

# The STUDIO NEWSLETTER

Helen R. Weems Piano Studio \*\*\* January/February 2017

## February Adventure For All of Us



Chopin and his muse, the female author Georges Sand, spent one of his last winters on the island of Majorca, hoping to restore his health amid warm breezes. Alas, personal ruin and death awaited Chopin upon his return to France.

I lead a more pedantic life than Chopin, and I enjoy health and happiness that he never had. Still, we will depart for warmer California for the month of February, hopefully to enjoy some sunshine and to avoid the cold wind and frozen precipitation that accompany winter in Maryland. I trust I will return in the same great health and teaching zeal with which I depart, but with warmth in my bones.

In my absence, you will take at least one lesson with me via Skype or FaceTime, more if you will do a judged event. **FaceTime** is the superior protocol, so please consider having an Apple device with the app installed for your lesson. **I can schedule** these lessons today, I have copies of your repertoire and lesson books to take with me, and my California friend will allow me to use her piano for most lessons. **Lesson pricing** is \$25 for 30 min. \$37 for 45 min. and \$45 for 60 min. Due to the difficulties of scheduling across time zones and my friend's studio, I **ask for your commitment to the schedule** we have upon my departure. I expect my students to **practice faithfully** in my absence, and to **be at your pianos and devices ahead of the scheduled lesson**, with the device powered down and back up 15 minutes before the lesson. Either of us can FaceTime/Skype the other to commence the lesson. You will write your own assignment in an available sheet in your binder, and email me the image of the completed page. Those students participating in the Outreach Recital and/or the Judged Recital are asked to have someone film their performance for my viewing pleasure upon return.

My email (for February only) is [weemspianostudio@gmail.com](mailto:weemspianostudio@gmail.com). My Skype handle is weemsie. This will be an adventure!



Tuesday, January 17	7:30pm	Movie Night for Adults
Saturday, January 21	3:45pm	Winter Repertory Class
Saturday, January 21	5pm	Teen Movie Night
Saturday, January 28	1-6pm	GCMTA Tweets and Friends Fests @ Chr Ep
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1 ** STUDIO CLOSSES ** E-LESSONS BY APPT COMMENCE		
Monday, February 1		Postmark deadline for MSMTA HS Exam
Sunday, February 12	TBA	GCMTA Outreach @ TBA
Saturday, February 25	afternoon	GCMTA Judged Recital @ Holmes
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 *** STUDIO RE-OPENS *** STANDARD LESSONS RESUME		
Sat, Mar 4 OR Fri, Mar 10	2:45 & 3:45pm	Theory Class followed by Back2Normal Rep
Saturday, March 11	all day	MSMTA Theory Testing @ New Hope Luth
Sunday, March 26	all day	MSMTA Ensemble Comp @ UMCP

## Practice Tip No. 17 for Parents - How Should They Practice in February?



**All this winter, you can make an enormous difference in your child's pianistic progress.**

First, there is January. **January will tell the story of your child's success in Spring Recitals, Competitions, and exams.** Every lesson is important, every week between lessons is essential for making big strides of progress. The GCMTA Judged Recital comes right at the end of February, and your child's ability to participate in this event will determine their confidence level when competition season opens in April. If your child is young or chooses not to participate, winter is time to polish skills and learn a piece for the Spring Concert.

**Then, the challenge of February.** I will be only an email away (see reverse); please feel free to ask questions about what they should be doing. The usual cues apply: you should **hear piano playing**, it should involve **boring repetition of difficult passages** (not the easy stuff over and over), **lots of slow, painstaking practice** (no fluffing the tough stuff), and **plenty of counting**. This is not as enjoyable for them or you, but it is what makes the difference in . . .

**March** (when I return and host a Back2Normal Rep), **April and May – the performance and competition season!**