Up: 2 Tickets to Sea World
2nd Runner Up: \$20 Starbucks Gift Card

To Participate: Visit our website at www.CaliforniaMusicStudios.com. On our homepage is a link to our new Contest Page, where you can download and print out the entry form / practice calendar. (You may also find this link on our events page, www.CaliforniaMusicStudios.com/events.) Each day in the month of September, fill in the number of minutes that you practiced. At the end of each week, have a parent (or yourself, if you are an adult) initial that the time written on your practice log is accurate. Note lesson days by writing "lesson" in that space on the calendar, as well as any other special music days, such as "recital" or "band practice." The 20 students with the most logged practice time will be entered into our drawing. You may win an Amazon gift card, so you may purchase yourself even more of the music and music books that you love, or another great prize!



Contest Rules: Contest open to active California Music Studios students only. All submissions must be postmarked no later than October 10th, 2011 and mailed to: California Music Studios, P.O. Box 130220, Carlsbad, CA 92013-0220. Winners will be chosen by October 20th, 2011 and notified by phone and email. There are no prize substitutions or changes. Prizes have no cash value with CMS. For questions, call CMS at 800-227-6222 or email our support team at Support@CaliforniaMusicStudios.com.

We are excited to receive your contest entries—good luck to everyone!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE CMS ESSAY CONTEST!

Our first California Music studios competition was an essay contest, where we challenged our students to write short essays that described how music changed their lives. Our prizes were a family four-pack of tickets to Sea World, and many deep discounts in lesson tuition! We received many great essays, but could only pick a few winners. Here are their winning entries!

Grand Prize Winner: Amanda Arbuckle, age 12



I first learned to play the clarinet in third grade. I am now 12 years old and have studied music for four years. Although I could already read music, playing the clarinet was still a challenge. There were many days of frustration and times when I wanted to quit, but I persevered. I am now proud to call myself a musician!

Prior to playing the clarinet, I had never performed on stage as a soloist. I was so frightened at my first recital. As soon as I looked out into an audience of smiling faces and encouraging claps, my self-esteem was immediately boosted and I gained the confidence I needed to perform. I still become nervous before every performance, but I am also filled with anticipation and pride at my accomplishments.

Scientists have even shown that playing an instrument stimulates many areas of the brain simultaneously. There is also a correlation between high academics and playing an instrument. Wow!

Practice does indeed make perfect, and practicing has paid off for me. This year I became a member of the San Diego Civic Youth Orchestra Wind Ensemble. I have loved the challenge. It is my dream to someday play in the San Diego Symphony. My dreams are big, but so is my love of music.

Music in any form is a gift. Whether you listen to it, sing it, or play it, it will change your life forever. It has changed mine.

1st Place Winner: Emmy Kim, age 12

Hi. I am Emmy Kim, I am twelve years old, and I am in LOVE with music. I started out at California Music Studios as I was going into 3rd grade. I loved piano immediately! It all came so easily to me, the notes, the sound, the music, it all made a click in my head, like a part of my brain was turned off, then all of the sudden, someone... or something switched it on. The music on the paper sort of flowed to my fingers, like magic! It's like I saw the world in colors that was once in black and white.

When I started out, I didn't really understand the true essence of music... But the more I played, the various emotions of the songs began to inspire the way I hit the notes. I would just have to close my eyes, and feel how the song was supposed to sound. It's amazing how music can move the hearts and minds of those listening. With the help of my piano teacher, Miss Violetta, I am learning to express myself. I know that music is a universal language that crosses all barriers and allows us to enjoy the beauty in sounds. Music has helped me to understand the world around me better and taught me to open myself to be more confident in sharing my talent with others.



CMS ESSAY CONTEST

WINNERS CONTINUED

2nd Place Winner: Lixian Chen, adult

My first sensual encounter with Metropolitan Opera House was an amazing memorable experience for me. As a student, I luckily got a discounted ticket in the orchestra and I was so glad that my romance with MetOpera started with "Die Fledermaus" ever since then. It was a cold winter night in NYC during the new year's holiday season. I was stunned by the magnificent stage with the cast and crew, and an all-house opera house packed with opera lovers, professionals and amateurs alike. The libretto and music made a perfect match to produce the desired theatrical effect, and I enjoyed every bit of the sarcasm entailed in the operetta. I was especially impressed by the drunken jailer, Frosch, for his sense of humor and irony, and couldn't agree with it more that any video recording of operas was no comparison to a live opera show.



After that opera night, my list of operas that I watched at MetOpera just kept growing. I also started collecting "the Playbill" and each one reminded me of a wonderful night at the opera house. Across the street of the opera house, there used to be the music store "Tower of Record", which had such a huge collection of CDs, DVDs, music scores and records. I became a frequent goer, oftentimes before the start of opera performance. Now years later, "Tower of Record" was no longer there, and I no longer lived in NY, but my love for opera and classical music never faded.

3rd Place Winner (tie): Trishia Tong, age 8

Hi, my name is Trisha Tong. My teacher's name is Ms. Clare and I play piano.



When I first started, I was five years old. Now, I am 8 years old. I think music is great because it is fun to hear music when you're actually playing it. I've improved a lot over the past couple of years. Music is just WONDERFUL!

I will tell you about one of my music performances. I was going to play the song "Festive Sonatina". I felt nervous, but excited. When it was my turn, I got on the stage. I played Festive Sonatina. When I was done, the audience cheered. I bowed. When I got back to my seat, I felt relieved, but proud. After all, I had just finished my third performance (my second formal recital)! I watched all the other performances that were better than me. I hope one day I can play as good as them. They had inspired me to not give up now. I'm now waiting and ready for my next amazing recital!

3rd Place Winner (tie): Daisy Trang, age 12

Music has been the most amazing part of my life in many ways. Since the day I started my piano class with Miss Shen, I had a feeling that I would be in with music forever. In fact, I would play piano or listen to music on my free time. Miss Shen is an excellent teacher and she has taught me a lot about piano. She is the reason why I got this far in piano. I would repay her for everything she has done, but nothing seems to be better than the thing she gives me. These bigger and better things are support, and great piano lessons. I was very excited when I got the news that I was in the Honors Recital. It surprised me a lot because I never thought that I could do something as great as that. All the recitals that I've been in made me do a lot better in school. So, what I'm trying to say is that music has influenced me in many ways like becoming a better person, and being myself. Also, music helps me concentrate on my homework and it helps me feel very good. Music is very important to me, and it is the best part of my life. Thanks to CMS, my dream to be a fine pianist has come true. Thank you to my family, who got me to learn with CMS.



Please join us in congratulating the winners of this contest! You may also view their winning essay on our website, at www.CaliforniaMusicstudios.Com/contest_winners.php. The winner link can also be accessed on our homepage, or from the CMS "Events" tab.

NEW CMS FALL "GLEE" WORKSHOP OPEN

California Music Studios will host a new **10-week "Glee Performance Workshop"** with CMS vocal coach **Judy M.** Students will learn vocal technique, how to sing with a group, choreography, audition preparation, and other related topics, as well as great performance numbers that have been featured on the hit show "Glee". Soloists will be auditioned from within the group for various lead roles.

At the end of the workshop, the students will perform in a special show at NAMM Museum of Making Music. Some exceptional performers will be selected to be a part of our CMS "Glee" Show Choir, which will perform in the area at various special events throughout the year. (*Note: Students must attend a minimum of 8 of the 10 sessions to be guaranteed performance participation in all numbers. If students miss an excess of sessions, they will perform in musical numbers according to their preparation.*)

The CMS "Glee" Performance Workshop will be held at CMS headquarters in Encinitas (543 Encinitas Blvd, Ste 121, Encinitas, 92024) on Saturday mornings. There will be 10 weekly sessions, from September 17th through November 19th, with a performance on November 19th at the Museum of Making Music (5790 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008).

- Open to students age 7-14
- 10 hour-and-a-half sessions on Saturdays from 10:00am to 11:30am
- Workshop dates are 9-17, 9-24, 10-1, 10-8, 10-15, 10-22, 10-29, 11-5, 11-12, & 11-19
- Performance will be on 11-19 after the workshop
- Tuition for the workshop is \$350 per child

For more information or to register, please call our office at 800-227-6222, or feel free to email our support staff at Support@CaliforniaMusicStudios.com. (Special rates valid only 8-20-11. After that time, no discounts apply to the Glee Workshop.)



CMS RECITAL CALENDAR

Look here every month for a list of our scheduled concerts and events. More events will be scheduled soon! If you would like to participate, please ask your teacher for details. We'll see you there!

Orange County Formal Recital

Teachers N-Z
September 10, 2011
Temple Bat Yahm
1011 Camelback Street
Newport Beach, CA 92660

San Diego Formal Recital

Teachers N-Z
September 24, 2011
Ruby Schulman Auditorium
1775 Dove Lane
Carlsbad, CA 92009

Orange County Music Club

All Teachers
October 15, 2011
Temple Bat Yahm
1011 Camelback Street
Newport Beach, CA 92660

San Diego Music Club

All Teachers
October 8, 2011
NAMM Museum of Making Music
5790 Armada Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008

San Diego Music Club

All Teachers
November 19, 2011
NAMM Museum of Making Music
5790 Armada Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Are you or your children currently participating in something noteworthy? Do you have an accomplishment that you are proud of and would like to share? If so, we would love to sing your praises! Please email us at Support@CaliforniaMusicStudios.com with details and photos, and we will include your news and picture in the next issue of CMS Musical Notes!