

The STUDIO NEWSLETTER

Helen R. Weems Piano Studio *** March/April 2019

Tip #28: Urgent VS Important Part IV



Today I went to the IMAX and watched Apollo 11. I beg every student, every family, in the studio to see the film together. What does this have to do with piano students in the throes of competition and performance prep? It details the calm of accomplished people of exacting science, teamwork, excellence, practice, and bravery, and it is deeply exciting. A successful piano performance is the result of the same things (minus the mind-boggling math): **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).



THE REMAINING STUDIO YEAR

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

***** FIRST WEEK OF MARCH ***** EVERYONE GO SEE APOLLO 11 IN IMAX *****

Saturday, March 2	3:45pm	Back2Normal Rep
Sunday, March 3	4pm	Aristo Sham, Pianist @ HCC (\$27/\$12)
Sunday, March 24	all day	MSMTA Ensemble Comp @ UMCP
Tuesday, March 26	7:30pm	Movie Night for Adult Students (Bruce's)
MONDAY, April 22	12:45-2:30pm	Spring Repertory Class
Saturday, April 27	all day	GCMTA Spring Competition (local venues)
Saturday, May 4	all day	MSMTA Piano Solo Competition (UMCP)
Sunday, May 5	7:15pm (7:30)	SPRING CONCERT (Christ Episcopal)
Wed/Fri, May 15&17	morning	MSMTA High School Exam (1 st HoCo Pres)
Wednesday, June 19	6pm	MOVIE PIZZA ICE CREAM REP
Tuesday, June 25	7:30pm	Adult Student Repertory
Thursday, June 27		LAST DAY OF STUDIO YEAR