

instructor corner

Jade Hinnant, M.A., Piano Instructor

We're All in This Together: The Magic of Music to Bring Us Closer



Hello SAMA friends! One of my favorite things about music is the powerful way it helps me connect with others. From making new friends to staying close with loved ones, music is a bridge we can walk across to meet in the middle, share something special, and create fun new memories. And this isn't just something specific to me. Everyone can experience the magic of music bringing people together! Here are five things to try if you want to tap into music's relationship-building power:

1. Make a Quiz

If you want to learn some really neat things about someone in your life, try giving them a mini "music quiz." Ask them what song always brightens their mood and why it makes them feel better. Ask them about a song that makes them feel strong and empowered, then ask whether they would feel comfortable sharing a time in their life when that song gave them a boost of courage. Finally, ask whether they've ever heard a song that made them feel seen, known, or understood, and why it had that particular impact. Try coming up with similar questions, and have fun getting to know the person you're talking with in a whole new way!

2. Sit with Someone Older

Another great way to use music as a point of connection is by chatting with someone one or two generations older than you about their favorite songs. Ask them what their favorite song was when they were your age and why they loved it. Get curious about a song tied to a special memory for them, ask about the memory, and then listen to the song together. It will almost feel like traveling back in time. Always remember to thank them for sharing their story!

3. Jam to a Family Playlist

It can be hard to find one playlist that everyone in your family enjoys. Instead, try making your own "family playlist," where each family member chooses up to ten songs to add. This idea also works for friend groups, couples, or coworkers! Then, when you're all together, play the playlist on shuffle and ask each person what makes their chosen songs meaningful to them. If you want to go a step further,

try creating themed playlists: one for road trips, one for holidays, and one for an epic dance party.

4. Become the Teacher

Chances are, you have a friend or family member who secretly wants to learn a song you know but feels too nervous to ask. Try finding someone you can teach a song, or even part of a song, and watch them discover the joy of making music. If you feel intimidated by stepping into the "teacher" role, that's completely understandable. But remember: you do not need to be perfect. You just need to be kind and willing to try your best. In doing so, you'll give someone a very special gift, practice a new skill, and multiply the happiness you receive from taking lessons!

5. Take a Request

One very special thing you can do for a friend or loved one is learn to play or sing their favorite song. Even if you're a beginner, you are still capable of doing this! Don't let the fear of "not doing it perfectly" hold you back from making someone's day. The time, effort, and intention you put into making music that is near and dear to someone's heart can be incredibly meaningful.

We've talked about five simple ways you can harness music's magical ability to bring people together, but it doesn't stop here. Pick one of these ideas to try, then come up with one of your own. You just might find that music unlocks the door to better friendships, sweeter family time, and greater joy in your life.

student of the month

“Melanie G.

has been taking lessons for several years and has shown tremendous growth. She eagerly participates in many of the performance opportunities that SAMA offers and enjoys learning fun pieces that challenge her. I'm very proud of her dedication and progress!”

Leslie Vela, M.M., Piano Instructor



student accomplishments



Congratulations to Jaelynn F., student of Khadijah Enriquez, for being cast as an Ancestor and also Morticia's understudy for Wonder Theatre's teen production of The Addams Family!



Congratulations to Liv L., student of Khadijah Enriquez, for being cast as Flower Girl and Ancestor in Wonder Theatre's junior production of Addams Family: The Musical!



Congratulations to Luna E., student of Khadijah Enriquez, for being cast as Pugsley in Wonder Theatre's junior production of Addams Family: The Musical!



Congratulations to Julie M., student of Khadijah Enriquez, for being cast in the Ensemble of Wonder Theatre's junior production of Matilda!



Congratulations to Raaid & Reehan A., students of David Rueda, on receiving 1st Division ratings at their HS & MS UIL Solo & Ensemble competitions!

upcoming events



JUNE 7

SAMA Student Bands performing at Fralo's (4pm-8pm)



JUNE 20

Matias Garcia's Birthday



SAMA BREAK

JUNE 29 - JULY 4

SAMA will be closed for 4th of July Break



Join a band!

