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Gift of performing arts skills yields long-lasting results

TAMPA, Fla. – With the holidays around the corner, shoppers are already brainstorming on what gifts will be appreciated and needed. Classes and lessons in dance, theater, and music are expected to be particularly popular this year.

“I believe that, especially in today’s world, most of us want to give presents that are meaningful, and that will last,” said Wendy Leigh, vice president of education at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. “A gift like performing arts classes can last a lifetime. Lessons in the performing arts not only lift a person artistically, but boost self-esteem, teach responsibility and commitment, and can teach teamwork.”

Research repeatedly has shown that participating in performing arts increases team buildings, problem solving and critical thinking skills. “Arts education has been proven to increase academic achievement, and participation is also wonderfully creative,” Leigh said.

About 90 courses in voice, acting, dance and almost every type of musical instrument are available all ages and abilities at the Patel Conservatory. Examples of classes include Young Beginners Violin, tap dance for adults, Dramatic Play, Flamenco dance, Guitar I, Musical Theater, Rock School, Adult Jazz Ensemble and hip-hop dance. Private lessons are also available.

As part of the non-profit Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, the Patel Conservatory offers classes for children and adults of all experience levels in all kinds of dance, music and theater. More information is available by calling 813.222.1002, and by visiting www.patelconservatory.org.

Events, days, dates, times, performers and prices are subject to change without notice.

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