

# THE MUSICAL TIMES

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Four friends and musicians join together to create and enjoy music.

## The Way It Should Be

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You need not be a critic, a connoisseur, or a practiced musician to understand what happened Saturday morning. The joy experienced by all who were in attendance, in a room adorned with family portraits and children's art, was palpable. It was a thing of rare happiness, distilled musical purity – the type, for everybody's sake, that really should happen more often.

The day began with young Lucy's fearless renderings of Faber works.



Accompanied by her mother at the piano, the star of the concert, who has one of the most contagious smiles, showed nerves of steel, and exhibited brilliant clarity in the left-hand passage work of the Classically-inspired "Con Brio". Some of the greatest musicians in the world struggle with counting! – but Lucy displayed some of the neatest, titillating rhythms and dynamic changes in "Hungarian Dance", and set proper mood and tempo accompanying the minor mode melodies of "Baby Owl".

But all of this merely prepared us for what came next. Enthusiasm for Disney strikes a common chord, and Lucy's "I Just Can't Wait to be King" drew many smiles, and revealed diligent practicing on her part, culminating in an E-flat that was hit squarely where it belonged. Is there any better way to end a performance than with that warhorse, "Tale as Old as Time" – only the reviewer's favorite Disney song of all? An audience member remarked upon the considerable progress since Lucy's debut a year ago; the beauty of the singing line indeed revealed a certain charm, a facility at the instrument. It's now anybody's guess what Lucy might be playing a year from now – a Mozart Sonata, a Chopin Etude ? – but I wouldn't put any of these past the precocious little girl.

The rest of the concert unfolded without a hitch. Guitarist Reina, cellist Sarah and flutist Mark, delivered a heartfelt rendering of "As the Deer", the latter of whom also gave a strong performance of Spafford's "It is Well". Guitarist Nathan then offered "Donut Plains", a throwback to yesteryear and Super Mario World, and together with Sarah on vocals, played a variation of a Discovery channel commercial, "Boom de yada", replete with original, uproarious lyrics. The two then transitioned into a solemn "Tale as Old Time", with multi-talented Sarah on the cello. To cap the day, pianist Ben delivered one of the most fiendishly difficult pieces in the entire repertory, Franz Liszt's "La Campanella". What struck this listener was the sense of structure and clarity of line maintained throughout the performance. Octaves and octave leaps posed no problem, all in rhythm, and we were riveted by a most dexterous left-hand.

If music is, as they say, a gift from the gods, then one can do no better than to share it with friends, the way you do a good bottle of wine, and be moved beyond your natural senses by the communal enjoyment of it. Thanks to little Lucy and the generosity of her family, we all went home a bit happier, and more grateful for the music that brought us together.