

ART ON THE HILL

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When I arrived at Lawrence University Conservatory of Music in 1999, I was asked to listen to a melody and write it down during my music theory placement test. I couldn't do it—and was placed in the lowest music theory class!

Other students completely aced that test because they learned fundamental music skills at a very young age (when learning these skills is effortless). In this issue you can read about Bonnie Olsen, who will teach four year olds the skills that I struggled to learn during my freshman year in college. This is an amazing opportunity.

Mandy Marksteiner, Editor

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Master Woodworker Pat Soran Explains How to Make a Segmented Woodturning

Pat Soran's segmented woodturnings are a fascinating combination of smooth natural lines and intricate geometrical patterns.

Mother nature doesn't make wood that looks like that—it needs to be engineered.

Soran is a nuclear engineer who became interested in woodworking when he needed a hobby to help him unwind from his stressful job. After retirement he became an accredited Master Woodworker by completing a two-year woodworking course at the Northwestern Woodworking Studio in Portland, Oregon.

Instructor Gary Rogowski (a contributor to *Fine Woodworking* magazine) asked Soran to create something beautiful out of the scrap pile. He responded by making his first wooden vessel.

HE BEGINS WITH A SIMPLE DRAWING

He decides what shape the wooden vessel will be, often using an existing vase as his model. He then creates a pattern by layering different types of wood, like cherry, bird's-eye maple, and mesquite.

He draws rectangles over his drawing to represent the layers, like pineapple slices.

A 13" vase has 31 rings. Each ring is divided into 12 trapezoidal segments. Using geometry and a program called "Segment Planner," Soran calculates the measurements of each ring.

CUTTING THE WOOD TO PRECISE MEASUREMENTS

Soran uses a band saw to give a rough piece of board four parallel sides.

He then cuts the angles of the trapezoids. His plans tell him the length of the outside and inside of each trapezoid. The wedges need to fit



left: Ricki Vase, right: Pat Soran with piece of wood

together to make 180° half-rings, which he assembles using tight bond glue. He adjusts things if the two halves don't join perfectly.

He stacks the rings, layer by layer, and cuts the inside of the vessel using a lathe. Once the vessel is completely built he shapes the outside. He then thoroughly sands it and applies a sealer or an oil finish.

▲ Pat Soran's Segmented Woodturnings are available at the Karen Wray Fine Art Gallery. 2101 Trinity Drive, Suite B-2 (south of Ashley Pond).

ART ON THE HILL

Bonnie Olson's "Let's Play Music" classes will teach kids to read, write and think music.



Music runs in the blood for Bonnie Olson. Her grandmother sang on the radio and her mother plays the guitar, piano and sings. Her seven siblings all play musical instruments. "Growing up we were always singing at church, at nursing homes and in the community."

In high school she was in All-State Choir and minored in music at Brigham Young University in Idaho, where she sang in elite choirs. She was recently asked to direct the choir at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Los Alamos.



Bonnie was first introduced to the Let's Play Music Program when she was looking for a piano teacher for her children. A friend invited her to a sample class and she thought, "I want this for my kids so bad!"

The three-year program teaches kids to master fundamental, but profound, musical skills. Children can easily transfer that knowledge to any musical instrument.

Through play, children quickly become aware of intervals, melody and harmony and get introduced to the piano. They will gain a strong sense of tonal center, visually learn to recognize musical patterns, and can eventually play them in any key.

Bonnie completed her first Let's Play Music Training Session last spring. She had to audition and send a video of herself teaching a group of children. "A lot of research went into the curriculum. Everything is very well laid out. It's easy to pick up a lesson plan and go with it."

▲ Let's Play Music classes start the end of August: Tuesdays at 4 p.m. and Wednesdays at 1 p.m. There are 15 lessons each semester. Registration deadline is August 7 at noon, but she will take late applicants (for a fee) if spots are available. Contact Bonnie Olsen at (505)470-2808 to register.

"True musical literacy—the ability to read, write and think music—is the right of every human being."
—Kodaly.

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