

The STUDIO NEWSLETTER

Helen R. Weems Piano Studio *** May/June 2017

Year-End Review!



As we approach the Spring Concert on Sunday, and the end of the studio year on June 29, we look back on 2016-2017 as a special year that saw a lot of progress on the part of all students. More events than ever were entered by my students, with several ribbons and trophies making it back to the studio, including a first-place state-wide win since last year's Spring Concert. Twelve students took part in the MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Exams in the fall, 5 played in two different Outreach Recitals, 11 participated in Tweets & Twitters, 8 collaborated for Friends & Family, 7 played in the Judged Recital while I was in California, 4 students sat down to take the MSMTA Theory Examinations, 4 played in the MSMTA State Ensemble Festival (and all brought home Honorable Mentions), 1 soul took the MSMTA High School Piano Examination last week, 5 participated in the GCMTA Spring Solo Competition (with one placing), and 4 will represent us at the MSMTA Spring Piano Solo Competition this week. Three new little ones joined us this year. We attended the Behzod Abduraimov concert together in October and some of us attended the Ralph Votapek Master Class last week. The studio started providing copies of [Piano Explorer](#) to the younger students, which inspired one to start composing, and others to tell awful music puns. This is in addition to EIGHT Repertoire Classes (a studio record) and the Spring Concert, with every Rep Class seeing outstanding participation. Hats off to all!

My adult students had their own events and breakthroughs, with a movie outing last summer, a September seminar, the usual two repertoire classes, a sumptuous movie night hosted by a student, and the two piano outings mentioned above. One adult takes the annual MSMTA Keyboard Examinations and is preparing for Level 9. Watch out, kids!

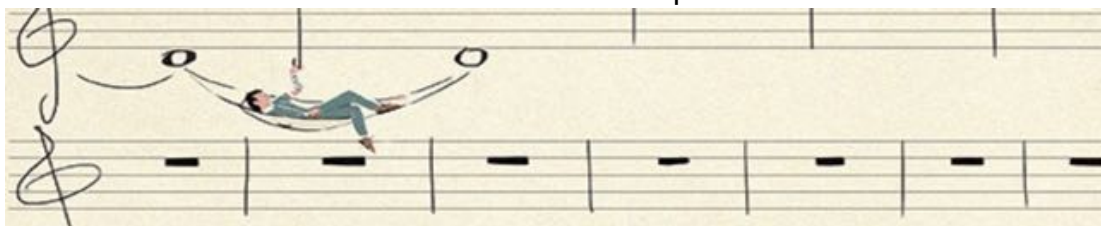
An interesting development was my month in California, supplanted by e-lessons. I found that everyone was engaged and ready for their e-lesson, everyone progressed, and some even appeared to be more enthusiastic for the e-lesson than face to face lessons.

A lot of my students are participating as pianists outside of the studio: Dmytro and Jonathan play for their school jazz bands, Dmytro and Nadia have played organ for my church, and Nadia is her school's choral accompanist. Kudos to them!



Saturday, May 6	all day	MSMTA Piano Solo Competition (UMCP)
Sunday, May 7	7:15pm (7:30)	SPRING CONCERT (Christ Episcopal)
Tuesday, June 20	7:30pm	Adult Repertoire Event
Wednesday, June 28	6:00pm	Movie Pizza Ice Cream!
Thursday, June 29		LAST DAY OF REGULAR LESSONS
Wed, July 5 – Fri August 25	***SUMMER	LESSONS BY APPOINTMENT ***
Wednesday, July 26	10:00am	Rita's Rep Class!
Sunday, September 3	3:45 pm (4:00)	Kick-Off Rep Class
Monday, September 4		FIRST DAY OF REGULAR LESSONS

Parent's Practice Tip # 19:



PREPARING FOR A GOOD SUMMER

As summer approaches, this is an important time for your child to pick fun and satisfying repertoire for the summer. Maybe they want time to make big progress toward a hard level of the Keyboard Examination in the fall. Others find that starting their most challenging repertoire ever is the best choice. Still others might want to decompress with some fun music. Regardless of the decisions that are made, two points will make the decision count:

1. **There indeed must be regular practicing over the summer.** This could be daily, bi-weekly, or weekly. **But "monthly" practice or less will produce tears of disappointment in the fall.** I will ensure your child has a sustainable summer program. **Your guidance, even for teenagers, in making sure there is at least weekly practice will make a huge difference in success come September.**
2. Although I do not require summer lessons, **two lessons every summer make a difference.** My most advanced students have at times taken more than one lesson a week in the summer. **Make the Rita's Rep a priority.** Suffice to say: what a child spends their time doing over the summer will be reflected in quality and advancement come September.

It is difficult to square high expectations against failure to take summer lessons and failure to engage in summer practice. Hopefully you can use this information for Summer 2017.