



Gwinnett Daily Post – Friday, March 13, 2009

SUBSCRIBE/BUY

PLACE AN AD

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS

CONTACT US

CLASSIFIED

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

GAS PRICES

[JOBS](#) [CARS](#) [HOMES](#) [CLASSIFIEDS](#) [OBITS](#) [LEGALS](#)
[Home](#)[Local News](#)[Sports](#)[Perspective](#)[Community](#)[Life & Leisure](#)[Entertainment](#)[World & Nation](#)[Business](#)[State](#)[Community Links](#)[Kidsville News!](#)[Lottery](#)[Stocks](#)[TV listings](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Photo Dept.](#)[Site Guide/Map](#)

SPECIAL SECTIONS



3/13/2009 12:01:00 AM

Smoke Rise offers conservatory level trainingBy **Holley Calmes**
Art Beat

Kaily Collett, all of 5 years old, has a brassy voice and a big stage presence. The young Lilburn resident recently landed the part of Baby Kangaroo in "Seussical Jr.," a show that drew an audience of more than 1,000 last month at the Smoke Rise Academy of Arts.

Then there is Claire Nash, a senior citizen, who has been taking classical guitar lessons since 1992, well before Kaily was born. Claire and Kaily represent the age spectrum of art students at the Smoke Rise Academy of Arts, sponsored by Smoke Rise Baptist Church.

"When we started drama, Kaily made me promise she wouldn't have to talk at all," said Kaily's mother, Ronda Collett, who is a teacher at Parkview High School. "After working with Janet (Chadwick) and gaining confidence, Kaily felt the excitement of being on stage and loved it. She and the other kids have worked so hard and formed lasting friendships while learning so much about theatre. It's just a fantastic experience."

Founded in 1992, the academy offers instruction in several arts disciplines. Besides youth drama and guitar, students can study oil painting, voice, violin, cello, piano, trumpet, trombone, saxophone, clarinet, low brass, French horn and preschool dance. The program has grown from 25 students during its first year to about 175 students per semester.

"We provide conservatory level instruction for beginners and those who want to mature in the arts," academy director Carole Mitchell said. "We strive to make an environment where God-given gifts can blossom."

The academy's most impressive success is in preparing serious arts students for higher education and careers in the arts. Dozens of Academy students used their training as a launching pad into the arts and many have honors and scholarships.

"I have several students studying at Smoke Rise and they are showing excellent progress. I definitely recommend the program to band members," said Laura Moates Stanley, Brookwood High's band director and Georgia Music Educator's Association District 13 chair.

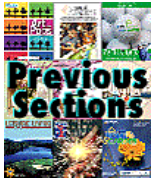
There are many success stories. For example, former piano student Julie Mitchell received a full undergraduate scholarship in piano at Georgia College and State University, and graduate school scholarships at Florida State University. Voice student Michael DelGaudio was recently cast in a lead role in Parkview High School's spring musical.

Greyson Chadwick performed in numerous drama productions and has appeared in a Tyler Perry film, several independent films, and is now building her career in Hollywood. Bradley Harris, currently a sophomore in the music department at Shorter College, was awarded the prestigious outstanding performer of piano at the state level of Georgia's Music Teachers Association during his senior year of high school.

For information about the Academy and registration, call 770-413-2133, ext. 228, or visit www.smokeriseministries.org.

Holley Calmes is a freelance writer and public relations consultant specializing in the arts. E-mail hcalmes@mindspring.com.

[Email this article](#) • [Print this article](#)

Software © 1998-2009 [1up! Software](#), All Rights Reserved

An advertisement for Property Tax Relief, LLC. The top part features a background of a fire with the text: "Your Property Taxes Are Too High? PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, LLC CALL TODAY 678-407-7867 2718 Culver Street, Lawrenceville CLICK HERE". The bottom part features a photo of a group of people outdoors with the text: "Student focused, learning centered." and "GAINESVILLE FL STATE COLLEGE www.gsc.edu".