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Family Fare

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Baking and Bopping

How is a piece of jazz like a chocolate chip cookie?

Even the youngest music lovers should be able to answer this riddle if they hear the Andrew Rathbun Quartet in Brooklyn tomorrow. The group will perform the first concert of the season in a new children's series called, not surprisingly, Chocolate Chip Chamber Music. The brainchild of Helen Richman, a flutist and Mr. Rathbun's wife, the series was partly inspired by the couple's own cookie lover, 2-year-old Drew.

What concertgoers will discover is that jazz is flavorful, yes, and often hot, but the real reason it's like a chocolate chip cookie is that you can vary the recipe, and the results will still be tasty. That's the revelation that dawns on Baker Bobbie, the series's somewhat flaky M.C.

"The theme is how jazz involves improvising," Ms. Richman said. "Bobbie realizes that it's the same with her baking."

The concert, called "Kind of Two" – a riff on the Miles Davis album title "Kind of Blue" – will demonstrate this in numbers like

Sonny Rollins's "St. Thomas" and Duke Ellington's "C Jam Blues." And since preschoolers don't like to sit still, they will participate in toe-tapping, scatting and movement games, sometimes with the help of older children who play parts in the show.

"One child comes in on a stick horse, waving a red flag, and says, 'Exciting news, Baker Bobbie, you're just in time for a horse race,'" Ms. Richman said. "Kids saddle up their pretend horses, and as the band plays, they can gallop in place." The music will be appropriately energetic: Miles Davis's "Move."

At the end of the set children can meet the musicians and try the instruments. They will also be glad that the sweet treats aren't just metaphorical: chocolate chip cookies are served at each concert.

"Kind of Two," tomorrow at 10 and 11:30 a.m. in the upper hall of the Old First Reformed Church, 126 Seventh Avenue, at Carroll Street, Park Slope, Brooklyn. Tickets: \$5; under 1, free. Information: (718) 638-8300.