



Music Notes

Mrs. Call

April 9, 2008

Performance Opportunities – Presenters and Audience Members

Appropriate audience behavior and responsibility is a very important component in the curriculum of our music classes. As I have shared before in this column, each class session begins with a listening exercise to increase the students' ability to analyze a piece of music, categorize what is being heard, and then intelligently discuss the conclusions they have come to. Recently, about one-third of the students in 5th-8th grade shared live presentations while the other two-thirds practiced the skills of being an attentive audience. Instruments, including everything from viola to guitar, violin to drum kit, streamed in and out of the music room over a four day performance period. At this point, may I say a quick thank you to the parents who helped transport the many cases and boxes required.

Part of this experience was to share with other students the many talents that their peers possess. Another part was to select the first group of University School students to participate in University Methodist Church's *Third Thursday Recital Series*. Some of you may remember that last year our University School Singers were part of one of these recitals. Now, I have been asked to bring a collection of a few of our young musicians to fill the designated time on April 17.

In order to make the decision about who would participate in this event, I developed a set of criteria and then shared it with the classes involved. First and foremost was that we present a variety of music and instruments that would be appropriate for the venue and this particular program. The individual ability of each performer was next and included level of playing, memorization, and musicality. Finally, the recital is to last no longer than 30 minutes so timing each piece was key to fitting our music into their time.

I would invite any of you who have the time and ability to join us on Thursday, April 17 at 12:15 p.m. across the street at the church. You will hear a terrific representation of University School students playing an enjoyable variation of music on many different instruments, including piano and pipe organ.