

Touch the Music at Scribbles Preschool

By Claudia Baumgaertner Lemmerz, founder and director of Touch the Music

Touch the Music is a unique music program that presents an extraordinary opportunity for children to be in touch and explore ACTUAL orchestral instruments. In this era of virtual reality, most of us, young and old, are losing the connection to our tangible world. **Touch the Music** offers a hands-on experience of the orchestral instruments, which stimulate all the senses and expose children to a whole new world.

After learning important facts about each instrument the children get to explore them. Seeing and holding a REAL instrument (not a plastic toy version) is an amazing experience for them. Feeling the vibration of the violin under their chin, or experiencing the different ways of blowing into an instrument to create a sound are exciting moments. When the children produce the first sound on these instruments, it stimulates their brains and their bodies. It challenges their eye, ear, fine motor, and breathing coordination, and provides the most rewarding experience of accomplishment. Many studies have proven that playing an instrument has tremendous impact on the brain development of young children. It stimulates spatial-temporal reasoning.

Throughout the 24 weekly **Touch the Music** classes offered during the school year at Scribbles the children get to experience a wide variety of instruments. The flute, cello, harp, piccolo, tuba and French horn are just a few of the many instruments introduced. Also included are various small percussion instruments as well as the snare and base drums, glockenspiel and more.

All instruments used in **Touch the Music** are actual orchestral instruments. The string instruments like violin, cello, bass and harp are smaller sized instruments to fit the children's size and height. This way the children are able to handle the instruments all by themselves. Wind and percussion instruments are regular sizes. It is amazing to see how the children in a **Touch the Music** class pick up any instrument and make music within just a few moments.

Every **Touch the Music** class is enhanced with informative take home material, which gives the children a chance to share this exciting adventure about the orchestral instruments with their whole family. It connects them to older siblings who play an instrument in school and triggers old school memories of the parents, which are fun to share.

It is our wish that **Touch the Music** will plant seeds in all children, no matter what age, to make music an important and everlasting part of their lives.

Addendum by The Scribbles Directors

Touch the Music embodies what Scribbles represents, early childhood education that reflects research on current early brain development and methodology. We are privileged to have a professional of this caliber leading an enrichment class option at Scribbles. Over ten years ago, when Claudia had just moved to Mountain Lakes, she enrolled her three children at our school.

She first became involved with us on a professional level when she introduced her beginning German language program here. She then established our popular class for toddlers establishing "Scribbles 'n Bits". Claudia eventually resumed her own musical performance career by forming the Moonlight Duo in 2005 with cellist Karen Pinoci, and her teaching career with The Moonlight Music Studio. Having graduated from The Music Conservatory in Cologne, Germany with a Bachelor's degree in organ, piano, voice and choral conducting, Claudia was well equipped to do even more. She led music workshops for our teachers and performed in concerts at the school. She co-founded the preschool music program "Munchkin Music" in 2006 at Scribbles, which evolved into the hands-on program "Touch the Music" in 2008. It was chosen by The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra for their "Pre-Concert Adventure" which is offered before their NJSO Family Series concerts. What an accomplishment!

Thank you so much Claudia, for your continued, outstanding involvement in our school.