

For the City of Sandy Springs

September/October 2007

SANDY SPRINGS

LIVING

WWW.SANDYSPRINGSLIVING.NET



Music Lessons

ROCK!

A New Approach to Teaching Music

Who Won?





Jonathan Geller
ELECTRIC GUITAR

Isabel Fuqua
DRUMS

Samantha McClendon
VIOLIN

Adrianna Crossing
CLARINET

Alexander Thomas
PIANO

Vasser Seydel
VOCALS

Do-Re-Mi

as easy as

1
2
3

Are your children enjoying their music lessons?

Well, they should be—and there is one Atlanta music company that promises you they will!

by Harrison Williams

It's 2:55 on Thursday afternoon—time for your baby's nap, and nearly time for your preschooler's piano lessons. No problem; the music teacher will arrive at *your* home in a few minutes, baby *will* sleep peacefully and you'll relax with a book while enjoying the sound of your blossoming virtuoso's joyful tunes and laughter from the next room. Sound too good to be true?

Satisfaction Guaranteed

The family at Courtney and Rowe Corporation, metro Atlanta's premier in-home music and education service, is not only revolutionizing music lessons with their innovative approach to teaching, but is also turning heads with their unique promise to potential clients. "We are so positive that your child will be enjoying and progressing with their lessons, we promise that after four lessons if you are not satisfied, we will give you a hundred percent refund," asserts Marilyn Courtney. Marilyn laid the foundation for Courtney and Rowe in 1989 when she began giving piano lessons after the family moved to Atlanta. Today, the company is run by Jack and Marilyn Courtney, their daughters Ariane Courtney and Cecilia Courtney Rowe, and Cecilia's husband, Sean Rowe.

Teaching Philosophy

Their unique philosophy is threefold: first, give the children the music they want to play; second, make the experience

fun; and third, be realistic about the commitment level of each student, as children are busier than ever. They teach both contemporary and classical music, and as Marilyn points out, students are learning the same notes whether it is the theme to "Harry Potter" or a Beethoven sonata, "and the parents joke that it's much easier to get them to practice." But, no joke—the end result is the same: students practice and progress with their instruments.

Marilyn continues, "When I was taking piano as a child, my teacher was not an enjoyable or motivating person and nearly squeezed the love of music right out of me. Thankfully, my parents recognized this and found a wonderful teacher whom I adored, and he allowed me to choose the music I really loved. I looked forward to my lessons each week with him and consequently progressed to being awarded a full piano scholarship to college. Because of my experience, we feel so passionate about our teacher/student matching, our promise and having fun! And these are some of the reasons we are so loved and consistently referred in Atlanta."



Daughter Cecilia Courtney Rowe, agrees: "Mom's right: we take teaching styles and training seriously. We have only the best people representing us, with a commitment to consistency and showing up each week ready to teach—with the latest music, musical games, flashcards—whatever motivates the student and encourages the learning process. We all really enjoy what we do and it shows—through our teacher-student retention as well."

In-Home Education Program

Over the last 18 years, Courtney and Rowe has expanded into a thriving business that today teams with 40 additional teachers and offers a wide variety of in-home instruction of music and education choices. For music offerings, they have most all instruments including piano, guitar, voice, drums, violin, brass, flute and woodwinds. On the education side, they tutor all levels, including SAT Prep, and languages such as Spanish, Preschool Spanish, French, Italian and Latin.

Recently Courtney and Rowe has added an in-home preschool music and education program, an amazing approach for the preschool child age 3 to 5 to learn in a fun one-on-one environment. Each child is evaluated on their current knowledge, and then a tailored curriculum is taught weekly so that he or she may learn new, fun and exciting information and music as well as perfecting current skill levels. It is the ideal enhancement for any child currently attending preschool or a mother's morning out.

"We took so much care and concern in formulating this entire program, from the acclaimed Zoophonics to everyday manners, writing to art, and of course, the music portion which includes vocal and instrument experimentation. We deliver an exciting assortment in an easy-to-learn, colorful and stimulating way...and the children just love it!" explains Ariane Courtney, co-developer of the program.



Benefits and Rewards

There are many benefits for parents besides just having the convenience of in-home lessons. Courtney and Rowe teachers also bring the necessary supplies to lessons so parents do not have to search all over town for the proper music books or supplies for their child's instrument. "We will be happy to assist in the purchase of an appropriate guitar or can even lease or sell you a fine piano from our inventory," remarks Jack Courtney.

The Courtney and Rowe family feels that one of the most rewarding parts of teaching is watching the pride and self-esteem of students grow along with their understanding and love of music. "We'd love all of our students to be able to love their music enough to want to grow up and share it with their children," remarks Sean Rowe. Who wouldn't promise you would love your lessons with an attitude like that?

For more information and parent testimonials about Courtney and Rowe's music, tutoring or preschool programs, visit www.courtneyandrowe.com or call 770.690.9968.

Photography by Jack Tuszynski.