



Allegro

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

MARCH, 2006



**FESTIVAL
GRAND
SUCCESS**

Pictured below are performance photos from our February 11 and 12 Festival at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church. Other pictures can be seen in the reception area and in Mrs. Sugar's office.





Happy Birthday, Mozart

On our first tour to Vienna in 1762 a wheel broke on our coach. We walked into the nearby town and found shelter in the local church while the coachmen labored to make repairs. There I was allowed to play the pipe organ. This depiction is not quite accurate, however. Because I was so small, I could not sit at the keyboard and reach the pedals at the same time, so I merely stood and sort of hopped from pedal to pedal as I played, much to the amazement of the priests. The first audience with the Emperor and Empress was informal. Imagine to yourself a white salon furnished in white and gilt furniture with red velvet upholstery, the walls covered with enormous mirrors, and crystal chandeliers lighting the entire room. Add to this the presence of the Emperor and Empress, not to mention their 15 children and you might well get an idea of the informality with which we were welcomed. After our performance in the palace of Schönbrunn, our mother, Nannerl, and I were led into the children's apartments by the Empress herself. Of course, all of her children flocked around us and as we crossed a floor of highly polished parquet wood, I slipped and fell right onto my backside. The Archduchess Marie Antonia, who was only a little older than I, stopped to help me back up and brushed off my breeches and jacket as she would do for any of her many brothers. Now, my father had always told me that one day I should look to marry a kind woman of high social standing and the Archduchess was the only one I'd met that was near to me in age. Once I regained my balance (and my pride) I said to her, "You are very kind. Perhaps one day we shall marry."

Our Grand Tour of Europe in 1763 was a long and exhausting undertaking for the entire family, but especially for my sister and me. In those days one traveled in mail coaches or private coaches and the roads were usually muddy and bumpy. Moreover, it was either so hot that the coach felt like an oven, or so cold that coals were placed beneath the seats and furs were piled upon us. They then were the highway men we had to worry about. Between cities, we stayed at inns, some of which were nothing more than nests for vermin. The food was not always healthy, but once we entered a city everything changed. Suddenly we were celebrities, guests of honor at lavish parties and soirees, doted on and given expensive gifts and stuffed with the richest of foods. I enjoyed the acclaim and attention, but Nannerl was not so well suited for such a life. We each suffered our share of illnesses and we almost died of the smallpox. In the Netherlands we had another brush with death from typhus. Happily, we survived it all and carried on playing music for the crowned heads and nobility of Europe.

Editor's Note: What you have just read is the second part of a "Mozart Blog." Obviously, this is intended to loosely represent Mozart's life through his own words. The idea for this inventive narrative came from the website: www.allebreve.org. Much of the history of Mozart can be found from sources where facts are presented in a less inventive form. There is a great deal of information on the internet as well as many scholarly books about Mozart and the celebration of his 250th birthday. If interested, you can find out extensive information on the web at "The Mozart Project".

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MUSIC
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Voice

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Music Theater

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Piano

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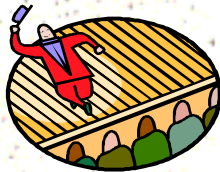
JANEAL SUGARS
Artist in Residence

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Voice/Piano
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JANE SUGARS
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RUBEN VARGAS
Guitar/Strings/
Woodwinds

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MEGAN HURTA, voice student of Kara Cloud and piano student of Marylou Labao, participated in a debate tournament, Saturday, February 25. She competed in pros, dramatic interpretation, vocal interpretation and storytelling. **MEGAN** moved on to the finals in storytelling and dramatic interpretation, won first place in dramatic interpretation and qualified for the semifinal vocal interpretation tournament. **LINH**

TRAN DO, an eighth-grader at Spring Branch Middle School, will have her artwork displayed at the Capital Building in Austin as part of Youth Art Month in March. She was recently honored at an awards ceremony at the Capital. This is the third time her work has been selected.



JENNIFER WATSON, a Westbury High School student and voice student of Kara Cloud, won the role “Cinderella” in their upcoming musical, “Into the Woods.” Congratulations Jennifer. **MICHAEL HURTA** was a member of the debate team at the Texas Forensic Association Tournament. His team made it to the semi-finals. He is a piano student of Anita Messenger. Last Friday, Saturday and Sunday, **SARAH MOUNTJOY**, joined other students at Village School in their own rendition of “Schoolhouse Rock.”

SARAH was the “Statue of Liberty” and had a solo in the “Elbow Room.” **MICHAEL TIAN** played in a chess tournament a Village School. He is working toward becoming a master. **BRITTANY CLINE**, 11th grade piano student of Mrs. Sugars, recently accepted the position of Organist at Bear Creek First Ward Church. In ULI competition she received a I in Class II for her oboe solo and a I in Class I for her piano solo. At-a-girl, Brittany!!!!

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HMI Piano Staff member, **CHEONG-YONG CHANG**, will present a Chamber Recital, Saturday, April 22, at 5 pm in Choral Recital Hall, University of Houston. The program will feature Beethoven, Reinecke, Copland and Mendelssohn. **RUBEN VARGAS**, played with “Mariachi Imperial” this past weekend at the largest mariachi festival in the world. He played violin and sang solos. His group did not win but he says it was a wonderful learning experience and feels he became a better violin player in the process.



More festival photos



"BEE" A GOOD AUDIENCE MEMBER

"Bee" courteous; stay for the entire program. "Bee" a good listener; visit quietly only between performers. "Bee" appreciative; applaud the performer and the performance. "Bee" e-silent"; put cell phones and pagers on vibrate or turn them off. "Bee" attentive; each performers' effort is noteworthy. "Bee" careful; there are electrical cords and other potential hazards to avoid. "Bee" aware of camera lights; flashes can interfere with a performers' concentration.



LOOKING AHEAD Calendar Reminders



These calendar items are always subject to last minute changes. Please check with the HMI office or teachers to verify information.

- 04/2006** *Vocal/Other Instruments Contest
Exact Date and Time TBA*
- 04/22/06** *Spelling Bee*
- 04/29/06** *Composition Deadline*
- 05/14/06** *Piano Contest at HMI Studio
Afternoon, by school grade,
No audience.*
- 06/04/06** *All School Recital, Time TBA
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston
1504 Wirt Rd Houston 77055*
- 06/05/06** *Begin Summer Session*



SPELLING BEE LIST Third List in This Issue

In this issue we are supplying the third list for HMI students to prepare for the ANNUAL SPELLING BEE. The final day of competition is April 22. Perhaps YOU will be a TROPHY WINNER.

Important Reminder:
Lessons are given "as usual" during Spring Break. Please notify your teacher if you will not be able to come to your lessons or need to change lesson times.

We are entering our busiest time of the year. Many of the events you have read about on this month's calendar reminders are required. Please put all the dates on your family's calendar. Watch the bulletin boards for updated information.