

The STUDIO NEWSLETTER

Helen R. Weems Piano Studio *** May/June 2018

Another Great Year, with these Great Kids



I was gratified and exhilarated by this studio year. Reviewing 2017-2018, 10 students took part in the MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Exams (which were crazy early); 11 played in two different Outreach Recitals; 15 participated in Music Tells the Story; 12 collaborated for Friends & Family; 8 played in the MSMTA State Ensemble Festival (and all brought home Honorable Mentions); 4 will take the MSMTA High School Piano Examination last week, 8 participated in the GCMTA Spring Solo Competition (bringing back **1st, 2nd, 3rd, and HM's!**), and 7 will compete at the MSMTA Spring Piano Solo Competition this weekend. We will attend a sold-out concert together this Saturday night, and a **whopping 13 students** attended the Santiago Rodriguez Master Class last week, featuring Nadia! This is all in addition to 8 well-attended Repertoire Classes (three had 100% attendance) and last night's Spring Concert. The comments I received last night from all of you warmed my heart completely.

My adult students enjoyed an extra movie/dinner last summer along with the September seminar, two repertoire classes, a winter movie night hosted by a student, and several concerts attended together. One adult will take the MSMTA Keyboard Examinations this fall at Level 10!

As my students become more adept at piano, they also become desirable to their schools as accompanists and band pianists. Jonathan is the jazz pianist at Oakland Mills Middle, and Dmytro graduates from Wilde Lake's jazz program as pianist. Nadia will leave a vacancy as school accompanist of Reservoir. Who will fill the shoes at your school? Let's talk. XOXOXO



Saturday, May 5	all day	MSMTA Piano Solo Competition (UMCP)
Saturday, May 5	8pm (7:45)	Benjamin Grosvenor Concert Outing (HCC)
Wed+Fri. May 16+18	morning	MSMTA HS Exam (First Pres HoCo)
June 3-7		STUDIO CLOSED!
Tuesday, June 19	7:30pm	Adult Repertoire Event
Wednesday, June 27	6:00pm	Movie Pizza Ice Cream!
Thursday, June 28		LAST DAY OF REGULAR LESSONS
Thurs, July 5 – Thu August 23	***SUMMER	LESSONS BY APPOINTMENT ***
Wednesday, July 25	10:00am	Rita's Rep Class!
Sunday, September 2	3:45 pm (4:00)	Kick-Off Rep Class
Monday, September 3		FIRST DAY OF REGULAR LESSONS

Parent's Practice Tip # 24:



PREPARING FOR A GOOD YEAR

Summer is coming, and we all want some time off. Still, September, with the fall Keyboard exam and expectation of performing repertoire, will come hard if piano is neglected. Think: investment.

1. **Schedule regular practicing every week over the summer.**

2. I do not require summer lessons, but **two lessons every summer make a difference.** Some students take two lessons a week (and thus earn reduced fees) in the summer. What a child spends their time doing over the summer will be reflected in quality and advancement come September.

3. **Nervous performers can benefit from the plethora of performance opportunities I provide, but only if they are ready for them.** If a nervous performer procrastinates learning repertoire, and then passes up easy performances in fall and winter, they ultimately find themselves in a stiff performing situation with inadequate performance practice. Good performers, regardless of nerves, practice performing by memory at every rep class, every available outreach recital and festival and judged recital, and are ready for whatever competitive event they wish. It isn't rocket science; but it is hard work and careful planning.

It is difficult to square high expectations with the avoidance of summer lessons practice. Hopefully you can use this information for Summer 2018 to make great strides forward (and none backward!).