

Another 'Little' Cellist

The Little Cellist is a brightly colored, chipper website aimed at children. There, you can find clips of Julian Lloyd Webber playing "The Swan," from *Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saëns, as well as quizzes, links to orchestra websites, and assorted games for budding musicians. Being past the mid-century mark, I am decades past being a "little" – in the sense of young – anything. Yet, here I am, a middle-aged but eager and diligent beginner, sawing away on the cello. The optimists say it's never too late. I mean to find out if that's true.

When I say "sawing," that may be too kind to the sounds I coaxed from this noble instrument in the first few weeks. My husband said he ducked, expecting a huge dragonfly to dive-bomb him. My indulgent family endured more repetitions of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" than non-convicts should be expected to hear. But they bore it like men – as well they should (at least the offspring among them) considering the hours – no, years! – I've devoted to their lessons, rehearsals, auditions, and practice, practice, practice.

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