

YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO MAKE MUSIC

by: Ed Lettner



When speaking with adults about their interest in music lessons, I am often asked, “Am I too old to take lessons?” My answer is that you are never too old if you remember the three Ps: patience, practice and perseverance. Add to those traits a desire to learn and you are ready to join the growing number of successful adult music students.

This can be a great time in your life to begin learning an instrument or how to sing, or to rediscover musical skills you learned when you were younger. Perhaps you now have time for lessons because you have finished school, have grown-up children or are retired. Playing an instrument or singing is a great way for you to achieve personal enjoyment and satisfaction, share music with family and friends, maintain mental agility and help you live life to the fullest. You may rent or buy an instrument to begin your lessons or dust off an instrument you have at home and get to know an “old friend” again.

With the help of an experienced and qualified teacher, set realistic goals for yourself and plan a lesson program that allows you to learn at your own pace. If you are a beginner, start with a method book that is designed for adults. Once you have learned the basics, you may choose music from the many easy versions of well-known popular and classical pieces to augment what you are learning in your method book. If you are a more advanced student, you may wish to focus on specific skills or pieces of music in your lessons. These concepts should be part of the personalized lesson program that you develop with your teacher. It is also important to arrange a convenient lesson time and practice schedule that will allow you to be consistent with your lesson program.

Always remember, you are never too old to make music. So, why not give it a try?

Ed Lettner is owner of The Music Studio in Etobicoke which has offered music instruction since 1990. He is an honours graduate of the Humber College Institute of Technology music program and enjoys teaching adults and children. For information about the programs at The Music Studio, please call 416-234-9268, email ed@themusicstudio.ca or visit www.themusicstudio.ca.