

SAMA MONTHLY

Student of the Month



Emma Munoz, a student of Diane House, has been a SAMA student since August 2011. You can see Emma perform next July 1st as she sings the Star Spangled Banner for the Silver Stars!

Instructor Corner



As long as I have been taking music lessons one thing that my instructors have stressed to me is the importance of LISTENING to music, and how to listen to music.

There are two ways to listen to music. They are passive listening and intent listening. As musicians I think many of us are deterred from listening to art music for long periods of time for any number of reasons: it's boring, no words, no guitars, etc. Let's take Mona Lisa for instance, would you marvel in its presence or would you be a critique.

Many thoughts may change the way we picture the performance, hear the performance, and even emotionally react to music we hear.

To prepare ourselves for a listening experience we must have a few things in mind. Will the music have a text? Text carries so much information about the music and story, also the choice of instruments will create a mood we want to plug into. Just as people communicate when talking to one another, musicians must and should be aware of the music around them, especially when performing together. However, in many instances we turn on the radio and just *jam out*. Musicians are People too! Sing along, have fun! Music wouldn't be special if it was work all the time!!!

Passive listening is most common for everyone since music can act as a soundscape, altering the mood or feeling of your environment. The various questions and curiosities that will arise from listening to music are critical components to becoming a good listener. With these ideas in mind, hopefully our experiences with music will be just a little more richer!

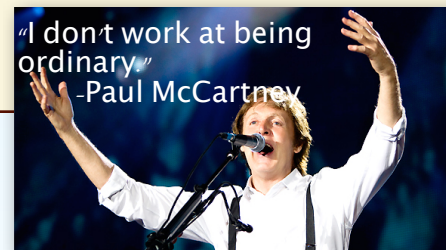
Exercise your listening experience by trying the following activities.

- Try to figure out what year or time period the music is from?
- If you had to guess, what tempo is the music being played at?
- What instruments can you hear, can you hear any solos, or is everyone in harmony?
- Are the performers in a small room or is there a large audience in a Concert Hall?
- Watch a movie with the sound off [MUTE]. How is the movie different without music?



Recital photos and Recital DVDs available online!

Congratulations to all of our performers!



Happy Birthday to Paul McCartney, June 18!