



Red Grammer is coming!
Red Grammer is coming!

What makes MFMI special?

- Is it our **Docents** who put countless hours of lesson preparation to enrich children's lives?
- Is it our **partnerships** with organizations like **Fremont Bank** and **Adobe** who support us through their generous donations to keep music alive in the classrooms?
- Is it the **classroom teachers** at the schools we serve that give us the opportunity to come into their classrooms for 1/2 hour each week to teach music to their students?
- Or, is it the **MFMI Board, School Liaisons, and Staff** that work behind the scenes to make this all a reality?

Actually, it is **all of the above!** There is a spirit and enthusiasm in MFMI that began and continues to permeate our program and enables us to be successful because of amazing parents and community volunteers who step forward and commit to bringing music to children because they believe in our mission. However, without the support of the MFMI central organization, the schools we serve, and local and corporate funding sources, we would not be able to touch the hearts of children with song in their most formative years and help empower them for a lifetime.

As we embark upon our **26th year of service**, MFMI once again raises the level of awareness of the **value and need for quality music** in the schools and community for the betterment of families, society, and our world. And what a way to kick-off the New Year and **National Music in the Schools Month - a RED GRAMMER CONCERT!** Don't miss this exciting event on **Saturday, March 1st** as there is nothing like a live **Red Grammer concert** where everyone joins in the musical fun in the audience and onstage. **Red is coming and "Hooray for the World!"** Mark your calendars and gather your family and friends of all ages to welcome this Grammy Nominee children's recording artist and former lead singer with the Limelites, to his only East Bay performance this year! Our goal is to have 1000 people attending and you will want to be one of them! Our musical year is also filled with a dance "funshop" in March, library musical hours for the community, Family Music Nights at school sites, recruitment booths at local community events and schools, and spring performances provided by our wonderful MFMI volunteer music docents who provide unforgettable performance opportunities for their students at their schools and in the community.

MFMI welcomes many more **Friends of MFMI** as **docents, board members, school liaisons, sponsors and donors**, in our mission of making **"Music, Magic, and Memories"** for **many more children in need.** Join us and make your own!

Carol Zilli

MFMI Executive Director/Founder
Docent Training Teacher - Fremont



Our Mission

To **NURTURE** the love of music in children and **DEVELOP** musical literacy through **INSTRUCTION, PARTICIPATION, and PERFORMANCES**

Upcoming Events

Jan-Feb: Library Musical Hours

Mar 1: Red Grammer Family Fundraiser Concert at 2pm

Mar 19: Dance Workshop 7 - 9pm

37141 Second Street
Fremont, Ca 94536
510-733-1189

www.musicforminors2.org
MFMI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit

Join us on facebook
www.facebook.com/MusicForMinorsII

BOARD BIZ

I am honored to be serving as the **President of the Music for Minors II Board**. This is a great group of people and a great cause. To those who attended the December Holiday Celebration, we certainly had a great time. To those who missed it, we missed you.

Music has been a vital part of my life forever. In my younger days, Sunday morning meant my piano lesson with my Julliard-trained pianist father and Thanksgiving meant it was time to get out the Christmas music and get ready for our family Christmas Eve performance. Those opportunities don't present themselves anymore, so...I am thrilled to be involved with MFMII.

Music helps children (and adults) learn all sorts of skills; math, language and expression. Maybe most importantly, it builds self-confidence and self-awareness. Music for Minors II is bringing that advantage to children every day. There is nothing better or more important.

Thank you all for doing what you do and let's have a most successful 2014.



Elise Balgley
Board President

When my children first started attending elementary school three years ago, I was stunned to learn that they did not have even one period in the whole week given to music. **Children with no music?** It seemed too strange to believe. Now, I did not have the good fortune to receive music lessons growing up, nor have I ever learned how to play an instrument (though I do try!), but I have vivid and fond memories of music being taught at school by our classroom teacher. Every year we would have a school concert and parents in the audience would beam with pride seeing their kids up on stage singing their hearts out.



When I discovered Music for Minors II, I was thrilled that there existed a way to fill the void of musical education in our schools, and I signed up without hesitation. After a year as a docent, I know that what we offer to the children truly enriches their experience at school, brings a smile to their faces and augments their learning in other subject areas.

I am thrilled to be a new member of the Music for Minors II Board to further support an organization that is so necessary to all the children we serve and I am looking forward to an exciting year ahead starting with the incomparable Red Grammer in concert as our single fundraiser on March 1! Round up your friends, spread the word, sell some tickets and let's get this party started! I look forward to seeing you at the concert and wish you all the very best in your teaching for the remainder of the school year.

Melinda Mawson
Board Vice President

WORKSHOPS AND CONCERTS



October of 2013 marked a first for MFMII as we sponsored renowned concert pianist, **Jeffrey Chappell**, who inspired us all in his “Music Everybody” seminar. Jeffrey enabled each of us to discover the music within us through improvisation and creative play and to help children to do the same. Jeffrey also gifted us with his amazing musical talent on the grand piano. It was an inspirational session for all.

Red Grammer is coming! Red Grammer is coming! Red Grammer is coming! Red Grammer is coming! Red Grammer is coming!



Music for Minors II is proud to present **Red Grammer** in an unforgettable fundraising family concert. Join us on March 1st at 2pm at Harbor Light to welcome Red.

Red Grammer is one of the foremost entertainers of children and families in America. He has been described by Parent’s Magazine as “the best voice in children’s music” and his album *Teaching Peace* was named by The All Music Guide as “one of the top five children’s recordings of all time”.

A magnetic and playful performer, Red inspires and connects with children, parents and teachers around the world with songs that remind us of the best in all of us. His live concerts are unforgettable and fun.

Sing along with Red as he takes us on a magical musical journey. Watch the children from some of the schools that we serve perform uplifting and fun songs on stage with Red Grammer for a thrill of a lifetime and a memorable experience.

Don’t miss this exciting opportunity to see one of the most beloved children’s recording artists who continues to inspire all of us through his Character building songs and his beautiful melodies.

Remember, this is the only fundraiser that MFMII will be doing this year. Help us keep music in the schools. Attend the concert and get ready to be thoroughly entertained. See the flyer in this newsletter for all of the details.



LIBRARY MUSICAL HOURS

The library musical hours are free events open to the public and will feature Red Grammer songs. So, bring your family and friends as new docent Henry Call and Carol Zilli share Red's fantastic songs.

Date/Time

Location

Saturday, January 25 / 11:00 - 12pm

Castro Valley Library, Chabot Room

Saturday, February 8 / 10:00 - 11:00am

Fremont Main Library, Fukaya Room A

Saturday, February 8 / 1:00 - 2:00pm

Newark Library, Meeting Room

DOCENT CORNER

TRAINING

Cheers for Volunteers! Hats off to our 33 graduates in our fall docent training classes who are now sharing music with hundreds of children in local schools who would not have had music in their curriculum.

Carol Zilli and Sandy Shimkus (training teachers) along with Rose Godfrey (training assistant) welcomed 20 new docents from the Fremont training class and 13 new docents from the Castro Valley training class. It was a magical time getting to know these wonderful new docents and it is exciting to know that because of them 1000 or more children will now get to experience the joy of music.

MFMII welcomes new schools to our program: Milani Elementary, Newark Unified; Martin Elementary, South San Francisco, FUSD State Pre-School at Grimmer Elementary and Mission Valley Elementary, Fremont Unified, and Castro Valley Elementary, Castro Valley along with other Extended Day Care Centers in Pleasanton and Dublin whose teachers we trained.



Carol Zilli and Sandy Shimkus (Training Teachers)



Fremont Training Class



Castro Valley Training Class

THANK YOU ROSE GODFREY

A special thank you goes out to Rose Godfrey who has been the Docent Training Assistant (DTA) in Castro Valley for many years. This was her last year in that position and it is going to be extremely hard to fill her shoes. She was and continues to be an inspiration to all of us. She is still with the MFMII family as a Liaison Coordinator and Docent in Castro Valley so we are fortunate that we can still count on her to be there when needed.



Rose with two of our Castro Valley Graduates (Desiree and Henry)

DOCENT HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES

Our thanks to our docents who prepared their students for holiday performances which made lasting musical memories for children who shared their talents with others. For many children whose parents cannot afford private music lessons, their MFMII experience may be their only music exposure ever. Often a single musical experience can open a young soul to music for a lifetime. Following is a sample of our docents in action:

- Some of our new **EDCC** docents directed the children in the shows: “Paint the Town December” and “Kookaburra’s Christmas Down Under”. Congratulations Lisa, Amy, Vanessa, Danielle and Laura.
- Veteran docents at **Hirsch** Elementary in Fremont worked with new docents to direct the Hirsch students in a Holiday Show. Congratulations to Suzy, Danling, Keiko and Sunny for a spectacular performance.
- Veteran Docents at **Palomares** Elementary in Castro Valley directed their students in a winter show at the San Leandro Performing Arts Center. Great job Sarah, Eri and Dawn.
- One of our new docents directed the students to sing a song at a Holiday show at **Niles** Elementary in Fremont. Great job Angeline.

DOCENT RECOGNITION

We have many talented docents who each bring their unique ideas and creativity to the MFMII organization. One such docent is Liz Baker or Grammie Liz, as she is affectionately called at Chabot Elementary school in Castro Valley. Liz continues to amaze us with her ability to bring joy, fun and inspiration to children and other docents.

Making the Curriculum Connection: Liz wasn’t always a music docent. She was raised on a farm and when she tells children about the animals she grew up with, they are mesmerized. During Thanksgiving time, Liz shares stories of her great-grandfather who moved to America from Switzerland with nothing. Taking a cue from the wonderful song by Charlotte Diamond: “When I First Came to This Land”, she tells the children about her great-grandfather who walked up and down California until he found a place with cows. All he knew was how to milk cows and he worked hard milking and raising cows until he could own his own farm. *Liz’s story has inspired many students to ask their parents about their ancestry and through song, they now understand how hard people need to work to survive and make a difference.*



*Liz Baker and Terry Hoops
(Chabot Elementary School Principal)*

Music Inspiration: Liz has always loved music and she credits some of this love with “a wonderful” elementary school music teacher who let her play four different instruments. Liz has always wanted children to have the same experience that she had. As she continued onto high school, however, she was not able to pursue her musical passion because *there was no music in high school.*

Teaching and volunteering: Liz went on to college and was trained as a teacher with a specialty in grammar and natural science. She never taught music until 40 years ago when her own children were in “grade” school. *After she discovered that her children did not have music in school, she bought a guitar and started*

volunteering to teach songs to all of the students in all of the grades at the school. After her children left “grade” school she went back to work, and when her grand-daughter started in Kindergarten at Chabot Elementary in Castro Valley, *she discovered once again that there was no music in the schools.* She started teaching music as a volunteer, and it was during this time that she found out about the Music for Minors II program from a docent in her choir. *She took the training class and discovered a whole new world of music.* She had no idea how much information, materials, support and guidance she would receive. Now instead of just singing songs with the children, she is actually teaching them music theory. The children’s recording artists that were introduced to her through the training class have allowed her to reach more children in new and exciting ways.

Why teach Music Theory? With Liz’s newly found passion for music theory, she realizes more than ever how important it is to start teaching music to children at a young age. Liz believes that *“if we don’t start teaching our children music theory in kindergarten, it’s like waiting to teach reading until a child is in 5th grade”.*

Docenting: Liz has been a docent since 2010 and this year she is teaching six kindergarten and first grade classes. She plays the guitar and the ukulele in the classroom and has tried her hand at many other instruments. She loves bringing instruments into the classroom for the children to explore. Her students have tried the violin and the trumpet and have learned the proper way to hold a drumstick and *practice their beat/rhythm patterns on computer mouse pads donated through Liz’ creative efforts.* They have also played many other percussion instruments and are learning how to read music through the *MFMI’s “Melody Midgets-Rhythm Band” series.* Her first graders are playing boomwhackers and reading music that uses quarter and eighth notes. They will be learning chords soon. *Liz wants every child to have a chance to pick up and play the instrument of their choice. She also says that “some of the most brilliant people are also musicians” so we owe it to the children to help them achieve greatness and music can do that.*

Most memorable moment: “There are so many”. Last week was a first when she taught the Red Grammer song “Wimoweh” to 4th graders and had three part percussion instruments and three groups singing separate ostinatos. When she attempted to do something like this many years ago she was not able to do it. With her new understanding of beat and rhythm, she is now able to prepare a more well-rounded lesson for student success.



Congratulations Liz!

School and District recognition: On January 30, 2014 Liz was recognized by the Castro Valley Unified School District Governance Team "for starting and expanding the Music for Minors II program at her school and her unwavering dedication to the Chabot Elementary School Community." The certificate is signed by the board members and the superintendent. Liz said: “I was pleased that all but 1-2 teachers in the school were present and gave me a standing ovation. WOW!”

Why Liz is a docent: “Two reasons; *1.Children will not have music in school if we don’t take it upon ourselves to make sure it happens. 2. Everyone needs good strokes and I get more good strokes teaching these kids. I love them and they love me. The feedback from the kids is wonderful. They love me because they love music and I am the one fortunate enough to teach it to them. What else in this world can you do that brings you hugs from so many beautiful children?”*

Sandy Shimkus
Docent Training Teacher - Castro Valley
Docent Training Assistant – Fremont
Docent Training Coordinator
Docent Manager/Mentor
Docent – Gomes Elementary School

LIAISON CORNER

THANK YOU, CASTRO VALLEY LIAISONS!

It takes busy people to get things done, and I would like to thank the following busy people who have agreed to be a School Liaison in Castro Valley:

Returning Liaisons: Heidi Morgan from Stanton Elementary.

New Liaisons: Sara Rudman from Castro Valley Elementary, Ann D'Antonio from Chabot Elementary, Kaori Schneider from Jensen Ranch Elementary, Sarah Liebowitz from Palomares Elementary, Jenna Tavare from Vannoy Elementary, Francesca Anderson, Martin Elementary in South San Francisco.

I look forward to working with these super ladies. As a School Liaison, they are asked to be the glue that binds together the efforts of the Music for Minors II organization, their school, and the docents of their school! Hats off to you, ladies, and let's have a great 2014!



Rose Godfrey
Castro Valley Liaison Coordinator
Docent Training Assistant
Docent - Vannoy School

EVENTS

HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN POTLUCK

MFMI celebrated the end of its 25th year of service at our holiday party in December at the home of Docent Manager and Training Coordinator, **Sandy Shimkus**. Our thanks to **Steve Cho**, MFMI Advisory Council member, who joined in the festivities along with our great docents and board members and their families. There's nothing like singing those holiday favorites with mutual friends of the arts in such a beautiful, warm setting.

IN OTHER NEWS

A holiday sing along in December with the Soroptimist Club led by **Carol Zilli** was also a December highlight, especially playing Name That Tune with holiday favorites. Carol met a former MFMI docent and board member there from many years past.

THANK YOU!!!

Happy 50th Anniversary Fremont Bank!

Music for Minors II salutes you and congratulates you on your fantastic milestone! You certainly have proven that you are a community bank that is always focused on the community you serve. Your generosity and kindness to countless nonprofits has certainly made a monumental difference in their success stories, especially that of Music for Minors II. We are most grateful for your support over the years and especially for your wonderful surprise donation to MFMII in the amount of \$5,000 this week! We are humbled and most thankful for the trust you have placed in our program and its mission as we embark upon our 26th year of service to children in musical need.

Music for Minors II wishes you another successful 50 years and more as you are a model of charitable giving at its best.



F FREMONT BANK
FOUNDATION
Sharing with the Community

Adobe Does it Again!

Adobe gifted MFMII once again with its annual donation. Our thanks for their support because of the docenting of veteran docent Jennifer Apy, a company employee and an excellent MFMII docent at Azevada School in Fremont. MFMII continually seeks corporate and local business support for our training program and fundraising events as we partner more and more with like-minded community groups.





**Music for Minors II
Proudly Presents
a Family Fundraiser Concert**

Grammy Nominee

Red Grammer



Join us at **Harbor Light**

4760 Thornton Avenue, Fremont, CA 94536

Saturday

March 1, 2014 at 2pm

Tickets ages 3 & up: \$12 per person in advance, \$14 at the door
Group Rate (20 or more, advance purchase only): \$10 per person

Red Grammer's glorious voice, award-winning songwriting and thoughtful commitment to the best in all of us endear him to parents and educators everywhere. But ultimately it is his irrepressible sense of play and genuine love and respect for children that make his songs of oneness, character, conflict resolution, and community so beloved by kids all across the globe.

Advanced purchase recommended:

- ❖ By E-MAIL (sharon.filippi@sbcglobal.net)
- ❖ By PAYPAL (musicforminors2@gmail.com)
- ❖ By PHONE (call 510 - 733-1189)
- ❖ By MAIL (MFMI, 37141 2nd St., Fremont, CA 94536)

Proceeds benefit MFMI, a 501-3(c) non-profit providing music education in classrooms since 1988 through trained docents who nurture the love of music in children

🎵 www.musicforminors2.org 🎵



Dance! Dance! Dance!

JOIN US - One and All!

MFMI: Docents and their classroom teachers, Liaisons, Board, Staff, Advisory Council, and School Principals.

Community-at-large: Non-MFMI Classroom teachers, College Students, Seniors, Retired Teachers, Relatives and Friends of Children and the Arts

*Come and learn how to share musical movement
and folk dances with children.*



<http://www.musicforminors2.org>

presents

Jo-Ann Fread Dance Workshop

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

7 – 9 p.m.

Warwick Elementary School Auditorium
3375 Warwick Rd, Fremont, CA

Jo-Ann Fread is a gifted mentor dance teacher and retired kindergarten teacher who taught over 30 years in FUSD. She is also the founder of Star-Brite Children's Theater which provided an opportunity for children to perform and learn how to present theatrical productions in the Tri-City area for several years. She continues to be active at Warwick Elementary School working with students and providing music enrichment for special events.

Workshop participants will have fun learning
while experiencing dance and movement from around the world.

Workshop is free to all MFMI Docents and their classroom teachers and principals as well as the MFMI Liaisons, Board, Staff and Advisory Council

Non-MFMI Participants: \$15.00 fee
(Includes Handouts)

R.S.V.P. 510-733-1189 or Email Sharon.filippi@sbcglobal.net



Help Children Learn the 4 "R"s

Reading - 'Riting - 'Rithmetic - **Rhythm!!**

Use **music** as a powerful teaching tool and join students in experiencing the joy of music!!

Help keep music in our schools and experience an exciting opportunity by becoming a Music for Minors II Docent!

Why train with Music for Minors II?

- ♪ Discover and share your love of music with children and make the music-curriculum connection in their classrooms!
- ♪ Access to resource centers filled with instruments, posters, and CDs
- ♪ A binder with over 300 songs for K-6, and CD's with 60+ songs
- ♪ Fun, hands-on sessions with adults who have the same love of children and music
- ♪ Connection with MFMII for continued support and shared tips from fellow docents

When and where is the training?

Mid-September through mid-November annually

FREMONT - Monday and Wednesday mornings
9:30-11:45 am. Fremont Adult School 4700 Calaveras Ave.

CASTRO VALLEY - Monday and Wednesday evenings,
7:00 - 9:15 pm. Castro Valley Adult School 4430 Alma Ave.



To apply and for more information:

Go to the MFMII website: www.musicforminors2.org
or call MFMII at 510-733-1189
or email at czilli@aol.com

Visit MFMII: www.facebook.com/MusicForMinorsII

Our mission as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization is:

"To nurture a lifelong love and literacy of music in children's classrooms and lives"