



instructor corner

Lilly Schnieders, A.A., SAMA Administrator

Challenging Musical Norms

Music is not only an art form but a source of endless fascination.

The eccentric composer John Cage, who passed away in 1992, left behind a body of work that continues to captivate enthusiasts and intellectuals alike. His compositions are far from conventional, but they provide a treasure trove of bizarre yet delightful conversation fodder.

Perhaps one of Cage's most renowned and peculiar pieces is "4'33"," a composition that consists of, quite literally, 4 minutes and 33 seconds of silence. During the performance, a pianist sits at the instrument, staring at the sheet music while periodically turning its pages at the right time. It's undoubtedly an unusual concept, but it prompts discussions on the definition of music itself.

Cage's creativity didn't stop at silence; he also crafted "As Slow As Possible (ASLSP)," a composition that challenges performers to play at an extraordinarily gradual pace. When played on the piano, this piece can extend from 20 to 70 minutes, pushing both musicians and audiences to embrace patience.

However, the pinnacle of Cage's audacious musical ventures is "Organ²/ASLSP." In 1987, Cage reimagined this piece for an organ performance, and it's set to be the longest composition in history. The world's longest musical performance started in September 2001 at St. Burchardi Church in Halberstadt, Germany, and it continues to this day. The organ's rendition of ASLSP is scheduled to conclude in the year 2640, resulting in an astounding 639-year performance. The anticipation for the next note change on February 5, 2024 is nothing short of thrilling for those who keep up with the details of this performance.

In my opinion, John Cage's innovative mind was truly remarkable, and aspiring to think like him is an inspiring endeavor. His compositions challenge our understanding of music. What are your thoughts on Cage's unconventional works and the enduring legacy they leave? I'd love to hear your perspective as I, like many others, sit in fascination, anxiously awaiting the next note.

Upcoming Events



NOV
3

Winter Recital Sign-up
starts at 2pm



NOV
5

SAMA student bands
performing at
Area 51 Food Park
5 - 8:30pm



NOV
11

Leslie Suarez's
Birthday



NOV
22

Khadijah Jabbar's
Birthday



NOV
21-25

SAMA is closed
November 21-25

student of the month

“**Daniella V.**

has been taking piano lessons for over 2 years, and has become a talented pianist! She has been working on challenging repertoire and has done a wonderful job with her SAMA performances. She has also put dedication and talent towards the SAMA student band, Intrepid, as a pianist and vocalist. I am extremely proud of her hard work.”

Leslie Suarez, B.M., Piano Instructor



SAMA Student Accomplishments

Congratulations to Trinity E., student of Khadijah Jabbar, for being casted as "Mack" in Peter & The Starcatcher at Black Box Theater @ O-Connor High.



Congratulations to Saydee R., student of Khadijah Jabbar, for landing the role of Jafar in Wonder Theatre's production of Disney's Descendants.



CASA
CHILD ADVOCATES
SAN ANTONIO

**SAMA Supports
Child Advocates San Antonio**

Holiday Gift Drive

IN-NEED ITEMS

Infant through School Age

- Battery-free Toys
- Blankets or Pillows
- Onesie Packs
- Sensory Toys
- Art Kits and Crafts
- Building Kits (such as Legos)
- Plushie Toys

College Bound (Age group most in need)

- Gift Cards
- Dorm Room Essentials
- Electronics (such as speakers, battery packs or headphones)
- Hanes t-shirt packs (boys)
- Make-up and Hairstyling Tools
- Laptop Backpacks
- Kitchen Necessities

Accepting in-person donations at SAMA until Nov. 30

Complete List

