

## Evening Music Programs Offer Summer Lessons



Looking for entertaining and educational activities to keep your children pursuing loftier goals over the summer? Then look no further! Summer lessons are an excellent means for your children to retain what they learned this past year if they took lessons and to continue to perfect their musical skills.

If they are beginners, what better way to learn to play a guitar, fiddle, banjo, or mandolin than to receive instruction in a small class setting which will allow for individualized attention? Yet, at the same time your child will learn to play and keep time to the music with their peers.

Are you an adult who has always wanted to learn to play an instrument, but life got in the way, and you just never had the time or opportunity to pursue this worthy dream? Or maybe you're one of those adults who did take lessons, or learned to play a bit on your own, but would just like to know how to 'go from there.' Then, now's the time to dust off that instrument, and head on down to the Hagood Community Center for lessons. Don't have an instrument? That's not a problem either, as rental instruments can be provided for a nominal fee.

We are pleased to announce the Pickens program, located at the Hagood Community Center, 129 Schoolhouse St, will be starting back up the evening of Monday, June 7th. We are presently accepting enrollments of children and adults, who will be assigned to their individual classes.

The Easley Evening Program is currently in operation and lessons for children and adults are held on Tuesday evenings at the First Baptist Church, 300 East 1st Ave. Enrollments for this site are also currently being accepted for their next session, beginning Tuesday, June 8th.

For an enrollment form, you may e-mail Pauline Blackston at [blackspm1@outlook.com](mailto:blackspm1@outlook.com). Lessons are \$60 for a 6-week session and if there is the need for a rental instrument, the charge is \$25 for 6 weeks. Lessons run continuously throughout the year, and thus you may enroll each 6 weeks for as long as you wish. CDC guidelines are recommended at both locations, and masks should be accessible to students in situations of close contact.



# A New Year on the Horizon for Sweet Potato Pie Kids

Along with the arrival of TAM YAM Camp is the anticipation of a new year on the horizon for the Young Appalachian Musicians' showcase band, the SPPKids, (Sweet Potato Pie Kids). In a normal year, TAM YAM Camp is the turning point in which the band members who have performed for the past two years, or those who leave because they "age out", begin transitioning out of the band, and the newly selected band members begin transitioning into the band. Co-Directors, Mary Johnson and Josiah Roper, are also planning a day long "mini-camp" at the Pavilion at Hagood Mill late-summer or early fall to finalize the transitioning process of band members. Thus, the new members will be "full-steam" when the Open House events are held at the local schools in the fall. Hopefully, as we are able to phase out COVID concerns, our SPPKids will be allowed to perform at these Open House events in an effort to solicit new and returning students to the YAM Afterschool Programs, which normally start up at the beginning of October.

This year has been noticeably different, as has most everything been, due to the invasion of COVID19 into our world. Even during the pandemic, by observing CDC guidelines, band members have been able to continue their weekly practices and fulfill a minimal number of performance



commitments, the highlights of which were the performance for the Eagle Scouts and their terrific showing at Kidsfest at Hagood Mill around the middle of March. However, due to this being an abnormal year for them, most of the band members will remain a part of the band for an additional year to be able to take advantage of the full gamut of the SPPKid experience. It appears at least "semi-normalcy" may be on the horizon, bringing with it a full schedule of performances for the 2021-2022 Yam Year.

Three of the talented band members will transition off this year: Jack Howard, Cade Kennedy, and Daisy Payne. We will sincerely miss them as they enter into the next phase of their musical careers, but we expect them to remain a part of YAM as they participate as alumni. Current band members remaining are **Marguerite Bishop, Ellie Black, Ayden Chappell, Elijah Ellenburg, Malachi Ellenburg, Ele Holland, Lilly Svrlinga, and Alyssa White.** We excitedly welcome the newest members of the band: **Sam Blondeau and Judson Stone!**



# Change in Venue for Tam Yam Camp!



2021 seems to be the year of change – an adjustment to the traditional way things are done.

This definitely holds true for TAM YAM Camp this year! The customary model of camp for the past few years has been for music lessons to be held inside in classroom type settings, with even some of the afternoon Appalachian Arts activities taking place inside classrooms as well.

That will not be the case this year! The Pavilion, located across the road from historic Hagood Mill will be the venue for music classes this year. The SPPKids will also be located under a tent near the Pavilion for connectivity to the whole group, yet to provide a bit of separation as well for them to be able to hone their performing skills. The thought behind locating in an outside setting is to allow for more ventilation, and thus, it will be a deterrent to the mighty Covid19 virus that has rocked our world during the past two years. Hand sanitizer will be made available, and masks should

be accessible as well at times campers are unable to maintain a safe distance between them. It is also perfectly acceptable if parents feel more comfortable with their child wearing a mask throughout the entirety of camp.

Another measure that is being taken to ensure the safety of our campers is the limitation of enrollees to a specified number so that social distancing can be accommodated throughout.

We will miss the traditional square dance that is one of the focal points of the last day activities due to being unable to social distance during it, but there is a great lineup of activities to replace it. We are anticipating that next year will be even closer to “normalcy” and square dancing can be resumed with Mr. David Welborn calling, “Swing your partner”, “Circle Left”, or “Do si do”, as campers are giggling, getting a little mixed up, missing a step or two, but enjoying every moment of it!

With approval from the POSAM Board to proceed with camp, plans are well on their way to being finalized. Seasoned instructors, well-versed in their area of expertise, whether it be fiddle, banjo, mandolin, or guitar are already in place, as well as instructors for some quite unique Appalachian Arts classes will be on site to offer instruction in their particular skill.

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## The Afterschool Program will Move Forward in the Fall!

At this point in time, we are not quite certain what the Afterschool Program will look like in the fall, but we are certain that it will be in place. POSAM/YAM took a risk this past fall, with the belief that a program could operate safely with Covid19 Safety Guidelines in place. The assumption proved to be quite accurate. We followed the protocol with quarantines and isolations, and we came out of it all very well.

Our hope is that with vaccines in place for those individuals 16 years and older, and with many of our instructors and program directors already having taken advantage of the opportunity to obtain a vaccine, that our students will be safer this fall than they were the last season. We are even more hopeful with the announcement that the vaccine is available to children as young as 12 years old.

If we are given the opportunity to go back to the Afterschool model that was in place at the schools before the pandemic began, we will certainly take

advantage of that for our YAM students. This would eliminate the need for parents to transport their students to an off-campus site and would allow more students to be able to enroll in our program.

However, if this is not an option, the four sites (Mt. Carmel Baptist Church - Dacusville, the Mill Church - Pickens, the Rosewood Center - Liberty, and Six Mile Baptist Church) who so graciously allowed us to use their facilities this past year have informed us they will afford us this same opportunity again. We are most thankful to them for their generosity. Had it not been for them, we would not have been able to give our YAM students this wonderful opportunity this past year.

With this being said, please look for messages from us regarding the start-up of our program for the 2021 – 2022 school year when your student returns to school after summer break. Classes usually begin the first week in October.

# Your Amazon Smile Account will Make Everyone Smile!

Did you know you can support the YAM Program at no cost to you simply by creating a Smile.Amazon account? When you set up the account, you will just indicate Preserving our Southern Appalachian Music as your charity of choice.

Then, each time you shop just be certain to go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-3197857) (the link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-3197857>) and Amazon will contribute a proportional amount of each purchase you make to Preserving Our Southern Appalachian Music. Your cost remains exactly the same.

Please help us spread the word! If you need assistance in setting up the account, you may contact Guy Latham at [latham333@aol.com](mailto:latham333@aol.com) or Pauline at [blackspm1@outlook.com](mailto:blackspm1@outlook.com)

Contributing to help students learn to play traditional stringed instruments and preserving our Appalachian Music sounds like a wonderful reason to make everyone smile!

## Support the Young Appalachian Musicians Program By Joining YESIYAM 2021

YESIYAM is a booster club dedicated to promoting community interest and cultivating support for the Young Appalachian Musicians program. At a time when many school systems are cutting programs, YAM is reconnecting children with their musical heritage by teaching them to play in the traditional way of the Southern Appalachians, by ear. The program has experienced phenomenal growth and your contribution will help ensure the continuity of the excellent instruction the children have come to expect.

- Instrument Sponsor \$100
- After School Sponsor \$250
- Student Sponsor \$500
- Class Sponsor \$1,200
- School Sponsor \$3,000
- Organizational Sponsor \$5,000

For more information about the levels of sponsorship, how the money is used, and the benefits for the donor, go to [yam.upstate.com/donate](http://yam.upstate.com/donate). Additional details are also available from Betty McDaniel at (864) 878-4257 or by emailing [yam.upstate@gmail.com](mailto:yam.upstate@gmail.com).

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The Young Appalachian Musicians program is sponsored by Preserving Our Southern Appalachian Music, Inc. (POSAM) a charitable non-profit organization and all contributions are tax deductible. To join the booster club, YESIYAM, or otherwise contribute to the program, donations may be sent to: POSAM, c/o Betty McDaniel, 792 Holly Springs School Road, Pickens, SC 29671. For further information call (864) 878-4257 or e-mail [yam.upstate@gmail.com](mailto:yam.upstate@gmail.com).