

The STUDIO NEWSLETTER

Helen R. Weems Piano Studio *** January/February 2018

Repeat sign: Partial February Studio Closure!



Again, I'm closing the studio for February, but this year the format is different. All students will receive one normal studio lesson the first week of February (1-7). The studio will close on February 8 (Thursday people take note) and open on March 1 (again Thursday people, take note!). In the middle of this closure you will take one Skype/FaceTime lesson with me, which will be 15 minutes shorter than your usual lesson time. The month of February will cost \$70 for students who have enrolled with 45 minute lessons, and \$90 for students who have enrolled 60 minute lessons. The reduced tuition pays for your one normal lesson at the start of February, and the shorter Skype lesson in the middle of the month. I am scheduling the Skype lessons now for Feb 15 and 16.

Notes about the Skype/FaceTime lessons: **FaceTime** is the superior protocol, so please consider having an Apple device with the app installed for your lesson. 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 Feb 7. 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 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. Lastly, I hope to establish a video sharing site for us to use for you to keep me informed about your progress.

My email/FaceTime account is weemspianostudio@gmail.com. (Please don't use the email for scheduling at any time.) My Skype handle is weemsie. I was encouraged last year by my students faithfulness to the Skype/FaceTime project, and the flexibility it has encouraged when students are sick or have transport issues. Allons-y!



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| Saturday, January 13 | 3:45pm | Winter Repertory Class |
| Saturday, January 20 | 11-4pm | GCMTA Story & Friends Fests @ Chr Ep |
| Thursday, February 1 | | Postmark deadline for MSMTA HS Exam |
| THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 ** STUDIO CLOSSES ** E-LESSON BY APPT | | |
| Sunday, February 11 | 6:30 | GCMTA Outreach @ Harmony Hall |
| Saturday, February 24 | all day | GCMTA Judged Recital @ Holmes |
| THURSDAY, MARCH 1 *** STUDIO RE-OPENS *** STANDARD LESSONS RESUME | | |
| Saturday, March 3 | 3:45pm | Back2Normal Rep |
| Sunday, March 4 | all day | MSMTA Ensemble Comp @ UMCP |
| Sunday, March 27 | 7:30pm | Movie Night for Adults |

Practice Tip No. 21 for Parents - How Should They Practice in February (Again)?



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, there's 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!

****Never, ever underestimate the power of your attention to your child's success.***
You may not be a musician, but your observations are powerful. XOXO, Helen