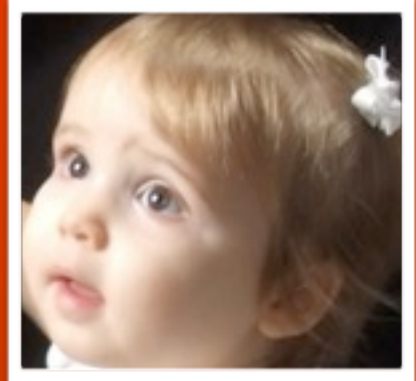


Highlights

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 - Home Ed Curriculum
 - Prenatal Devotionals
 - 50 Plus Program



[Click here to watch Student solo.](#)



Spring Recital was another incredible success. It is amazing how these young children can perform so beautifully! Above is a toddler class & one of our recent [Early Childhood Music®](#) graduates. Watch her perform. She was **one of many** incredible musicians performing.

Welcome to our first Perfect Praise, Inc. (PPI) online

newsletter. We've been planning this for years and have finally begun (thanks to the Lord and my new computer).

In each edition you can expect news and reviews from what is happening in various facets of PPI. Also, expect an article about the power and benefits of music for you, your children and/or grandchildren as well as exciting testimonies from time to time about those whose lives are being changed through the power of music. And we will offer you ideas and products that will enhance your family with



3 generations are being blessed by the power of music.

Music and the Wisdom of Solomon

by

Michael David Riggs

While walking and meditating one day I had a realization that the reason Solomon could ask for and receive such wisdom is that he was in an environment to facilitate wisdom, an environment of music.

The very word music contains the word “muse”, which means to think or meditate. King David, Solomon’s dad, had developed what is known as David’s Tabernacle. It was a place in which 4000 musicians kept music going continuously. The environment Solomon was raised in was an environment of music and thinking. This resulted in wisdom. This desire for wisdom made Solomon intrigued by wisdom and caused him to seek more of it. He asked God for wisdom and was granted that desire.

Would this have happened if his environment were not

one of music? I contend that it would not have.

Psalm 49:4 says that it is to music that we will come to understand hard questions and solve problems. One of the words used in this verse to describe those problems is “proverb”. Yes, proverb-the same word used to name the book of wisdom in the Bible, the book Solomon wrote. Both uses of “proverb” come from the same root Hebrew word as well.

Proverbs chapter one describes this book as having been given so that we may come to know wisdom. Psalm 49:1 tells us that it is by music that one draws near and gains understanding of a proverb. Actually, one of the root meanings of the Hebrew word “proverb” is “that which requires a superiority of mental action”, according to Strong’s Concordance.

Do you want wisdom? Change your environment into a musical environment. It worked for Solomon. It also worked for Albert Einstein.

Do you want your children to be filled with wisdom. Incorporate music into their environment. Let them play music and participate in it. And, of course, it goes without saying, that we believe that the best time to enhance children with music is in their preschool years while their brains are still wiring. We’ve seen this demonstrated now with 1000’s of our students since 1998.

Music’s benefits last a lifetime. When you provide musical opportunities for your children or grandchildren you are enhancing them for the rest of their lives.

Invest in their futures by pouring music into them *now*.

Right Brain...Left Brain...Or One Mind?!?

by

Denie Riggs



Albert Einstein's fifth grade teacher informed his parents that Albert was "stupid" and incapable of learning. His teacher recommended they remove him from school and place him in a workhouse. *And they did!* Yet Albert was later seen as the most brilliant man of the last century. What happened?

When asked to write the *Declaration of Independence* of the United States, Thomas Jefferson struggled to find the right words to express his heart. After many restless days and nights, *he gave up*. Yet we can hold in our hands an eloquently worded document penned by him. What happened?

In recent years, we hear a lot about right brain, left brain. Doctors tell us that the right hemisphere is that which controls the emotional part of our thinking while the left hemisphere controls logic and reasoning. The Bible doesn't mention right brain/left brain but says to have '*one mind*.' (II Corinthians 13:11, James 1:8:4:8)

The Bible also tells us many times to sing and make music to the Lord. The amazing part is that when we are obedient to this command, *we* are the benefactors. Scientists already knew that having documented that music links the right/left hemispheres of the brain thereby creating '*one mind*.' The trunk linking the hemispheres is

thicker in musicians than in non-musicians. This thicker brain trunk represents higher learning circuitry.

Imagine your child's brain as a 3-D dot-to-dot picture, as one source suggests. The dots represent neurons waiting to be connected by new pathways of information called neural bridges. Each time your child's mind is stimulated, either new neural bridges are formed or pre-existing ones are strengthened. The more bridges formed or strengthened, the more the intellect will be developed. The opposite is also true.

When a person from age six to eighty participates in musical activities, their "*one mind*" (left brain/right brain flowing together) lasts for four or five hours, formatting their brain for orderly storage/retrieval of information.

When a child under the age five participates in musical activities their "*one mind*" lasts *for the rest of their life* because neural wiring is taking place. This "*one mind*" gives the brain function enhancement that permits higher learning and reasoning skills; resulting in enhanced abilities in math, reading and science...the big subjects that academically contribute to successful lives.

Babies have trillions of neurons wiring from time of conception to age five. *Newsweek* magazine (February 19, 1996) speaks of these connectors in a special issue called "*Your Child's Brain—How Kids Are Wired For Music, Math and Emotions*," "Some (neuron connectors) come 'hard-wired' like those that command breathing or heartbeat. The rest are like...chips in a computer before (loaded with) software. They are pure and have **infinite potential** as unprogrammed circuits."

Pediatric neurobiologist Dr. Harry Chugani of Wayne State University says, "Early experiences are so powerful they can completely change the way a person turns out." He based this comment on scientific research and first-hand musical experiences with his child.

(cont. on page 5)

PPI News

Really exciting things are happening at Perfect Praise, Inc. Denie's brain (and heart) is still in ultra creative mode. In the last two years she has begun two new programs.

50 Plus Piano is a program for seniors to learn to play piano and to enhance their mental, social, emotional and physical health. We have already had several classes participate in the 50 Plus program. Seniors love it. They learn to play piano, using simple play music first. They have lots of social interaction and fun. They also receive the amazing benefits of music to enhance their brains and bodies. If you have questions about our 50 Plus program please email Denie at msdenie@earlychildhoodmusic.net.

Music 4 Me is our newest program. It is a special needs program and we are seeing AWESOME results with it. Many of our students who were non-verbal are now speaking and they are all playing piano. If you have questions about Music 4 Me, again, email Denie... msdenie@earlychildhoodmusic.net.

Prenatal Emails are now part of our **redesigned** our **prenatal website**. Expectant parents may now register to receive emails encouraging them to impart to their baby in utero. This site also

features our complete prenatal curriculum, consisting of the "Give Them The Best Start" music stimulation manual, two CD's to help create prenatal memories in your baby and help to soothe mom and baby now and after delivery. It also includes "Charting Your Baby's Destiny", our prenatal prayer journal. Please visit us at www.prenatalmusic.net.

Home Educator's edition is on the way. We are *very excited* to announce our **newest curriculum**. We are putting all of our very successful preschool piano program on DVD for use at home. This is a long sought after answer to expansion of our Early Childhood Music® program. Not only can parents at home now teach their young children to play piano using our program, but those desiring to use this curriculum in a classroom setting as we do here in North Alabama will find it an excellent training tool. We debuted this curriculum in the Nashville, TN Home Educator's curriculum fair in May, and we will be a part of the upcoming fairs in Knoxville, TN June 26-27 and Chattanooga July 24-25. We hope to see some of you at these events.

We are in the process of developing a much more efficient e-commerce site. While our current online

www.perfectpraiseproducts.com is somewhat effective, it has many deficiencies. We are developing a **brand new online store** that will have the full catalogue of our products available for purchase and will also be accessible internationally. We should easily be able to announce our new stores web address soon.

Our **Spring Recitals** were a huge success. Approximately 300 of our students performed to happy parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters and friends. Performance opportunities are so vital for many reasons. Public performances for young children develop a confidence level in them that enables them to express themselves to and lead audiences all their lives. Also, there is an enormous level of joy families receive because of these events... joy is to be something we experience on a regular basis. Children who are encouraged to pursue and achieve, then demonstrate those achievements, have a high level of self esteem. This is especially true in the arts. And most importantly, the Father is pleased, glorified and exalted when we participate in music publicly in His honor and in His presence. Thank you PPI students, parents and grandparents for all your hard work toward our Spring events.

Right Brain...Left Brain...Or One Mind?!?

(cont...)

Music lessons centered on piano with singing have been shown in scientific research study after another to give the highest brain function enhancement.

A dilemma lies in “old school” thinking that preschoolers are incapable of playing. Whereas music research shows convincingly that by age seven the window of opportunity for music training to permanently produce this ‘*one mind*’ are closed.

In other words, piano is the number one instrument for “*one mind*” enhancement, but private sessions in preschool are rarely effective and most often frustrating.

Here are some musical ideas depending on the age of your child...

- ♪ While private sessions are too structured for preschool children, *group* music class that includes movement, parents, rhythm instruments, singing and

piano are very effective from age 3 months up.

- ♪ Group music class with fast-paced format allows for short attention spans and incorporates the power of group dynamics.
- ♪ Mom’s singing voice has been shown to achieve the highest brain function in prenatal babies.
- ♪ Listening to Baroque classical music around 60-70 beats per minute has great benefit for all ages.
- ♪ For adults and children beyond age 7, music has great short-term benefit. Piano practice time should be in the morning to enjoy enhancement for the next 4-6 hours.

Oh! Remember Albert and Thomas? Albert Einstein’s father later gave him a violin. Whenever stumped while working on a formula, the answer would come to him while playing his violin.

Albert, in his later years contributed his abilities to music, as it unlocked his right-side dominated brain. Amazing!

Thomas Jefferson, at the point of total frustration, wrote his wife requesting that she send his violin to him. The landlord under his office in Philadelphia states that she would hear Thomas pacing. Then she would hear music from his violin followed by silence. After playing music, Thomas was able to write the foundational doctrine for our government, so eloquently worded and complete.

Right brain + left brain + early piano study = ‘*one mind.*’

Come on kids, let’s make music!

Denie is founder of Early Childhood Music® & has taught piano for 45 years. She and her husband, Michael, have five children and seven grandchildren. They oversee four local Early Childhood Music schools and serve as consultants for several others.

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