

MAY 2021

# resort living

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Mirasol, Mirabella, BallenIsles, Old Palm & Old Marsh

Meet local resident  
**TRACIE  
KRIEGER**



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Photography by  
Teri Roberts Photography



# Meet The KRIEGERS



By Jill Konbecker  
Photo by Teri Roberts Photography

Music has a way of bringing people together, and Palm Beach Gardens resident Tracie Krieger has been on a mission to do just that -- with the littlest members of our community.

"Miss Tracie," as she is fondly known by the families in her music classes, is a beloved member of our community, using her time and talents to offer Tracie's Music Together in Palm Beach County for the past 16 years.

Tracie's foundation in business, she received her undergraduate degree from Indiana University and then went on to earn her Master in Business Administration (MBA) degree from The Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern University in Chicago, coupled with her passion for music and children was the perfect combination for launching her own business. Before she became a business owner, she worked in the publishing industry.

After living in Chicago, Tracie moved to San Francisco in 2000 for a business opportunity with the Hearst organization managing sales and marketing offers for *Cosmopolitan* magazine and then started her family in the Bay area. Tracie is a mom to three children, Charlotte (18), Ben (16), and AJ (14). Soon after her two oldest kids were born, the family found being across the country in California was too far away from extended family in the midwest and on the east coast. The Kriegers made the move to Florida and now enjoy having all their grandparents in the sunshine state too.

"I love being near my kids' grandparents," she said, "I love not having to deal with coats



and muddy boots like I did when I was growing up in Ohio. We can always be outside, which feels so much happier and so much healthier!"

Like any devoted mother, Tracie speaks of her three children with pride. Her daughter Charlotte is spending her senior year of high school attending a performing arts boarding school, Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, and will graduate this month. Before boarding school, Charlotte attended Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach. Next year, Charlotte will be pursuing a BFA from The Weitzendorfer School of Musical Theatre at the University of Oklahoma. "They only accept SIX girls each year so I am super proud," said Tracie.

Her 16-year-old son Ben attends Dreyfoos School of the Arts and has a huge passion for music. "He was MY first Music Together student and I'm so excited about his musical future," she said. Ben is a singer/songwriter, and you can find him "gigging" every Friday night at Grandview Public Market in West Palm Beach. You can also hear him locally at Christopher's Kitchen on Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings, and catch the occasional concert in the center court of Downtown at the Gardens. Before Ben became a singer/songwriter, he was in three Broadway National Tours, traveling the country and even the world as part of the cast of *Pippin*, *Sound of Music*, and *Finding Neverland*. Most recently, he has filmed a network TV Pilot. It has not been announced yet, but stay in touch with Tracie's social media pages, where she hopes to announce his successes this summer!

Tracie's youngest son AJ attends Arthur I. Meyer Jewish Preparatory School and will be attending Oxbridge Academy next year. While he is not into music like his siblings, he is an avid basketball player and enjoys playing travel basketball

with the Hoop Dynasty travel team.

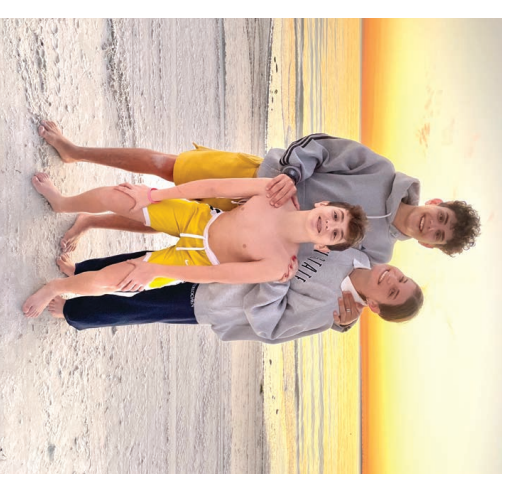
Three busy teenagers doesn't leave much spare time for this single mom, but Tracie makes it a priority to meet friends for drinks or dinner to catch up on kids, life, relationships, and to laugh! She loves enjoying the amazing outdoor restaurants that Palm Beach Gardens has to offer - Lynoras, Kabuki Sushi, The Cooper, Christopher's Kitchen, Coolinary Cafe, and The Riverhouse, among a few. This busy mom also cherishes alone time and unwinds at the beach with a good book or grabbing a couple of cozy beach chairs and some friends to join her.

"My hobbies are my kids. I have been supporting, driving, watching, applauding, yelling, comforting, cheering for 18 years," said Tracie.

The Kriegers lived in Mirabella for 15 years and Tracie just recently moved to Alton. Tracie loves living in Palm Beach Gardens, "both communities are super family and dog-friendly and I love that!" Their family also includes their beloved dog, Daisy, a mini Cavapoo and they take advantage of having the Alton dog park close by.

"I also love that my son can ride his scooter to the Alton basketball courts, I can enjoy the sun and pool at the Alton clubhouse and I can ride my bike to the amazing Alton Town Center anytime and enjoy my favorite restaurant, Lynoras! My townhome by Kotler Homes is the most beautiful and safe, healthy home. I am so grateful to have found it."

Like many families, Tracie and her kids had to adjust travel plans last year, including canceling their annual cruise with extended family. Instead, they are taking time to enjoy their local surroundings and all that Florida offers, including a recent trip to the Pink Shell Resort in Fort Myers.





"Quarantine in my house was a lot of board games, a lot of baking, and yes, we finished Netflix!"

These days work is keeping Tracie busy! She owns Tracie's Music Together LLC, 'mommy-and-me' style music & movement classes for ages 0 - 5 in Palm Beach Gardens and Jupiter, with 200 families enrolled each semester. Music Together can be found all over the world - it's a community of early childhood enthusiasts bringing music back to the family room. Based in Princeton, New Jersey, the company studies how young children develop their innate musical skills. The curriculum is research-based and as Tracie explains, it's extremely beneficial to introduce music to babies as early as possible for both language development and social and emotional skills.



"At Music Together, we believe that music ability is as much a natural life skill as walking or talking," she said. "We believe that all children can achieve basic confidence in music if they attend our classes or participate in music often at home. Also, music class promotes early language acquisition, helps with gross and fine motor skills, boosts social and emotional skills and gets all the neurons firing in the brain! And most importantly, children love it. Music brings them instant happiness and once they 'learn' it, they'll have it for the rest of their lives."

Tracie fell in love with the program when she was a new mom bringing her own daughter to music class. At that time, she had a big job for *Cosmopolitan* magazine, but wanted to spend time with daughter Charlotte. "I raised my hand and said, 'how do you do THIS for a job?'" That was 16 years ago and I've never looked back."

Sixteen years and lots of hard work later, Tracie's Music Together has grown into a thriving business within our local parent community. Entrepreneurship suits Tracie; she finds it both challenging and 100% rewarding.



"There is something really special about working in my own community and seeing the children I've taught all grown up and pursuing music as a hobby," said Tracie. "I will see families at musical theater events or at piano recitals and I know that I had an impact on them. I was the one that started their musical journey when they were 6-months old or 1-year-old or 2-years-old!"

Through the ongoing pandemic, Tracie's Music Together has had to pivot in many ways, but through creative ideas and strategic partnerships, they are persevering. Without the ability to hold in-person music classes, they started focusing on their online presence through Zoom and received help from a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. They have formed new partnerships, such as working with Downtown at the Gardens to offer their families a safe way to come together for music outside.

"Covid was initially devastating. I thought it was the end of my business. However, with help from a PPP loan, some wonderful Zoom customers (I felt like a YouTube star for a few months!), and eventually a great partnership with Downtown at the Gardens, I was able to THRIVE! We are now 100% outdoors! And Tracie's Music Together had over 200 families enrolled once again this past Winter!"

For more information about Tracie's Music Together visit, [traciesmusictogogether.com](https://traciesmusictogogether.com) and @traciesmusictogogether on social media.