

The STUDIO NEWSLETTER

Helen R. Weems Piano Studio *** March/April 2018

Tip #22: Performance Enjoyment



As recital and competition season ramps up, our thoughts turn to preparing for a good performance experience. Nerves are expected: No nerves, and the playing falls flat; too nervous, and hands can become discombobulated. How to find a middle ground and offer your best performance? What makes concert pianists so confident is easy to sum up: Technique, technique, technique; practice, practice, practice; prepare, prepare, prepare.

Toward a Confident Performance:

1. Address technique early and often; if I tell you to do it, do it.
2. Learn your music by memory at least four weeks before your event.
3. Then memorize your music hands separately.
4. Then play it with your eyes closed.
5. Fall asleep at night visualizing the page.
6. Daily: play the scales, cadences and arpeggios of your pieces.
7. Play your pieces for all your friends and family – drive them crazy with sample performances. Make every Rep Class; ask to play in all MTA recitals.
8. Daily - Practice *practice*: that is, play your music with the music in front of you, analyzing every possible mistake, fingering, phrasing. Practice slowly. Practice each mistake until you can play it flawlessly five times.
9. Daily - Practice *performance*: “perform” your piece by playing without stopping from beginning to end, at performance tempo. Assess what went well, what didn’t, and go back to item 7 immediately.

For serious performance anxiety: Ask me for further recommendations; try meditation; or write a mastery script (again, ask me about this).



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 *** STUDIO RE-OPENS *** STANDARD LESSONS RESUME

Saturday, March 3	3:45pm	Back2Normal Rep
Sunday, March 4	all day	MSMTA Ensemble Comp @ UMCP
Tuesday, March 27	7:30pm	Movie Night for Adult Students (Bruce's)

THE INTENSE THREE WEEKS BEGIN:

Sunday, April 22	12:45-2:30pm	Spring Repertory Class
Sunday, April 22	3-5pm	Rodriguez Piano Master Class (HCC)
Saturday, April 28	all day	GCMTA Spring Competition (local venues)
Sunday, April 29	7:15pm (7:30)	SPRING CONCERT (Christ Episcopal)
Saturday, May 5	all day	MSMTA Piano Solo Competition (UMCP)
Saturday, May 5	8pm	Grosvenor Concert @ HCC

NORMALCY RETURNS:

Wed/Fri, May 16&18	morning	MSMTA High School Exam (1 st HoCo Pres)
Mon/Th, Jun 4-7	*** STUDIO CLOSED ***	
Tuesday, June 19	7:30pm	Adult Student Repertory
Wednesday, June 27	6pm	MOVIE PIZZA ICE CREAM REP
Thursday, June 28		LAST DAY OF STUDIO YEAR

whew . . .