

# Worcester Magazine

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## JOMP around!

### Doreen Manning

The Joy of Music Program, Worcester's community music school founded in 1986, has developed an innovative fundraiser for the school's Financial Aid and Outreach Program.

JOMPATHON is a day when the school's recital hall is filled with continuous music — and everyone is invited.

On Jan. 23, more than 260 students of all ages and abilities will come together at the school's recital hall for continuous performances at this 19th annual event. As family, friends and visitors sponsor performances and raise donations, the public is invited to stop by and hear the sounds of young, creative minds sharing their love of music.

"Audience and performers come and go all day long. Some people just stay for 30 to 60 minutes, others stay for hours, and others come back two or three times," says Rich Ardizzone, Associate Director of the Joy of Music Program.

With enrollment up 10 percent this year, financial assistance is even more a concern for the program. Still, the event's focus will be on the pure joy of musical celebration. "JOMPATHON is a fundraiser, but we believe in low-key, no-pressure fundraising," explains Ardizzone. "The event is free and folks are encouraged, but not required to make free-will donations to support financial aid."

Jodie Chapin, whose two children ages 12 and 9 who attend the program, emphasizes the importance of the community-wide event. "We have enjoyed participating in JOMPATHON. Not only is this a fundraiser but it also provides an opportunity for the children to enjoy each other's music and perform in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. This is a very fun day when anyone can walk in and experience the pleasure of listening to people of all ages and levels."

Madeline Browning, a faculty member who has taught at the Joy of Music Program since 1988, explains that the JOMPATHON serves as a mid-year recital, but also goes a little deeper. "It demonstrates to students and families the size and scope of the music school, and they are always proud of

their involvement," she says.

Ardizzone says JOMPATHON is a compilation of treasured moments: from the nervous young child who ends a solo with an ear-to-ear grin, to the high school student who renders a beautifully nuanced performance of a Debussy piece, to a young jazz ensemble whose sophistication belies their age.

As Ardizzone notes, "Anyone who needs a lift should stop by."

JOMPATHON 2010, Saturday, Jan. 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Free. Joy of Music Recital Hall, 1 Gorham St. Call 508-856-9541 508-856-9541 or visit [jomp.org](http://jomp.org).