

Plan Some Special Events for Your Students

Help your students enjoy and appreciate great music by celebrating any of these special events and themes. Give them an opportunity to help promote music education in their own communities.

March • Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM)

Even if you are not teaching in a classroom setting, this is a good opportunity to advocate for music education and how it benefits all of us.

The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) promotes Music In Our Schools Month in conjunction with schools and teachers, and offers both ideas and promotional merchandise on their website (<http://www.nafme.org>). The Concert for MIOSM is one of the major events they promote. The MIOSM web page (<http://www.nafme.org/programs/miosm>) has a wealth of activity ideas and downloadable advocacy materials. Other online resources:

<http://www.artsalive.ca/en/mus/activitiesgames>

<http://www.joy2learn.org> - visit [At the Piano with Alan Gampel](#)

April • Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM)

If you are a jazz lover, this might be just the event for you.

- Many communities sponsor jazz concerts and festivals around this time. Organize a group trip to a concert.
- Emphasize jazz styles and incorporate jazz selections into your lessons.
- Give students a list of books about jazz and jazz artists. Ask them to write a brief review of the book for some extra credit or reward.
- Visit the Jazz at Lincoln Center website for videos and <http://academy.jazz.org>. Download free curriculum at (<http://www.nafme.org/wp-content/files/2015/04/Jazz-at-Lincoln-Center-Dave-Brubeck-Curriculum.pdf>).
- Visit <http://www.joy2learn.org> and watch [Jazz with Wynton Marsalis](#).



September • Classical Music Month

Look for ways to inspire and excite your students.

- Incorporate some interesting or unique classical music selections into your lessons.
- Organize a group trip to a concert.
- Encourage students to view movies and documentaries about the lives of classical musicians.
- Give students a list of books about classical music composers and performers. Ask them to write a brief review of the book for some extra credit or a reward.
- Distribute bookmarks that have pictures of classical composers on them or other related items as rewards.

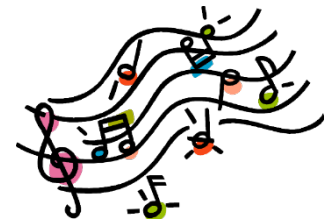
September • National Piano Month

- Provide mini piano concerts at the local mall, at a local business that has a large number of employees or in a public building like city hall or the county courthouse.
- Have students prepare a display for a local museum or library focusing on learning to play the piano and the benefits of making music.
- Challenge your students to play the piano for fun every day during National Piano Month.
- Visit www.instrumentalistmagazine.com to learn more about Piano Explorer magazine for students.
- Post video links on your Facebook page that feature the piano (there are more than just cats playing the piano on YouTube!) Check out <http://pianonet.com/fun-stuff/piano-trivia> for a fun list. Ask your students and Facebook friends to vote for the ones they like best.

Children's Literature

Jazz

- *The Sound that Jazz Makes*, by Carole Boston Weatherford; illustrated by Eric Velasquez, *Walker & Company*
- *Arthur Plays the Blues*, by Stephen Krensky, *Little, Brown & Co*
- *Duke Ellington*, by Andrea Davis Pinkney; illustrated by Brian Pinkney, *Scholastic*
- *Miranda*, by Tricia Tusa, *Aladdin Books*
- *The Little Piano Girl*, by Ann Ingalls and Maryann MacDonald, *Houghton Mifflin*
- *The Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum*, by Robert A. Parker, *Schwartz and Wade*



Classical Music

- *Mozart Finds A Melody*, by Stephen Costanza, *Henry Holt & Company*
- *Polly and the Piano*, by Carol Montparker, *Amadeus Press*
- *The Cat Who Loved Mozart*, by Patricia Austin, *Holiday House*
- *Mr. Bach Comes to Call*, *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* and other Classical Kids Collections of DVDs
- *For the Love of Music: The Remarkable Story of Maria Anna Mozart*, by Elizabeth Rush, *Tricycle Press*

Piano

- *A Piano for Julie*, by Eleanor Schick, *Greenwillow Books*
- *The Piano Man* by Debbi Chocolate; illustrated by Eric Velasquez, *Walker & Company*
- *Henry the Steinway and the Piano Recital*, *Henry the Steinway: A Star Is Born*, and *Henry the Steinway Tours the World*, by Sally Coveleskie, Peter Goodrich & Laura Friedman, *Yorkville Press*
- *Anatole and the Piano*, by Eve Titus, *Bantam Books*
- *Mrs. Merriwether's Musical Cat*, by Carol Purdy; illustrated by Petra Mathers, *Putnam & Grosset Group*
- *Lulu's Piano Lesson*, by Arlene Alda; illustrated by Lisa Desimini, *Tundra Books*
- *Gus and Grandpa and the Piano Lesson*, by Claudia Mills, *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*
- *Piano Coloring Book*, Piano Technicians Guild, www.ptg.org



Visit www.ptg.org for piano care and service information, a searchable list of Registered Piano Technicians in your area, free teaching materials, student activities and career information.