

Junior Hoedowner

Vol 3, Nr. 12
December 2009

Music Inspires: An Interview with the Beckman-Saito Sisters

The following interview by Michelle Harvey appeared in the October/November issue of True North Parenting Magazine, and is used with permission.

The music coming from the stage sent chills down my spine. Scottish music has a way of reaching into my soul like that. Excusing myself from a friendly chat, I turned around to face the musicians who were so stirring my emotions. What I saw did not match what I heard. Two very young girls poured their hearts and souls into their fiddle and cello, evoking sounds that could only possibly come from an accomplished adult musician.

Mia, 13, and Kiarra, 9, have been playing violin since they were three. Music is their life. The Beckman-Saito girls have given up many traditional youth activities to pursue their musical careers. Still, they lead a very balanced and happy life, committed to music, and clear about their dreams to become accomplished musicians. Their parents, Bob, builder of custom touring bikes, and Jan, a full time piano instructor, not only support them but they lead and guide them, believing that what the girls experience now as aspiring musicians will make them successful in all areas of their lives.

In an interview that took place next to Jan's grand piano in their family room, the Beckman family shared their experience of a musical journey that promises a vibrant future for the girls and sheds light on the importance of music to family.

Michelle Harvey (MH) - The girls are incredible musicians for such a young age. What makes them so unique? Why are there not more kids like Mia and Kiarra?

Bob Beckman - Learning to play music is a long term process. It is the antithesis of instant gratification. Our society has fundamentally become used to instant gratification and we depend on others to entertain us. But if you learn like our girls have, how to make music and entertain yourself...you are not dependent on others and you don't expect to be instantly gratified.

MH - How do you learn to not be dependent on instant gratification?

Bob - If you consider academics, it is easier to understand. In school, kids have to accept the fact that you have to do the work; you have to stick to it. Everything is learned over a period of time. You don't go from 1st grade math to calculus in one year. It is a long term process. But it needs to be fun too. That is a challenge for educators.

Jan Saito - You also have to explain that it is not always fun and that is just the way it is.

Mia - In the long run, it pays off. If you work on the hard stuff or not fun stuff, what you can get out of it makes it amazingly enjoyable.

MH - What do you do to push yourself then?

Mia - For my sister Kiarra and me, it is a matter of really trying to work things out. When I am practicing and I come across something that just isn't right, you know, it just isn't working, I know that if I skip over it, it will come back later and maybe screw up the song.

(To be continued next month)

Tune of the Month

Missouri Waltz (1)

Scored:
08-06-06

Music: John Eppel, words: James Shannon, 1914

The state song of Missouri

1) PMF arrangement: key: G

1. $\text{♩} = 120$ (midi 80)

G D7 G G

Hush - a - bye, my ba - by, slum-ber - time is com-in' soon;

G D7 G G

Rest your head up - on my breast, while Mom-my hums a tune; The

C C G G

sand - man is call - in', where shad - ows are fall - in', While the

A7 A7 D7 D7

soft breez - es sigh as in days long gone by.

G D7 G G

Way down in Miss - ou - ri, where I heard this mel - o - dy,

G D7 G G

When I was a lit - tle child, up - on my Mom - my's knee; The

C C G G

old folks were humm - in'; their ban - jos were strumm-in'; So

A7 D7

1. G G 2. G G

sweet and low.

Note: Shannon also wrote "That's An Irish Lullaby"

