



NEWS FOR RELEASE

Long Island Philharmonic Releases 10 Ideas to Have a Musical Summer

(For Immediate Release)

June 10, 2011 (Melville, NY) – As school ends and parents face the summer with their children, the Long Island Philharmonic is releasing a list of ten ways to keep music alive for families. Children lose approximately 2.5 months of learning in the summer months according to the Johns Hopkins University Center for Summer Learning. Mathematical computation skills are at particular danger with low-income students losing about 25% of their math grade level education over the summer months.

The Long Island Philharmonic's focus on education continues this summer with the introduction of a list of ways to keep music alive for children in the summer. This list will be made available online at www.lipharmonic.org.

The patterns, proportions, numbers, and ratios taught in music enhance mathematical skills. While children and parents look forward to a care-free summer away from academics, they can utilize these fun musical methods to truly grow academically and be ready for the next grade level in the fall. (And, the best part is that children won't have any idea that they are learning!)

David Stewart Wiley, Music Director & Conductor of the Philharmonic, explains, "Music is a great way to keep learning active in your home. While we keep music alive throughout the year in my own family, the summer months offer us a chance to experience music differently than we normally would. There are so many studies that relate music to learning and education. That is why the Long Island Philharmonic's passion for education is key in the summer months."

Founded in 1979 by folk singer Harry Chapin, the Long Island Philharmonic is focused on education children to understand, appreciate, and enjoy orchestral music. In the 2010-11 school year, over 13,000 students from pre-K to high school ages participated in the Philharmonic's Arts-in-Education program, called *MusicLivz*, through coachings, concerts, and in-school programs at schools on Long Island. They are presently preparing for the 2011-12 school year and will work with educators to design affordable programs that will bring classical music as well as performing arts to area schools.

Board President Jack Russell explains, "The Long Island Philharmonic is dedicated to music education on Long Island. While our role during the school year is one of outreach in the schools, during the summer, we continue to be involved as we perform at free concerts throughout Long Island that will reach approximately 80,000 Long Islanders. Our sponsors and donors enable us to offer powerful education programs year-round that impact our Long Island students."

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Ten Ways to a Musical Summer

1. Attend a summer music camp. There are numerous options available both privately and through various school districts.
2. Take your child to see a musical at either your local theater or on Broadway. This does not have to be expensive. There are plenty of musical productions at local theaters. If you can't get to a show, rent a movie version if available and microwave some popcorn – there is nothing like movie night to try something new.
3. Use some of that free time this summer to take private lessons on an instrument your child has always wanted to try. Let your child choose any instrument that has struck them as interesting or fun. Even if they aren't going to be the next Mozart or Billy Joel, the summer is a short period where they can try out something new without having to commit for an extended timeframe.
4. Ask friends to bring instruments to your next BBQ and have an impromptu jam session. Be sure to have instruments available for a variety of talent levels, so everyone can be involved.
5. Take dance lessons together. Let your child choose one type and you choose another, but take lessons together!
6. Write a song together. If you or your child is capable, score it. Otherwise, just sing it. If you are particularly brave, try and sing your way through dinner one night. Conversation will certainly be enhanced, although expect laughter and giggles to interrupt.
7. Buy musical bathtub toys and use them in your pool. Give a new meaning to waterfront concert!
8. Make homemade instruments. Merge science and music together and build your own instruments. Instructions and samples can be found online, or be creative and design something on your own. Seashells in a water bottle make a great maraca!
9. Listen to a different style of music in your home, car, and when you are out and about. This goes both ways. In order to keep your kids excited, make sure you and your child take turns choosing the type of music.
10. Bring your child to one of the Long Island Philharmonic's summer concerts at your local park. (The Summer Parks Concert schedule is available at www.liphilharmonic.org.) They are free to the public and feature a fun mix of music from classical to patriotic to pops. There is nothing like watching your child watch a live concert.

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