



## Practice Tips: How to Motivate Your Child

**BE** (not "you play great" but a specific message. "I really like the way you play the quiet part in Song of the Wind!") Kids soon learn the difference between blanket and sincere praise. Be truthful and zero in on something you can enthusiastically praise.

**PRESENT**, be there for the moments. Physical presence with your child goes a long way. Jot down notes that will be helpful to your child. Avoid extended conversations during lessons.

Check out more tips and...  
**KEEP PRACTICING!!!**

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[theconnection2music.com](http://theconnection2music.com)



October 7, The Music Connection's Carl Johnston performed at a concert with the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra and superstar soprano diva, Renee Fleming.



After 30 years of performing and playing with the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, I resigned from my position in the 2nd violin section. It was a very hard decision, but directing The Music Connection, encouraging/mentoring students, families, staff and teachers here, teaching my studio of private students, being a board member of Suburban Youth Symphony, serving SAMBA, an organization promoting the positive relationship between the culture of arts and the small business community, and having a personal life are the things I decided I needed to focus on for a life of exuberance, giving, and purpose.

After that decision, things fell into place. Because I am so passionate about the importance of a quality music education, I have also become more involved with the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra through their committees.

Now, let me flash back to my own youth for a moment. It was around 1966-67 and I had just started high school. I had the pleasure of attending a very important concert. Waukegan Township High School hosted the entertainer Jack Benny and his special guest was violinist Isaac Stern. For those of you not acquainted with these names, Jack Benny was a famous TV entertainer (comedian) from Waukegan, Illinois, whose trademark was playing out of tune violin and making fun of himself while making people laugh. Isaac Stern was a world famous concert violinist and philanthropist who championed classical music and the arts. He appeared briefly in the movie "Music in the Heart" with Meryl Streep and his few lines and his playing in the movie are worth seeing.

Though Jack Benny made fun of himself, he could actually play violin pretty well, and especially while playing with a master such as Isaac Stern. They performed the Bach Concerto for Two Violins, first movement, as their serious piece.

That day, after watching that performance, I was awestruck by the beauty and complexity of this timeless music. It is such a wonderful work. I know it will still be performed and loved long after I have left the planet.

I walked out of that concert knowing that in my life, I would play and perform on the violin.

Now fast forward to 2015: Even though we have YouTube and can watch concerts quite easily on our computers and TV, very few people will sit and watch an entire concert. Channel surfing and going from site to site are just too easy.

At a concert, we are captive. We are in our seats and willing to listen, to be entertained, to be educated, to be thrilled, to share and celebrate the experience with others. And perhaps, as I was that day in Waukegan, to be inspired and find my path.

The Illinois Philharmonic is right on our doorstep in Frankfort. Please come join me in the seats this season as I experience the thrill of live music. I would love to celebrate and share the experience with you and your families!

- Janet Kuester, Studio Director

# LET'S GO TO CONCERTS!

## Make it a Family Outing! - Local Events

**Free Family Fall Fest**  
Sat., Oct. 24, 11 a.m.  
7560 W. 159th St.  
Marquette Bank  
Orland Park

**Family Dance Party**  
Tue., Nov. 3, 6:30 p.m.  
14921 Ravinia Ave.  
Orland Park Public Library

**Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra with Di Wu**  
Russian Masters  
Sat., Nov. 21, 8:00 p.m.  
Lincoln-Way North  
Performing Arts Center

**Elgin Symphony Orchestra**

**Hansel & Gretel Meet the Swamp Witch**

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Nov. 13-15:  
Fall Solo Recitals

Nov. 21:  
Pizza party and IPO