

Marantz family members have music in their genes

By JANA J. MARTIN
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Bart and Sara Marantz of Cedar Hill met in 1975 at a copy machine. He was a little bit jazzy and she was a little bit classical, but after a rough start, they soon discovered that they created a perfect harmony.

Both were working on master's degrees at the New England Conservatory of Music.

"I went down to do some Xeroxing and I saw this cute little Xerox girl," Bart said. "And, I asked her if she would like to go get coffee, and she said, 'Absolutely not.'"

But that didn't keep him from persisting.

"He was pushy," Sara said with a laugh. "He even said he was doing me a favor by asking me out because he had high standards."

Eventually, she gave in, and the pair went on their first date.

"It was the worst date I'd ever been on," Bart said.

Although it ended on a sour note, Sara decided to give him another try. He was funny, outgoing and very different from how she was raised, she said.

"I was this gentile and he was a Jewish boy," Sara said.

They married and eventually landed in Dallas in 1983 when Bart took a position at Booker T. Washington High School. He is the director of jazz studies.



Clockwise from left: Bart Marantz has been the director of jazz studies at Booker T. Washington High School since 1983. Sara Marantz comes from a classical piano background and works at Dallas Baptist University. Luke Marantz is a student at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Matt Marantz has performed all over the world and is a member of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz ensemble.

Sara works as the coordinator for the piano accompaniment division at Dallas Baptist University. They have two sons who inherited their musical genes.

Luke, 20, is a student at the New England

Conservatory of Music in Boston, where his parents met and earned their master's degrees in music. Matt, 25, who lives in New Orleans, is a member of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz ensemble and has

performed all over the world.

'This is what I want to do'

Bart was 10 years old when he heard a jazz musician playing the trumpet, and "it just blew me away," he said. His parents rented a trumpet for him to play and spent \$23 on lessons, prompting an announcement that would become his destiny.

"I know I'm only 10, but this is what I want to do with my life," said Bart, 60.

Sara, 57, grew up on a small island off of the coast of Georgia. She was one of eight children, and her mother played classical piano. She wasn't introduced to jazz music until she met Bart while studying in Boston.

"It is kind of unusual that we met because the students at the school are separated by instrument," Sara said.

By the time Bart was 14 years old, he was playing professionally. He went on the road when he was 15. He performed with the Smothers Brothers, Ray Charles, Glenn Miller Band and Frankie Valli, among others.

After more than a decade of touring, he decided to leave the road.

"When I was close to 30, I decided I wanted the other side of life Bart said.

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