

TUTORING NEWS: INSPIRED YOUTH

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SUMMER PIANO PROGRAM

The 19th year of Inspired Youth's Summer Piano Program was a surprise. We could not meet in-person at the Edgewater Presbyterian Church, but IY's Board of Directors said that Beth Palmer (only) could work with piano students on-line. The Summer Piano Program began the last week of June, with students learning on-line.

16 students took individual piano lessons on *meet.google.com*, for an hour per lesson, 2 times each week, for 8 weeks. We used Alfred's *Beginning Piano Series*, plus Suzuki. During the last couple of weeks, students began working on their recital pieces.

On-line attendance for the piano lessons was very regular. During the eight weeks, the 16 students took 252 hours of piano lessons. (16 x 16 = 256)

We scheduled 2 on-line recitals of 8 students each, on Zoom, for the third week of August. Each student played 2 songs in the recital. (One student did not participate because his family's internet wasn't working.)

The ages of the students in the program were from 6 to 15 years. 4 were African American, 5 were Hispanic, and 7 were from families from India. All the students gained a lot during the summer and performed well in the recital.

A few pictures of students at their piano lessons are on [facebook.com/inspiredyouth](https://www.facebook.com/inspiredyouth).

Here are comments from participants and stories about them:

From **Fabiola R., the mother of Max A., 4th gr., and Carl A., 2nd gr.:**

"I wanted to say thank you, because for many, many months I was looking for something that Max would feel thoughtful about. And then when I found you, and you started giving piano lessons to him, I realized that he was not only thoughtful. He practiced things that were beautiful, which was the music. And now it is very nice to see him playing, and enjoying it, and learning. Thank you."

Fabiola R. also sent this email:

"Hello Ms. Palmer,

"I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for teaching patiently my two boys.

"I would like you to know, that for a couple years I was trying to figure it out a way to help my son Max A. to focus. Your classes not only caught his attention but also he focused, and I see him learning with enjoyment and gratitude.

"My youngest son Carl A., holds with pride the fact that he can now read music and play it, and every time he can he practices.

"As a mother, I have no words to thank you enough for this wonderful opportunity. I even learned a few things! Please see attached the video of Max practicing Beethoven *Fifth Symphony*. [It's on [Facebook.com/inspiredyouth](https://www.facebook.com/inspiredyouth).]

"God bless you, and thanks again.

"Best,

"Fabiola R., Mother of Max and Carl A."

Mukunth R., 4th gr., was new to the piano this summer. With about 3 weeks before the recital, Mukunth's mother said she would like Mukunth to play "Kannana Kannè," a popular song in Tamil from southern India. What?!!!! The song was easy to find because it has many recordings with millions of views on YouTube.

Beth Palmer found the notation of the piece on-line and arranged it for Mukunth to play. The piece had three flats (black keys). Since Mukunth couldn't read music, he memorized a section of the piece at a time. (What a feat.) He finally had memorized the whole piece.

Then Ms. Beth asked Mukunth's mother if she would like to sing the song with him. At first, she said she wouldn't, but she started singing it when her son was playing it. She sang it every time he practiced. Then she sang it also for the recital. With Mukunth playing the piano keyboard and his mother singing, it was a very special occasion.

Mukunth's sister, **Shashi R., 1st gr.,** also performed. She played 2 songs from Alfred's Lesson Book A. She played very well.

Evelin Z., 6th gr., loved practicing her pieces on the piano keyboard. She lives in Chicago, but she spent weeks in the summer at her relatives' in Waukegan, IL. Can you see Evelin taking her keyboard with her when she went to stay for a few weeks at her relatives' homes?

Evelin likes to sing, too. She sang as she played her two pieces in the recital, "When the Red, Red Robin," and "Do-Re-Mi."

Evelin said this after the recital: "Thank you for helping me and for being nice to me. It was really fun having classes with you."

Himaneesh D., 1st gr., was in the Summer Piano Program for the past two years. This year he loved to practice and never missed a lesson. He even took extra lessons when there was an opening. He gained so much this summer!

For the recital he played "Minuet," by Paderewski. He learned it very quickly. He also played "If I Had a Hammer," with people singing while he played. He played excellently. It was fun to have Himaneesh in the Summer Piano Program.

His mother wrote about the recital: "Thank you. All because of you, he learned so well."

Gregorio F., 9th gr., Donovan F., 4th gr., and Baron F., 2nd, have all been in the Summer Piano Program for several years. All three worked hard this summer and played well in the recital. Gregorio played "Ecosse," ("Scottish") from Suzuki II. He didn't know if he could learn it, but he played it effortlessly. He also played "It's a Great Day," which kids will sing when our church opens up.

Donovan played an old favorite, written in 1956, "Rock Around the Clock." He also played "This Land Is Your Land," which people sang as he played. He played very well.

Baron played two church songs, "We Will Glorify the King of Kings," and "One, Two, Three." He worked hard to learn them, and they turned out well. People sang "One, Two Three," a happy song.

Girivar M., 2nd gr., played "Minuet in G Minor," by J.S. Bach, from Suzuki II. It was calm and flawless. He also played "Alpine Melody," from Alfred's Lesson Book, Level 3. Girivar is the only student this year taking private piano lessons, ↕

from Beth Palmer. He practices (!) and keeps progressing. He played excellently in the recital.

Girivar's mother, **Madhu M.,** wrote, "Thank you so much for all your efforts. The recital was very fluent and actually everyone including Yashvi (our little one) enjoyed all the songs. Everyone really played very well."

Sai H., 2nd gr., played some fun pieces in the recital, "Star Wars," and "She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain." "Star Wars" is a modern classic. It's very dramatic, and Sai played it very well. "She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain," is a very different kind of piece. Sai brought out its verve and spark as he played it.

Jaylen S., 4th gr., didn't play in the recital, but he was all ready to play "Oh, How I Love Jess," and the melody of "Joy to the World." The pieces sounded good. Perhaps he can play them for Epworth Church later in the year.

Tanish A., 1st gr., was the first performer in the Thursday recital. He played "Spring," by Antonio Vivaldi and "It Don't Mean a Thing," by Duke Ellington. Can you see the contrast of the two songs?!!! Tanish played them both very well. "Spring" was a happy piece, and "It Don't Mean a Thing," was jaunty and strong. Tanish did a good job, as the first one to perform in the concert.

Monish A., 7th gr., played the familiar strain of Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer." Because of trips to India during weeks of previous summers, Monish hasn't been part of the Summer Piano Program for very many weeks. He worked on "The Entertainer," and it was beautiful. He also played "Oom-pa-pa," from Alfred's Lesson Book, Level C. It was a fun piece, and Monish played it well.

Jeraldine O., 8th gr., was the 1st performer in the Friday concert. She played "Kum Ba Yah," which the people sang. She also played "The Rainbow Connection," a song from Sesame Street sung by Kermit the Frog. Jeraldine played the song with meaning.

Leonela C., 10th gr., played "Let There Be Peace on Earth," while everyone sang. She also played "Beauty and the Beast," from the popular Disney musical. It was beautiful.

PIANO RECITAL WAS ON ZOOM!

Inspired Youth greatly appreciates the tech people, Dan Solomon and Margaret Sullivan, who put Inspired Youth's two piano recitals on Zoom as the students performed. Both people are tutors and are also on Inspired Youth's Board of Directors. They also know about putting meetings on Zoom! Thank you, Dan and Margaret!

INSPIRED YOUTH IN THE FALL TUTORING IN THE FALL WILL BE ON-LINE, ON ZOOM

Inspired Youth Tutoring will be on-line this Fall. We will be giving one-hour, on-line, tutoring on Zoom to students, 3:30-4:30pm, 4:30-5:30pm, 5:30-6:30pm, and 6:30-7:30pm, Mon.-Thurs. This will be a good experience for students and tutors. Please let Beth Palmer know when you can participate, as a tutor or a student (773-561-4759, inspiredyouth2@gmail.com.)

From **Michele de St Aubin, math teacher at Wilmette Jr. High, and former coordinator of Inspired Youth's Saturday Tutoring Program:**

"Hi Beth,

"So good to hear from you!

"I have so many fond memories of Inspired Youth Tutoring/Epworth Tutoring Program.

"For the past three years I have helped/tutored a refugee family from Ethiopia. Thank you for all you do for so many families and for teaching me how to be a better person!"

Sincerely,

Michele