

## ***Practice, Practice Practice!***

By Nathan Geyer

My name is Nathan Geyer. I am taking lessons on three instruments: the violin, the guitar, and the piano. Every day, I practice thirty minutes on the piano, thirty minutes on the violin, and twenty minutes on the guitar. An hour and twenty minutes! Sometimes it is kind of tedious to play for almost an hour and a half, but most of the time it is fun.

The guitar is a string instrument; it has six strings and frets, which are like markers for your fingers for different notes. To make a sound, you strum the strings with your fingers or a pick. The piano is both a string instrument and a percussion instrument; it is different from the others. The violin has four strings but no frets; you just have to know where to put your fingers for different notes. It has a bow that you stroke that back and forth to make sound; the F stops generate the sound. Depending on where you are bowing, the violin makes a different noise; generally, you bow in the space in between the finger board and the bridge.

My teachers' names are Ronnie Banks (guitar), Pam Asberry (piano/also my mom!), and Christine Lansou (violin). Ronnie teaches me chords and rhythms and songs I want to learn to learn to play, like *Back in Black*, and he plays duets with me. Mom is teaching me how to read music and how to play classical music; she also plays duets with me. And she lets me play in Fall Festival, where I compete with other kids for scholarships, and Federated Festival, where I play for a judge for a rating. After three years of superiors, I got a trophy! And if I can get three more years of superiors, the trophy will get bigger! I am just getting to know Miss Christine, but I like her already. She is very nice, she explains things in full context, she plays duets with me, and she is an all around good teacher.

Playing instruments comes in handy sometimes. Last year, for example, I helped teach about music in my Cub Scout den! I taught my friends the names of the notes and conducting patterns.

Playing three instruments is hard work, but when you stick with it, it is a lot of fun, too!