

Rockin' and Rollin' at C.S.A.G.I.

Music classes are underway at the Contemporary School of the Arts and Gallery, Inc., now the non-profit school's second season offering music education.

This year, children as well as adults can enjoy private and group classes for piano, guitar, saxophone, music appreciation, and more.

Teia McGee recently moved to Hagerstown from Prince George's County and heard of the C.S.A.G.I.'s Gallery's classes on Craigslist, and enrolled her sons, Van 11 and Hunter, 9, in Group Guitar.

Before relocating, McGee's sons took lessons over the summer, however, now, she is more pleased with her sons' teacher at C.S.A.G.I. "They are really learning now," says McGee.

Another parent, Monica Cerezo, says, "Mr. Tyson, [the class instructor], makes the lessons fun and enjoyable. My boys want to practice at home and want to come back."

"That's what we're trying to do here," said Gallery founder, Ron Lytle, "give children a positive start in the world of the arts and their own artistic expression."

Michael Tyson, Music Director of C.S.A.G.I. and class instructor, has taught for fifteen years, and says music goes beyond just the notes that you hear.

"Learning and playing music enhances concentration, coordination, and thinking power," he says. "And the confidence that you're building in the child through musical expression is phenomenal."

Mr. Tyson offers groups guitar classes and a children's choir course at C.S.A.G.I. called "Arriba, Arriba!" where children learn to sing traditional songs in Spanish.

"It's easier than you think and they learn more than you'd expect," says Mr. Tyson, who developed a love for the language after living in Spain for a year.

C.S.A.G.I. has expanded this year to offer private piano lessons, saxophone, and woodwind instruments. Taught by local artist and teacher, Aaron Worthy, who, in addition to teaching youth, also offers music history and appreciation classes to adults.

The first recital of the year will be Sunday December 4 at 3:00pm at the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown. Students also will go caroling, guitar in hand, on Wednesday December, 14 in downtown Hagerstown.

C.S.A.G.I. is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing art awareness to the community and affordable art and music education to youth. The Gallery currently holds free after-school art classes, from Monday through Thursday from 4:00 - 7:00pm., and group guitar and kids choir classes on Wednesdays from 2:00 - 6:30pm. Private piano and woodwind lessons are offered 10:00am. - 6:30pm. C.S.A.G.I. can also have musicians play for your next special event. For more information, call the Gallery at 301-791-6191, email: ronlytle3@netzero.net, or visit the Gallery's website at www.csagi.org.