

# Oakland University

## Early Childhood Music & Piano Readiness Classes

*Share a lifetime love of music with your children in our Music Preparatory program. These classes are designed to create a fun and educational musical environment in which children are invited to explore and create. From the youngest to the oldest, children have opportunities to develop musical understandings that will support continued growth throughout their lives. Children will sing, move, listen to music, play instruments, laugh, and share the fun!*

### Early Childhood Music

(Infant-age 3)(Class size 4-12) Your child will explore instruments, sounds and movement in this engaging, interactive class. Parents must participate in class with their children. Your child is ready for this class if he or she meets the following developmental guidelines:

**Infant (Up to age 1)** Must be able to sit with little help, roll from back to stomach, change position without falling, creep and crawl

**Toddler (1-year-olds)** Must be able to pull self up to stand, walk with/without support

**Kids (2- and 3-year-olds)** Must be able to walk upstairs, recognize familiar pictures, ask for items by name, verbalize toilet needs

### Drum Circle

(Ages 3 and up)(Class size 4-13) Children love exploring the foundations of rhythm by using African drums and a variety of percussion instruments. We now offer two versions of this popular new class:  
*Family Drum Circle* - Designed for children ages 3 and older, with their parents  
*Youth Drum Circle* - Brings children ages 8-12 together in a rhythm ensemble

## Small Group Lessons

### Piano Readiness

(Ages 4-7)(Class size 3-5) Is your child interested in taking piano lessons? Make sure to prepare for the greatest possible level of success with this class! Parent participation with child is recommended.

### Studio Piano

(Ages 8 - 13)

### Elementary Voice Class

(Ages 8-10)

These small classes enhance your child's study of piano and vocal music with support from teachers and other students.

## Why choose our Children's Program?

We create an optimal experience by combining *complete involvement, concentration, and enjoyment.*

Children learn in an environment that encourages *exploration, collaboration and creative expression.*

We are about more than music!  
Children also *learn intuitive thinking* and how to take *a creative approach* to problem-solving.

Imagine your child on stage in a *professional performance space!*  
Children have opportunities to present their talents in Varner Recital Hall.

### Music Preparatory Division

**Director** Bibianne Yu

**Instructor** Shinko Kondo

### Music Preparatory Division Office

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## Teaching for Musical Understanding

The Teaching for Musical Understanding (TMU) approach is based on a constructivist vision of learning and teaching – a learner-centered approach. As learners engage in musical experiences, they construct their own understanding of the music and of the experiences. The more they understand, the greater their capacity for exploring and enjoying music in their lives.

Learning is a social process and the TMU approach embraces this aspect of life as well. The early childhood programs provide opportunities for children to learn music in collaborative settings. Learners benefit greatly from interacting with peers as part of the learning process. In our TMU classes, children make music and experience music together, supporting one another and sharing ideas throughout their experiences.

The experiences are exciting, engaging, enjoyable, and beneficial. They lay the groundwork for more advanced musical study and for a lifetime of valuing and enjoying music.



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**Department of  
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# Music Preparatory Division

*A vibrant place to nurture a  
life-long love of music.*



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