



## MusicNotes, MTGRA Newsletter for Parents and Children

Fiddles Collection, Issue 1, 2009

### Featured Song: Los Fandangos!

As we work with the song Los Fandangos you have the opportunity for drama and fun play time! Fandango is a lively dance originating in Spain and Portugal. In Spain it is historically danced by couples. The women dance using lyrical, smooth motions. They twirl around gracefully while taking a large, strong step on the first beat, followed by 2 smaller steps. The men move with a straight, tall and proud stature with lots of hand clapping and foot tapping. In Portugal it is historically danced by two men facing each other. This dance becomes a challenge to see who can use the fanciest and lightest foot movements and “out-dance” the other. As a result of the extravagant features of the dance, the word *fandango* is used as a synonym for 'a quarrel', 'a big fuss.' Hummm – the last thing we want in a Music Together class is ‘a big fuss,’ so let’s just have fun getting in touch with our inner Flamenco dancer! See you in class!

### Quick Thoughts about Audiation

Audiation refers to a person’s ability to “think a song” in their head without singing it out loud. This is an important part of a child’s learning. Just think about how hard it is for you to leave out some of the words of “A Ram Sam Sam” and come back in on the correct words and pitches. Your child’s brain is even busier than that! Not only is it great fun, but it is an important part of their learning. So “gulli gulli” all you want and laugh at the results!

### Things are "falling" in place at Midway Village Museum Center - Thanks to YOU!



Midway Village Museum Center has always been a wonderful place to hold Music Together classes. I love looking out the windows and watching parents and their children coming, almost like a parade, to the Chamberlain Hotel for class. This fall, thanks to you parents, I am able to teach 3 full classes there every week, and I have twice as many families as I did last year. Thank you for referring my classes to your friends! I believe that Music Together can truly change families lives, and I feel so fortunate to be able to teach this amazing program. Thanks for helping me spread the Music Together spirit to Rockford.

## Good Tunes

### *What I've been listening to lately*

Is anybody else listening to The Beatles? I have always been a Beatles fan and in fact was able to see them live two times when I was a teenager! Yeah, that was pretty cool. Some of their music sounds so simple by today's standards. When you think of them performing in Nehru jackets and suits and ties and bowing in unison after every song, you know things have changed dramatically! But when I hear Fool On A Hill, or Good Day Sunshine, or even I Am The Walrus I just feel better. So tell me what's on your "feel good songs" play list, other than the Fiddle Collection! I'd love to know.

### **A Youtube connection - *Check it out!***

There is a terrific video on Youtube that you will enjoy. Kenneth Guilmartin, the founder and director of Music Together, is shown talking about music in early childhood. It is a chance to hear directly from him how important your role is as a parent, and reminds us that this program is about experience and participation, not performance. The interview lasts about 10 minutes, but is well worth the time. Simply go to the Youtube website, type in Kenneth Guilmartin, and enjoy it. It is definitely worth the time! See you in class!

### **Preregistration will be open soon. . .**

It's hard to believe that our Fall Semester will soon be over! Preregistration for the Winter Semester will be open soon. There will be all new songs and activities to share with your family! If you are considering returning, please register early. It helps me to plan for rental spaces and class schedules. I'll let you know as soon as the winter schedule is on the website so you can reserve your spot. Classes start the week of January 4, 2010.

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