

medication after taking music lessons.

"Music is a discipline, much like martial arts," he said. "It allows children to focus and get in one spot without being distracted."

**Success story**

The native Floridian, who was raised in New York City and Nyack, N.Y., credited music as the force that set him on his road to success.

As a child, he was surrounded by music — in the church where his mother sang and he began playing the drums and in venues such as the Apollo Theater in Harlem.

During school field trips to Radio City Music Hall, he would sneak down to the orchestra pit to watch the huge platform elevator bring up the whole band.

He would then watch the members of the percussion section do their thing.

"I didn't pay much attention to what was going on up on the stage," said the 48-year-old. "I would watch the percussion section as they would move from the drums to the xylophone and other percussion instruments."

"That was pretty neat," Ruise said. "I said to myself, one day I want to do something like that."

Ruise joined the band during his last year of high school. Up until then he was active in sports.

"High school band was not something I was interested in because I was playing in church since I was 12 years old," he said. "My best friend convinced me to join."

That was all it took to get him thinking about music as a profession.

Even during his stint in the Navy, Ruise organized the music for religious services on the ship.

When he got out of the service in 1983, he went to Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach before moving to Boston to attend Berklee.

Since moving to Manatee County nine years ago, Ruise has played in several bands and has organized his own jazz trio.

In the lessons he offers at the church community center,



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Lane Ruise, standing at right, teaches children to keep the beat as they play rhythm instruments at the Rogers Memorial Church Community Enrichment Center in Bradenton.

**Music classes**

If you're looking in Manatee County for musical instrument instruction for your child here are a few places that offer instruction:

■ **Allegro Academy of Music**, 241 Whitfield Ave., Bradenton. Call 358-8511. Lessons in all string and wind instruments, piano, drums and voice. Partial scholarships available.

Children of local military service personnel killed in Iraq receive free lessons for one year.

■ **Bradenton Academy of Music**, 1207 46th Ave. E., Bradenton. Call 730-5070. Lessons in brass, woodwinds, piano and voice.

■ **Manatee Music**, 2710 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton. Call 741-8832

■ **Music Music**, 1311 13th Ave. W., Bradenton. Call 746-3200. Instruction in most musical instruments.

■ **Play Away**, 11538 Palmbrush Trail, Lakewood Ranch. Call 755-1070. Mommy and Me program teaches percussion, rhythm, and music introduction to children 3 months to 6 years old.

Ruise starts the students on a recorder to learn the finger control.

"This gets them enthused about playing the flute or trumpet," he said, "which they will be playing by the end of summer."

Along with helping raise academic achievement, Ruise has found learning to play certain instruments, such as

the oboe, can improve a student's breathing disabilities.

One student who suffered from asthma improved her breathing 50 percent in six months by playing the clarinet.

"Now, six years on the oboe and she doesn't need to use an inhaler. We teach proper breathing techniques for playing the wind instruments,

and that translates into improved natural breathing. You just have to be patient," he said

Kasey Smith said her two boys, Zachary, 7, and Nate, 6, wanted to learn music and because Ruise is her sister's music instructor, she enrolled them in the Creative Percussion program at Rogers Community Center.

The mother of four said since the boys have been taking lessons there has been improvement in their behavior.

"It keeps them busy, and I noticed they can sit still longer," she said. "When they are here (at the community center for lessons) they have to concentrate and learn the music."

For Zachary, who wants to play the guitar, his motivation was more fundamental.

"It's really, really fun," he said. "And you get to learn music."

Janet Moore, an associate professor of music education in the University of South Florida College of Visual and Performing Arts School of Music, said Ruise's experiences do not surprise her.

When developing skills or

learning a task the student has to develop discipline in both physical and mental activities, according to Moore.

"You exercise broad areas of the brain when you listen to or play music," she said.

The National Association for Music Education lists several studies explaining the higher academic and social achievements of students who study music.

A College Board analysis of the questionnaire completed by students who took the SAT in 2006 found those with course work in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal portion of the test and 43 points higher on the math portion than students with no course work or experience in the arts.

"Music is one of the arts used by society to consciously focus on things," said Moore, who also is the associate dean of undergraduate studies at USF. "We know through studies that it can do good things."

*Carl Mario Nudi, staff reporter covering the City of Palmetto and northern Manatee County, can be reached at 745-7027.*

# Manatee Community Central

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## Children pick up beat from drummer

By J. NIELSEN  
CORRESPONDENT

BRADENTON — Lane J. Ruise's one objective in forming the Creative Percussion Group was to give children a foundation in music.

"Music in schools is barely hanging on right now," Ruise said.

After teaching in the public schools for eight years, the graduate of Berklee School of Music in Boston works as a private tutor and has three students who play in the Florida West Coast Youth Symphony.

Student **Abbey Graham**'s mother **Doiana** said, "He's an awesome teacher. He makes it enjoyable for the kids to play. It gives them something positive to do."

Originally from Manhattan, N.Y., Ruise, 48, has been playing drums since he could remember.

"My dad used to take me to the Apollo Theatre; there I saw **James Brown** and **Aretha Franklin** perform," he said.

Last fall, he started the percussion group for students in third through sixth grades. Members rehearse at Braden River Baptist Church.

"Lane is an excellent musician," said **Ed Moss**, the pastor of Braden River Baptist Church. "He has a heart for kids; he has a heart for music. It is an opportunity for children that is just tremendous."

In addition to performing at local retirement homes, the group appeared at the Gulf Coast Rhythm & RibFest last month at the Manatee County Fairgrounds and is scheduled to perform at the annual Children's Summit at the Manatee Convention Center on Aug. 9.

Ruise said he plans to offer music lessons three times a week over the summer to 6- to 12-year-olds while recruiting musicians and building the band program for the fall. Summer band sessions will be at Rogers Community Life Enrichment Center, 1100 15th St. E., Bradenton.

With his own money, Ruise buys musical instruments for the children to use during lessons and also to take home to practice.

Recently, Ruise took three grant-writing classes at Manatee Community College and applied for a grant from Manatee County Department of Children Services. If the grant is approved, the money will help with scholarships and to buy equipment.



CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS / J. NIELSEN

The Creative Percussion Group performs. Lane J. Ruise started the group to give children a background in music.



Isaac Martinez, a third-grade percussion player, reads his music.



Sixth-grader Yridian Martinez plays the trumpet.



**ABOVE:** Creative Percussion Group teacher Lane J. Ruise, left, performs with sixth-grade oboe player Abbey Graham. **LEFT:** Third-grader Brian Bristol plays percussion.

### INTERESTED?

**What:** Creative Percussion Group.

**Members:** Isaac Martinez, third grade, percussion; Yridian Martinez, sixth grade, trumpet; Brian Bristol, third grade, percussion; Widens Bristol, third grade, clarinet; Abbey Graham, sixth grade, oboe; and adults Alex Christian, guitar, and Ricardo Gonzalez, bass guitar.

**Sample repertoire:** "When the Saints Go Marching In," "Amazing Grace," "Kum Ba Yah," "America the Beautiful" and "Lightly Row."

**Up next:** Performances are scheduled for residents in Bradenton at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Surrey Place, 5525 21st Ave. W.; 1 p.m. May 10 at Westminster Manor, 1700 21st Ave. W.; and 5:30 p.m. May 20 at Summerville at Bradenton, 450 67th St. W.

**Summer program:** Beginning in June, 6- to 12-year-olds can take three lessons a week; the cost is \$50 a month.

**Information:** Lane J. Ruise, 722-4593.



## Lane Ruise teaches music lessons to help kids academically



Photos by PAUL VIDELA/pvidela@bradenton.com

**ABOVE:** Lane Ruise, standing at left, teaches children to work together while they play a song on the xylophone during a summertime music program at the Rogers Community Life Enrichment Center in Bradenton. **BELOW:** Dorian Bowden plays the drums at the center.

# THEY'VE GOT THE BEAT

By CARL MARIO NUDI

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### BRADENTON

Robert Preston's character, Harold Hill, in the movie "The Music Man" came to believe that teaching children music will keep them out of trouble, with a capital T, and improve their lives.

Local musician Lane Ruise has known this all his life — as a student and now as a music teacher.

Ruise has started a summer program, Creative Percussion, at Rogers Community Life Enrichment Center in East Bradenton to teach first- through sixth-graders basic instruction in reading music and playing the recorder and percussion instruments.

"Music helps the student academically," said the graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston.

He said he has had students who have gone up one grade level.

"They focus better and get A's now," Ruise said. "Their attention span is better."

Ruise, who has a degree in music education, said the change in a student's achievement doesn't happen overnight, "but if they keep practicing their music, it teaches them discipline."

### Food for the brain

According to the International Education Journal, there have been several studies showing involvement in musical activities promotes understanding of language, improves reading, verbal learning and retention and fosters creativity.

"The brain needs to organize acoustical information and patterns," said Jack Heller, a professor at the University of South Florida



College of Music Education in Tampa. "And the young brand — from infant to 6- to 10-year-old — are tuned into that."

Heller, who also is the music director of the Tampa Bay Symphony, said music instruction helps the brain learn how to organize information.

The professor of psychology of music said if music helps the brain organize patterns, that can translate to other subjects.

"The brain is geared to do that," Heller said, "especially very young brains because they are very elastic."

Ruise has seen the practical benefits of

musical instruction first hand.

In the early 1990s, after graduating from Berklee College with a degree in jazz composition and music education, he taught music as part of an alternative education class to fourth- and fifth-graders.

"I taught there for four years and loved it," he said. "I was making a difference with at-risk children."

Ruise, who lives in Palmetto with his wife, Terri, said he has known of children with attention deficit disorder reducing their

BEAT TO 6E