



AMPED NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION
2018

AMPED NEWS

Dina Taylor

May 1st, 2018 marks the one-year anniversary of AMPED opening its music school on Lancaster Blvd.

When we decided to open the school, we were warned by our financial advisor that most small businesses close within the first six months. He suggested that we not invest in this venture. Obviously, we were stubborn enough not to listen to his advice.

Our core staff have worked very hard to make AMPED a welcoming and fun learning environment, and our students and families have cheered us on every step of the way! In this upcoming year, we will be offering some exciting new programs, and will be announcing their start dates via email to all of our students.

What would you like to see happen at AMPED? [click here to send us your ideas](#)

COMING SOON!

- Movies in the band room.
- Family G rated musicals for the younger kids and Drop Off “Parent Night Out” PG13 musicals for older kids.
- Student performance bands.
- On-Line tutorials, lessons, homework assignments, practice logs, and access to teacher feedback in between lessons.
- Big Anniversary Sale!
- Membership packages with fully automated recurring payment system.
- New Mini Rockers classes: 5/1
- Summer Band Camp.
- Student-Faculty Show: 7/14

2018 SPRING STUDENT-FACULTY SHOW

The electric excitement was palpable on March 24th, 2018 when AMPED (Academy of Music Performance and Education) launched its very first Student-Faculty performance at the ACAVEC Theater in Lancaster, CA.

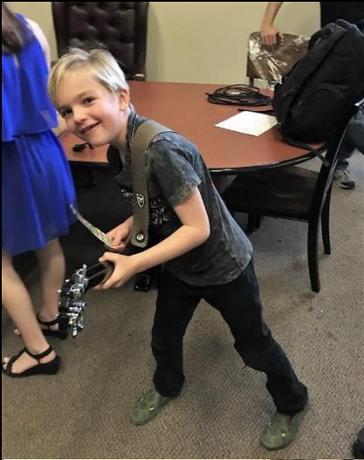
While the theater filled up with friends and family, our student volunteers **Kathy** and **Jessica** deftly manned the ticket counter.



Meanwhile, backstage, our 16 students were tuning, warming up, munching on cookies, and trying to tackle their nerves. The show opened with the ADORABLE Mini Rockers (**Calissa**, **Edmund** and **Henry**) welcoming the audience with their rendition of “Who Came to Rock Today”, followed up by the beautiful ukulele duo **Maribel** and **Kaiya** singing “Over the Rainbow”. **Maribel** then charmed us with her solo of “You and I”, followed up by **Abby** singing “Begin Again” and doing a great job accompanying herself on ukulele. Next up, **Brody** and his dad Todd rocked the house with “The Jack”, and **Ashley** provided us with an emotionally heartfelt performance of “Say Something”. Next up, **Karen** gracefully sang “I Dreamed a Dream” from Les Miserables. **Lorelei** then beautifully accompanied herself on piano while she sang “Counting Stars”. The crowd was now hard pressed not to seriously rock out to **Anthony** playing “Another one Bites the Dust” on drums. The dynamic duo Davey and **Izabella** were next on stage playing and singing “Good Riddance”, with **Izabella** then giving us a quietly stirring version of “Shiver”. **Emma** and **Levi** rocked the stage with “Vultures”, and winding up the student acts was **Kodi** playing guitar on “What About Us”, and **Michael** bravely and quite successfully tackling the challenging song “Sky Mall”.

Finally, our incredibly talented and dedicated faculty band (Matt, Davey, Allie, David, Max, and Aaron) performed three songs and rocked the house.

If you missed the show or would like to re-visit the performances click on this link: [Watch the Performance](#)





Congratulations to all of our AMPED performers!!!!

STRANGE INSTRUMENT SERIES

(aka: what the heck is that thing?)



Literally meaning “fire sound,” a **PYROPHONE** is a musical instrument that features a series of pipes like an organ or calliope and creates sound by applying combustion to the pipes through gasoline.

If you want to hear what it sounds like, click the link below:

<https://youtu.be/DeX7cBDD3Ac>

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

EMMA LUAHIWA



Hi I'm Emma. I'm thirteen and I've been interested in singing since I was a baby. I remember being in diapers singing into a toy microphone when Shakira would come on T.V.

My last name comes from my Hawaiian roots. The island of Lanai is where the Luahiwa petroglyphs tell our family history. I've been performing since I was seven, putting on concerts every few months with other people who played instruments and sang as well. I started doing theater when I was 12 and I just finished *Shrek The Musical* at the Palmdale Playhouse, where I played a fairy and one of the three blind mice. I think performing is what makes me happiest.

I aspire to be a singer and actress, right now I'm doing as much as I can to get there. I try to write every day and I also play instruments like piano, ukulele, and guitar. All of which I'm mostly self-taught and I participate in anything that I can to improve my acting skills.

AMPED and my teacher, David, are helping me achieve my goals by having what I like to call a safe haven for me to learn and grow as a musician. The staff there are so sweet and David has taught me so much in the amount of time that I've known him. It's a kind of place where your teacher is your friend but you always know when to work. I'm learning lots of technique right now for my voice and I'm soon to start working on songwriting.

I would recommend AMPED because it's a great place to improve whether you know lots about music or nothing at all. They are great teachers and know exactly how to help you. It's almost therapeutic to be able to have an environment where you can learn without any harm or judgement.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT ALLIE RIOS

Q: What are the funniest things students have said to you?

A: “You’re like a musical nanny” (age 5)

“Could a person make a guitar out of poop?” (age 8)

“Why do you wear glasses? Are you blind?” (age 5)

“I’m not interested in playing the ukulele. It’s a bit too festive” (age 7)

Q: Where did you go to college?

A: I attended L.A. College of Music in Pasadena. I majored in Vocals.

Q: What do you like about being a music teacher?

A: I love taking my passion for music and encouraging students to develop that same passion.

Q: What’s your favorite animal, and what animal do you wish you could have?

A: I’m crazy about cats, but I always wished I could have a Capibara (it’s like a ginormous guinea pig)

PRACTICE TIP

Allie Rios, Teacher

When practicing something new, don’t try to tackle learning the whole thing at once. Slow down and take short and frequent breaks to allow your brain and muscles have a chance to process what you just practiced.

PRACTICE TIP

Davey Sipes, Teacher

To make practice exciting make your practice seem like a performance. For example, instead of using a metronome, use a drum track. EITHER WAY...ALWAYS USE SOMETHING TO HELP YOU KEEP TIME!

PRACTICE TIP

Max Taylor, Keyboardist

If you are transcribing a song, melody often dictates chords. No matter what instrument you play, you might want to start out by learning the melody.

PRACTICE TIP

“If I don’t practice for a day, I know it. If I don’t practice for two days, the critics know it. And if I don’t practice for three days, the public knows it.”

Louis Armstrong, famous jazz trumpet player