

WE LOVE ART

MAGAZINE

BY LAUREN MUSIC ACADEMY

COVER STORY

ELLIE SOPHIA

Little hands. Big possibilities.

FIRST
EDITION
ISSUE 01



A NEW SEASON BEGINS

Meet the teachers behind
our growing community

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER • ST. JUDE WALK
ABRSM • MIAMI CULTURE • MUSICAL GAMES

SEPTEMBER 2026



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FROM THE FOUNDER

Welcome to our first edition

Dear families,

Welcome to the very first edition of We Love Art Magazine—a new space created to celebrate the people, ideas and moments that make our artistic community so special.

This issue arrives with the energy of a new school year. Inside, you will find the joy of our summer recital, the inspiring progress of our youngest musicians, our growing ABRSM journey, cultural plans for the whole family and a first look at the projects already filling our classrooms with excitement.

Most of all, these pages celebrate our students. Their curiosity, discipline and courage remind us that art is not only something we perform; it is a way to connect, grow and discover who we can become.

Thank you for learning, creating and dreaming with us.

Lauren Conde Castillo

Founder & Director • Lauren Music Academy



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A NEW YEAR, MORE POSSIBILITIES

New projects, a growing school partnership and the joy of beginning again at Lauren Music Academy.

There is a special energy at the beginning of a school year: familiar faces return, new families join us, and the possibilities ahead begin to take shape. At Lauren Music Academy, we welcome this new chapter with enthusiasm, careful preparation and an exciting calendar of artistic projects.

This year, that excitement is already finding its way into rehearsals. Work has begun on *The Best Christmas Ever*, our Christmas production and our most ambitious project to date. Bringing music, theater and dance together gives our students a shared goal to work toward, with every rehearsal becoming an opportunity to listen, collaborate and grow.

Our plans for the stage are matched by an equally meaningful development in the classroom. For the third consecutive school year, we are returning to Saint Philip's Episcopal School with our enrichment programs, an expanded range of activities and three times as many registered students this year.

For our academy, this growing participation is a reason for celebration and a renewed responsibility. Behind each registration is a family placing its trust in our team. We begin the year determined to honor that trust through thoughtful teaching, engaging lessons and a welcoming place for children to explore the arts.



A warm welcome to a new year of music and discovery.

More students. More opportunities. The same care for every child.

GROWING TOGETHER AT SAINT PHILIP'S



THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

A continuing partnership in arts education.

THREE TIMES THE ENROLLMENT

This year's registered students in our Saint Philip's enrichment programs.

Our expanded offering includes Musical Theater, Music Initiation and Tiny Tunes, opening more doors for children to discover what they enjoy and how they like to express themselves.

From the first musical discoveries to the excitement of theatrical expression, these programs make room for curiosity. Our purpose is to give children meaningful opportunities to participate, try something new and enjoy the process of learning.

That work begins with our teachers. Their preparation, creativity and dedication help turn a growing program into a personal experience for each student. As we welcome more children, the quality of those everyday encounters remains at the heart of our plans.

Guided discovery at the keyboard: learning through attention, exploration and practice.

A SHARED BEGINNING

Thank you to Saint Philip's Episcopal School for welcoming us back, and to the families who continue to choose arts education as part of their children's lives. To our returning students and those joining us for the first time: welcome. We look forward to a year of discovery, steady progress and the happiness of creating something together.

SUMMER RECITAL 2026 / JUNE 7

FIVE RECITALS, ONE UNFORGETTABLE DAY

More than 200 students filled Palmer Trinity Chapel with music, movement and joy - bringing the school year to a beautiful close and welcoming the beginning of summer.

On June 7, Palmer Trinity Chapel became the setting for one of the most joyful days of our academy year. Across five recitals in a single day, more than 200 students stepped forward to share how much they had learned, how bravely they had grown and how beautifully they could express themselves through the arts.

The program celebrated the extraordinary variety of our community. Our youngest musicians from Mommy and Me and Music Initiation discovered the excitement of performing together. Ballet students brought grace and imagination to the stage, while singers and pianists filled the chapel with confidence, sensitivity and personality. Every recital had its own rhythm, yet all five shared the same spirit: children feeling proud of what they had accomplished.

Some students performed for the very first time; others returned to the stage with greater assurance and maturity. In every case, the applause celebrated much more than a polished performance. It honored the weekly lessons, the patient practice, the moments of courage and the quiet determination that made each appearance possible.

We could not be prouder of our students. They reminded us that a recital is not simply the end of a semester - it is a joyful record of growth, shared with the people who helped make that growth possible.



The Lauren Music Academy team at Summer Recital 2026.

200+ STUDENTS / 5 RECITALS / 1 DAY

**A celebration of courage,
progress and the joy of
making music together.**

EVERY AGE. EVERY ART. EVERY REASON TO BE PROUD.



Mommy and Me: first rhythms, shared with family.



Music Initiation students perform together.



A proud ballet moment with teacher and student.



Preparation, guidance and confidence at the piano.



Students of every level had their moment to shine.

WITH GRATITUDE

Behind every performance stood a dedicated teacher, a careful production team and a family ready to support every rehearsal and final bow.

To our families: thank you for trusting us with your children's artistic journeys and for filling each recital with encouragement.

To our sponsors: thank you for believing in arts education. Your generosity helped make this day possible and gave our students the stage they deserved.

Together, we closed the school year with gratitude and welcomed a summer full of new dreams.

SMALL HANDS, BIG POSSIBILITIES

At Lauren Music Academy, children as young as three discover that piano lessons can begin long before they can read - when teaching meets them at their own stage of development.

In Miami, Lauren Music Academy has become known as one of the relatively few music schools welcoming private piano students from the age of three. At the heart of the programme is the child-centred approach developed by pianist and educator Lauren Conde, a passionate advocate for early music education since 2013.

Conde believes that an early introduction to music can give children more time to develop listening, coordination, concentration, creativity and confidence. But she is equally clear that beginning early should never mean rushing a child or expecting every student to progress in the same way.



Ellie Sophia and her teacher beside the piano where her journey began.

“ Every child has a different rhythm. The method must adapt to the child - not the child to the method.

LAUREN CONDE | PIANIST & EDUCATOR

EVERY CHILD HAS A UNIQUE TEMPO

“Learning an instrument at a young age is absolutely possible, but success depends on many factors,” Conde explains. “It depends on the child's individual development, the teacher's preparation and methodology, and the patience and commitment of the family.”

Lessons for very young musicians are carefully adapted to what children can understand at that moment. Colour, movement, stories, singing, imitation and short musical challenges help transform an unfamiliar instrument into a place of discovery. Stickers can be an important temporary resource for children who do not yet read conventional notation or recognise numbers. They create a visual bridge - not a shortcut - until the child is ready for the next stage.

Realistic expectations are essential. One three-year-old may quickly remember keyboard patterns, while another may need more time to develop coordination or attention. Neither path is better. Comparison can turn music into pressure; patient consistency allows confidence to grow naturally.



Visual tools help make rhythm and notation meaningful at age three.

ELLIE SOPHIA'S “BIG-KID PIANO”

Ellie Sophia began lessons only four months ago. At first, sticker-guided keys helped her learn patterns before she could read music or recognise numbers. Today, she has already moved beyond that first support and proudly calls her new stage “the big-kid piano.” Her progress is not the result of a race. It reflects a partnership between student, teacher and family - built through regular lessons and patient encouragement.



One note, one colour and one meaningful moment of connection.

A FAMILY'S COMMITMENT

“Ellie's lessons are a priority. We drive for more than an hour every week, even in rain or storms. Sometimes she wakes up not wanting to get dressed - children have difficult days too. But as soon as she arrives, she is happy, enjoys every minute and later does not want to leave. We are so happy with her progress.”

ZUNY SANCHEZ | ELLIE SOPHIA'S MOTHER

THE FIRST NOTE IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

A first lesson may begin with a sticker, a story or a single key. With patient teaching and a family that keeps showing up, small hands discover that effort can become beauty - one note at a time.



A BETTER WAY TO HELP AT HOME

Practice Partner, Not Practice Police

Children grow when they feel supported, capable and heard. Your role is not to teach the lesson again - it is to make returning to the instrument feel possible and worthwhile.



1

Keep it short and predictable

A regular 10-15 minute routine can feel more manageable than one long session.

2

Ask before helping

Try: "What did your teacher ask you to notice here?" Let the child lead first.

3

Praise something specific

Notice a steady rhythm, careful hands, or one difficult measure improved.

4

Leave room to solve

A short pause gives children time to listen, think and correct themselves.

5

Make starting easy

Keep the instrument, music and pencil ready whenever possible. Fewer steps, less resistance.

6

Share useful observations

Tell the teacher what felt easy, frustrating or exciting so the next lesson can respond.

The goal is not a perfect practice session.

It is a child who feels ready to return tomorrow.

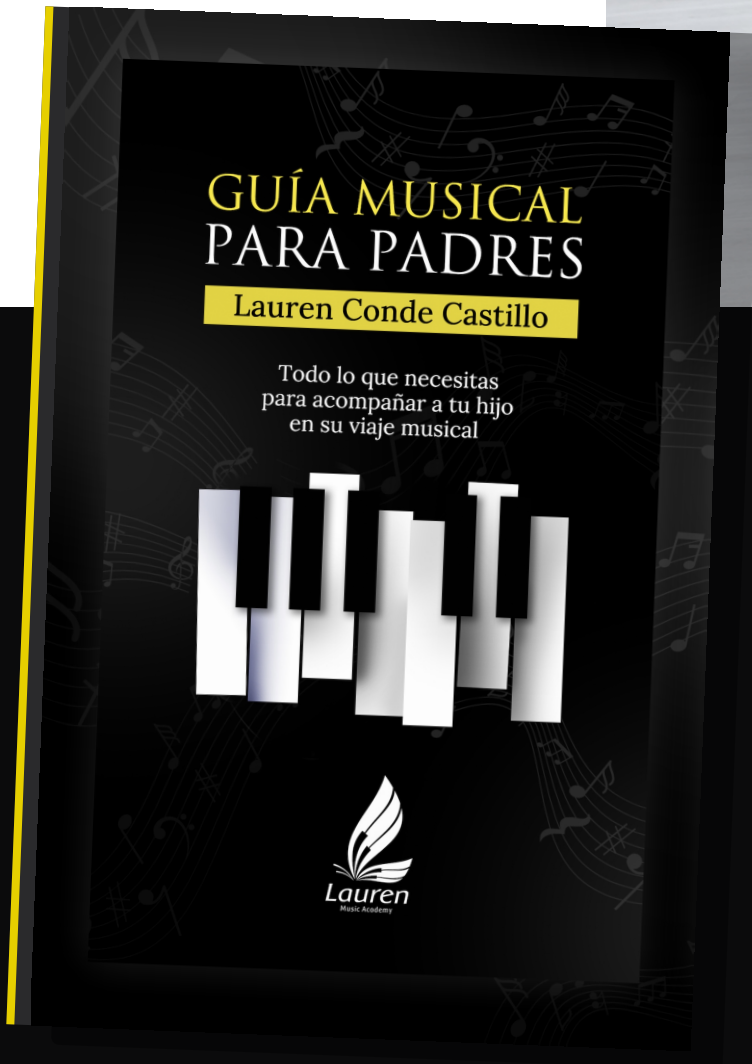




GUIDANCE FOR MUSICAL FAMILIES

Your support can transform their musical journey.

By Lauren Conde Castillo



A MUSICAL GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Everything you need to support your child on their musical journey.

A clear, approachable guide created to help families navigate music education and support every stage of learning with confidence.

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON
AND AT LAUREN MUSIC ACADEMY

Amazon search: Guía Musical para Padres — Lauren Conde Castillo

EXCELLENCE, NOTE BY NOTE

From Madrid to Miami, Lauren Music Academy's ABRSM journey has helped more than 300 candidates pursue internationally respected music qualifications - and a new generation is already preparing for November.

Last year marked an important chapter in the history of Lauren Music Academy: the academy became the first ABRSM examination centre in Miami. More than a new title, this achievement represents years of dedication to providing students with a structured, inspiring and internationally connected musical education.

The journey began in 2014, when Professor Lauren Conde first started working with the ABRSM learning pathway. Two years later, the academy began presenting students for ABRSM examinations in Madrid. Since then, the programme has continued to grow, crossing borders and opening new opportunities for young musicians.



Lauren Conde celebrates an ABRSM milestone with one of her students.

300+

CANDIDATES PRESENTED

100%

PASS RATE

A musical journey from Madrid to Miami



FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Since 2016, more than 300 candidates in Madrid and Miami have been presented for ABRSM examinations through the academy, with an outstanding 100% pass rate. In the most recent Miami session alone, more than 80 students took part. Behind every certificate is a personal story of discipline, perseverance and artistic growth: hours of practice, carefully chosen repertoire, challenges overcome and the confidence to perform before an examiner.

ABRSM - the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music - is one of the world's most established music examination boards. Its assessments are delivered in more than 90 countries and offer students a progressive pathway through different levels of musical development.

Depending on the instrument and examination, students may be evaluated on performance, technique, musical understanding, sight-reading and aural skills. This preparation encourages them to become more complete musicians - not simply to memorize a programme, but to understand, communicate and enjoy the music they perform.

PREPARING THE TEACHERS
WHO PREPARE THE ARTISTS

The academy's commitment to excellence also extends to its faculty. It has already hosted two special meetings bringing together teachers and examiners, as well as a professional-development course led by an ABRSM examiner. These sessions allowed teachers to review assessment expectations, study the examination process and explore new strategies for guiding students.

THE ROAD TO NOVEMBER

Students from different levels are now refining their repertoire, strengthening their technique and building the confidence required for the November session. For some, this will be a first formal music examination; for others, it is the next step through the ABRSM grades.

The goal goes far beyond passing. Preparation teaches students to set meaningful goals, manage practice time, respond to feedback and remain focused when facing a challenge. Higher-level ABRSM qualifications may also support academic recognition in certain systems; in the United Kingdom, Grades 6 to 8 can carry UCAS points for university applications.

Every lesson and carefully prepared piece brings these young artists closer to a new milestone - and to a lasting reminder of commitment, courage and excellent teaching.



Young musicians celebrate with their teachers.



Teachers gather after an ABRSM training session.



Academy representatives with an ABRSM examiner.



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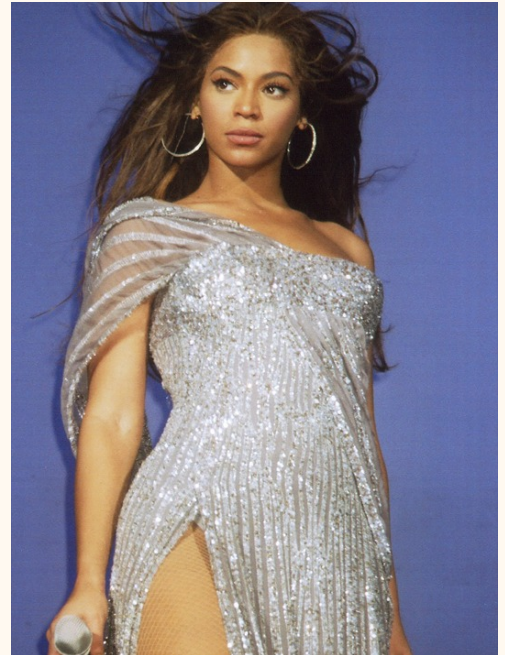
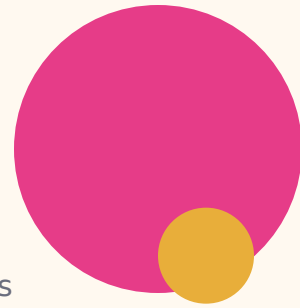


SEPT 18 | SEPT 19

To schedule your appointment,
please call **305.774.9878** or visit **STEINWAYMIAMI.COM/SALE**

SEPTEMBER'S MUSICAL BIRTHDAYS

A celebratory calendar of composers, singers, songwriters and performers born this month — from the concert hall to the world stage.



ONE MONTH • MANY GENRES • A WORLD OF MUSICAL STORIES

THE COMPOSERS

September connects musical worlds that seem centuries apart: Romantic symphonies, modernist experiments, minimalist stillness and the irresistible meeting of jazz and the concert hall.



CLARA SCHUMANN

SEPTEMBER 13, 1819

A celebrated pianist, composer and teacher whose concert career helped shape nineteenth-century musical life.



ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK

SEPTEMBER 8, 1841

The Czech composer who brought folk-inspired color and unforgettable melody to works including the “New World” Symphony.



GEORGE GERSHWIN

SEPTEMBER 26, 1898

A master bridge-builder between classical music, jazz and Broadway — forever linked to Rhapsody in Blue.

04

Anton Bruckner

1824

Austrian composer and organist; monumental symphonies and sacred choral music.

05

John Cage

1912

American experimental composer; silence, chance and the prepared piano.

08

Antonín Dvořák

1841

Czech Romantic composer celebrated for melody and folk-inspired rhythm.

11

Arvo Pärt

1935

Estonian composer known for his luminous tintinnabuli style.

13

Clara Schumann

1819

Virtuoso pianist, composer and influential musical voice.

13

Arnold Schoenberg

1874

Composer and theorist who transformed twentieth-century musical language.

21

Gustav Holst

1874

English composer best known for the orchestral suite The Planets.

25

Dmitri Shostakovich

1906

Russian composer of powerful symphonies, quartets and concertos.

26

George Gershwin

1898

American composer whose music joined jazz, theater and the concert hall.

LISTENING IDEA: Build a September playlist that begins with Dvořák, pauses with Cage, travels through Holst and ends in Gershwin's New York.

A MONTH FULL OF VOICES

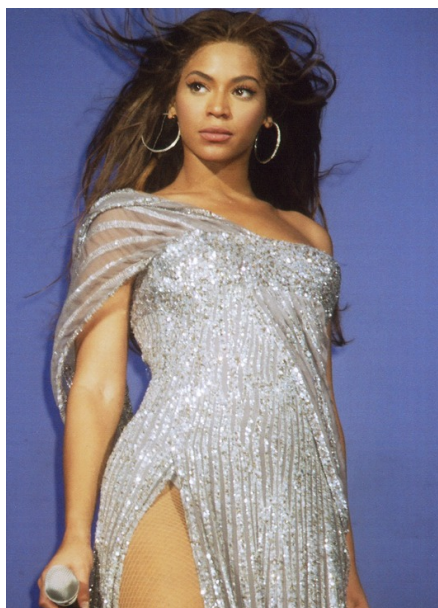
Latin pop, rock, soul, blues, jazz, hip-hop and contemporary pop all share September birthdays. Here is a broad, carefully checked selection to inspire a month of listening.

01 Gloria Estefan Latin pop 1957	12 Barry White Soul / R&B 1944	23 Ray Charles Soul / jazz 1930
04 Beyoncé Pop / R&B 1981	12 Jennifer Hudson Soul / R&B 1981	23 Julio Iglesias Latin pop 1943
05 Freddie Mercury Rock 1946	14 Amy Winehouse Soul / jazz 1983	23 Bruce Springsteen Rock 1949
06 Roger Waters Rock 1943	16 B.B. King Blues 1925	26 Olivia Newton-John Pop 1948
07 Buddy Holly Rock & roll 1936	19 Nile Rodgers Funk / disco 1952	27 Lil Wayne Hip-hop 1982
08 P!nk Pop rock 1979	21 Leonard Cohen Singer-songwriter 1934	27 Avril Lavigne Pop-punk 1984
09 Otis Redding Soul 1941	22 Andrea Bocelli Classical crossover 1958	28 Ben E. King Soul / R&B 1938
09 Michael Bublé Traditional pop 1975	22 Joan Jett Rock 1958	29 Jerry Lee Lewis Rock & roll 1935



GLORIA ESTEFAN
SEPTEMBER 1

A Cuban-American voice whose Miami sound helped carry Latin pop around the world.



BEYONCÉ
SEPTEMBER 4

A defining contemporary performer recognized for vocals, visual storytelling and ambitious live shows.



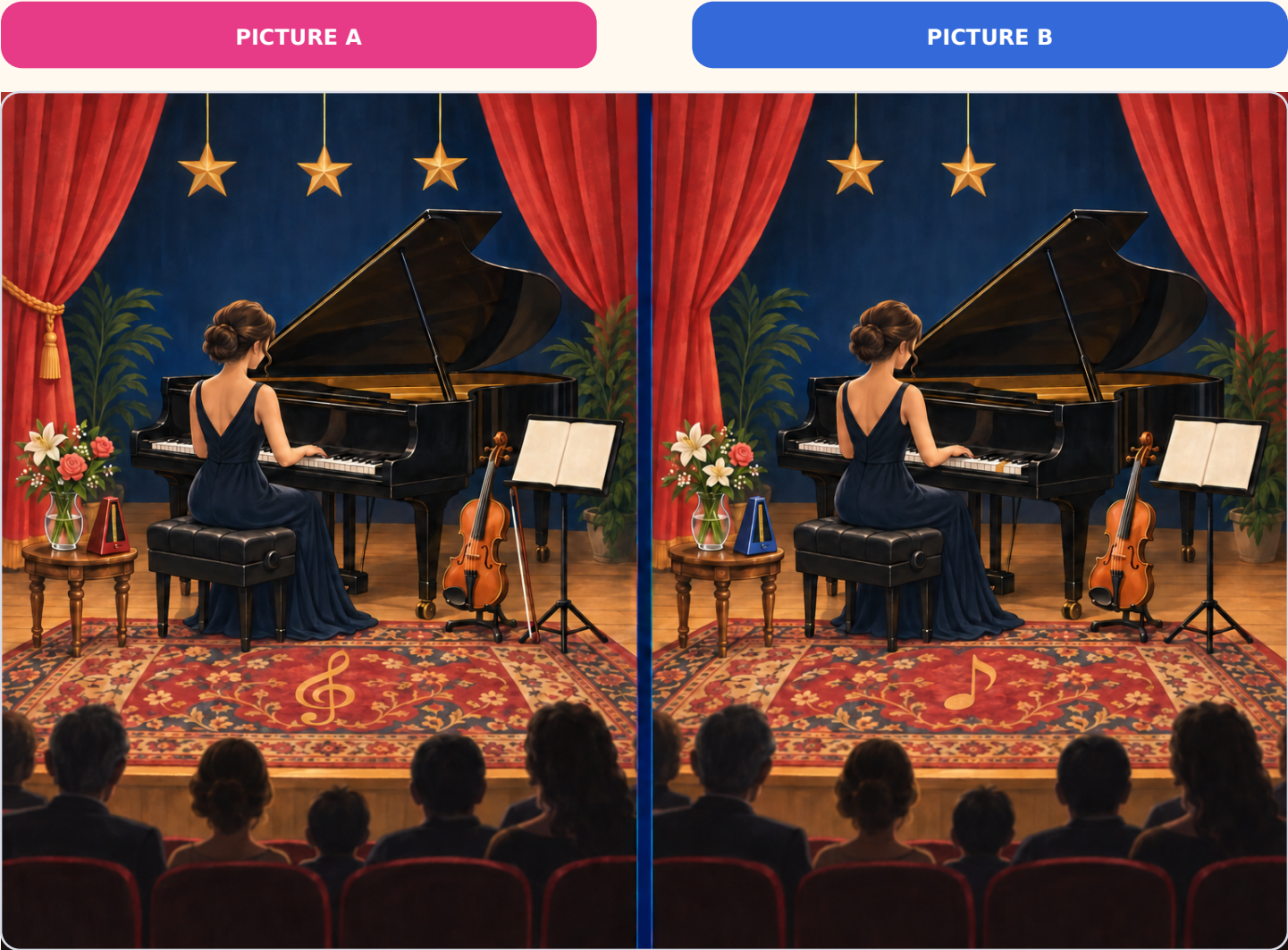
RAY CHARLES
SEPTEMBER 23

"The Genius" blended gospel, blues, jazz, country and R&B; into a language entirely his own.

FAMILY CHALLENGE: Choose one birthday each week, listen to three songs or works, and vote for the discovery you want to hear again.

FIND THE 7 DIFFERENCES

Look carefully at both recital scenes. Circle the seven details that changed. No musical training required - only sharp eyes!



FOUND ONE? MARK YOUR PROGRESS

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

Family challenge: Who can find all seven first - children or grown-ups?

ANSWERS: STAR • CURTAIN TIEBACK • FLOWER • METRONOME COLOR • VIOLIN BOW • GOLD PIANO KEY • RUG SYMBOL

Turn the page upside down only when you are ready to check!

HOW MUSICAL ARE YOU?

YOUR SCORE
____ / 12

Choose one answer for each question. Play individually or divide the family into teams. One point for every correct answer!

1 How many keys does a standard modern piano have?

- ☐ A 76
- ☐ B 80
- ☐ C 88
- ☐ D 96

2 In music, what does *allegro* usually mean?

- ☐ A Slow
- ☐ B Lively and fast
- ☐ C Very soft
- ☐ D Repeat

3 Who composed *The Four Seasons*?

- ☐ A Mozart
- ☐ B Bach
- ☐ C Vivaldi
- ☐ D Chopin

4 Which family does the trumpet belong to?

- ☐ A Strings
- ☐ B Woodwind
- ☐ C Percussion
- ☐ D Brass

5 Which symbol raises a note by one semitone?

- ☐ A Flat
- ☐ B Sharp
- ☐ C Rest
- ☐ D Tie

6 Who composed the ballet *The Nutcracker*?

- ☐ A Tchaikovsky
- ☐ B Beethoven
- ☐ C Debussy
- ☐ D Puccini

7 What is the lowest standard adult male voice?

- ☐ A Tenor
- ☐ B Alto
- ☐ C Bass
- ☐ D Soprano

8 What does *pianissimo* (pp) mean?

- ☐ A Very softly
- ☐ B Very loudly
- ☐ C Gradually faster
- ☐ D Detached

9 How many lines are on a standard musical staff?

- ☐ A Four
- ☐ B Five
- ☐ C Six
- ☐ D Seven

10 Which composer wrote *Rhapsody in Blue*?

- ☐ A Gershwin
- ☐ B Holst
- ☐ C Dvořák
- ☐ D Cage

11 Which artist recorded “*Conga*” with Miami Sound Machine?

- ☐ A Shakira
- ☐ B Gloria Estefan
- ☐ C Celia Cruz
- ☐ D Jennifer Lopez

12 What does a conductor usually use to guide an orchestra?

- ☐ A A bow
- ☐ B A mute
- ☐ C A baton
- ☐ D A capo

RESULTS • 10-12 MAESTRO | 7-9 ENCORE! | 4-6 GOOD RHYTHM | 0-3 KEEP LISTENING

ANSWER KEY: 1C • 2B • 3C • 4D • 5B • 6A • 7C • 8A • 9B • 10A • 11B • 12C

SEPTEMBER IN THE CITY

A curated month of music, art and unforgettable experiences across Greater Miami. Save the dates and always confirm availability with the venue before attending.

SEP

10

LIVE MUSIC

ILAN CHESTER: LEGADO

8:30 PM | KNIGHT CONCERT HALL

A musical journey through more than four decades of the Venezuelan singer-songwriter's celebrated career.

SEP

12

FAMILY ART

DOTS, WORDS & WONDER

11 AM-3 PM | PAMM | FREE

A creative Second Saturday inspired by John Baldessari, mixing language, symbols and hands-on art making.

SEP

12

IMMERSIVE

LASER EVENING

7-11 PM | FROST PLANETARIUM

Music by Bruno Mars, Gorillaz, Pink Floyd and Daft Punk transforms the planetarium dome with light and sound.

SEP

13

EXHIBITION

GET IN THE GAME - FINAL DAY

PAMM | MUSEUM HOURS

Last chance to experience the exhibition exploring the energetic meeting point of sports, art and culture.

SEP

14-16

CONCERT

ROSALIA: LUX TOUR

8:30 PM | KASEYA CENTER

Three Miami performances from one of today's most innovative Spanish artists and live performers.

SEP

17

OPENING

NEW EXHIBITIONS AT THE BASS

6-9 PM | THE BASS | RSVP

Opening reception for exhibitions by Yuko Mohri, Amalia Pica and Sarah Zapata. Complimentary admission with RSVP.

SEP

18

CONCERT

GORILLAZ: THE MOUNTAIN TOUR

7:30 PM | KASEYA CENTER

The acclaimed virtual band brings its inventive mix of music, animation and visual storytelling to Miami.

MAKE SEPTEMBER MEANINGFUL

Culture also lives in the moments when families create, learn and give back together. These selections combine discovery, imagination and community spirit.

SEP

26

ST. JUDE WALK - MIAMI

Lauren Music Academy invites students and families to walk together in support of the lifesaving mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

[JOIN THE LMA TEAM](#)

**St. Jude
Walk**

SEP

19

VOLUNTEER

COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

9-11 AM | VIRGINIA KEY

A hands-on volunteer effort to protect Miami-Dade waterways.

SEP

20

AGES 3-6

MINI-ME: FLORIDA FORESTS

10:30 AM-1 PM | RON EHMANN PARK

Nature walks, stories and activities for young explorers ages 3-6.

SEP

20

ART

ART AT THE STATION

1-3 PM | PAMM ART STATION

Art and conversation in a welcoming community setting.

SEP

24

COMMUNITY

BRUSHES WITH CANCER

6 PM | KNIGHT CONCERT HALL | FREE

Art collaborations honoring people whose lives have been touched by cancer.

SEP

26

FAMILY

ART STORYTIME

11 AM-12:30 PM | PAMM

Stories, close looking and art making for young museum visitors.

SEP

27

FAMILY DAY

COLLAGE WORLDS

2-4 PM | THE BASS

A family afternoon of imagination and hands-on collage.

SEP

29

BROADWAY

BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB

7:30 PM | ZIFF BALLET OPERA HOUSE

The Tony and Grammy Award-winning Broadway musical begins its Miami engagement with music, memory and the spirit of Havana.

AGES 8+ | TICKETS

Details may change. Check official venue websites for tickets, registration, age guidance and updated schedules.

ST. JUDE WALK / MIAMI / SEPTEMBER 26

EVERY STEP CARRIES HOPE

Lauren Music Academy invites our students and families to walk together in support of the children and families of St. Jude.



Lauren Music Academy's founders at a St. Jude benefit event.

At Lauren Music Academy, we believe that education also means helping young people discover the value of compassion, service and community. This September, we are turning that belief into a shared experience by forming our own team for the 2026 St. Jude Walk in Miami.

Our connection to St. Jude has grown through learning about its mission and supporting its benefit events. This year, we wanted to take another step - one that could include our students, their families, our teachers and friends. The purpose is simple: to stand together for children facing cancer and other life-threatening illnesses, and for the families walking beside them.

The St. Jude Walk takes place during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and brings communities across the country together in support of research, treatment and hope. It is a family-friendly event, and every pace is welcome. What matters is showing up, walking together and giving our children the opportunity to see that even a simple act can become meaningful when a community shares it.

**One morning. One team.
A purpose bigger than all of us.**



St. Jude Walk

St. Jude has helped raise the overall U.S. childhood cancer survival rate from 20% in 1962 to more than 80% today. Its research discoveries are shared to help children far beyond its own hospital.

Because of its supporters, families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food.

WALK WITH OUR ACADEMY AND MAKE THE MORNING MATTER



SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 26

MIAMI, FLORIDA

Miami-Dade County Fair
& Expo Center
10901 SW 24th St
Miami, FL 33165

6:30 AM Event opens
7:30 AM Opening ceremony
8:00 AM Walk begins

WHY WE ARE WALKING

For families facing a serious childhood illness, ordinary life can change in an instant. St. Jude works so that the cost of care does not become another burden, while its doctors and scientists continue pursuing better treatments and cures.

Joining the walk is one way to help sustain that work. It is also a chance to teach our students that community is built through presence: by giving time, inviting others and choosing to care.

We warmly invite every Lauren Music Academy family to join our team. Come with your children, walk at your own pace and help us fill the morning with encouragement and hope.

Register through our official team page on the St. Jude website. Scan the QR code below and select Join Team to walk with Lauren Music Academy.



JOIN THE LAUREN MUSIC ACADEMY TEAM

Scan to register directly with our team

fundraising.stjude.org | Team: Lauren Music Academy

Event details and St. Jude facts verified from official St. Jude pages: stjude.org/walkmiami and stjude.org/about-st-jude.



AN ORIGINAL HOLIDAY PRODUCTION

OUR MOST AMBITIOUS PRODUCTION YET

This December, Lauren Music Academy will transform its students' music, movement and imagination into a new theatrical experience built around one timeless truth: Christmas means more when a family is together.

The Best Christmas Ever is the academy's largest creative undertaking to date. For months, its story, music and staging have been taking shape with the goal of creating something far beyond a traditional recital: a complete Christmas production in which singing, dance, acting and live performance become part of one shared world.

Written and directed by Lauren Conde, with original musical direction and scoring by Juan Carlos Torna, the production is jointly produced by Conde and Torna. Choreography is led by dance instructor Lobelis Trujillo, with the support and collaboration of the academy's faculty.

At the heart of the story is a family searching for its way back to one another at Christmas. The characters may encounter excitement, beautiful decorations and everything the season can offer, but they ultimately discover that no gift or perfect celebration can replace unity, love and the presence of the people who matter most.

That message gives the production its emotional centre. The show invites audiences to remember that the most meaningful Christmas is not measured by what is under the tree, but by who is beside us.

WORLD PREMIERE

DECEMBER 19, 2026 | TEATRO TRAIL, CORAL GABLES

TICKETS ON SALE IN OCTOBER



Young performers arrived ready to sing, act and share their talent.

ONE MORNING. MANY POSSIBILITIES.

THE STAGE IS WAITING

The first major step toward opening night took place at Steinway Piano Gallery Coral Gables, a valued home for so many academy events and a space that once again welcomed our students with generosity.

The gallery came alive during a busy morning of auditions. Young performers aged six and older arrived prepared to sing, read scenes and reveal the personalities they might bring to the stage. The number of students who participated - and the confidence, preparation and talent they displayed - made the day especially memorable.

For the first time, ballet students also auditioned for a featured solo. Their evaluation added another dimension to the casting process and reflected the show's commitment to treating dance as an essential part of the story.



EVERY STUDENT HAS A PLACE

The selected actors, vocalists and dancers will lead key moments, but the heart of this production belongs to the entire academy. Every student will participate in some way - from the babies in Mommy & Me to the academy's oldest performers. Solos, ensembles, dance scenes and theatrical moments will come together as one large community production.

Casting results and the students chosen for each character will be introduced in the next edition, giving readers the chance to meet the young artists behind the roles.

BECOME PART OF THE STORY

A production of this scale grows through community support. Businesses and individuals interested in sponsorship, partnerships or helping bring the show to the stage are invited to contact the academy's administration for opportunities and additional information.

DECEMBER 19 / TEATRO TRAIL / TICKETS AVAILABLE IN OCTOBER

NEW LEADERSHIP / NEW HORIZONS

A MUSICAL VISION EXPANDS




STEINWAY & SONS

Solange Merdinian
GENERAL MANAGER
MIAMI & WEST PALM BEACH

SOLANGE MERDINIAN / GENERAL MANAGER, MIAMI & WEST PALM BEACH



A new factory-owned Steinway & Sons showroom is preparing to welcome West Palm Beach.

A NEW CULTURAL ADDRESS

STEINWAY EXPANDS TO WEST PALM BEACH

The arrival of a Steinway & Sons showroom in West Palm Beach creates a new destination for pianists, teachers, families and cultural institutions - and marks an exciting new chapter for music in South Florida.

Steinway & Sons is preparing to open a factory-owned showroom in West Palm Beach, extending its direct presence beyond the long-established Piano Gallery in Coral Gables. For musicians and families in Palm Beach County, the new location offers something especially valuable: closer access to instruments, expertise and a space designed around the experience of choosing and discovering a piano.

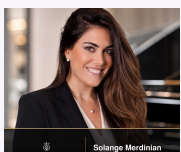
According to Steinway's official preview, the showroom will offer new Steinway & Sons pianos, the Steinway-designed Boston and Essex lines, as well as used and rebuilt instruments and piano rentals. More than a retail expansion, the gallery has the potential to become a meeting place for teachers, performers, students and audiences throughout the Palm Beaches.

On September 16, Lauren Conde and Juan Carlos Torna will attend a special event at the new gallery, representing Lauren Music Academy and celebrating a relationship with Steinway built through education, performance and a shared belief in the transformative power of music.

The expansion also brings well-earned recognition for Solange Merdinian, who has been promoted to General Manager overseeing both the Miami and West Palm Beach locations. Merdinian moved to Miami in 2021 and became manager of the Steinway Piano Gallery on Ponce de Leon Boulevard in Coral Gables.

Her leadership is inseparable from her identity as an artist. Born and raised in Córdoba, Argentina, the American-Armenian-Argentine mezzo-soprano studied at The Juilliard School and earned a master's degree in Voice and Vocal Performance from the Bard College Conservatory. Her career has included international performance, appearances at Carnegie Hall and touring with the Philip Glass Ensemble.

That combination of artistic understanding and thoughtful management has helped the Miami gallery flourish as more than a showroom. For the academy community, it has been a generous partner and a welcoming stage for recitals, auditions and educational encounters. Her appointment across both locations feels like a natural continuation of that work - and a promising beginning for West Palm Beach.



SEPTEMBER 16 / A CELEBRATION IN WEST PALM BEACH

One gallery can sell an instrument. A great gallery can help build a musical community.

Solange Merdinian now oversees Steinway & Sons locations in Miami and West Palm Beach.



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EDITORIAL & CREATIVE DIRECTION

Lauren Conde Castillo

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