

The STUDIO NEWSLETTER

Helen R. Weems Piano Studio *** May/June 2019

Bravo, Spring Concert!



What a great year! Lots of events, lots of participants in all of them, and several first, second and third place winners – plus many honorable mentions – in the local and state competitions! My congratulations to all my students who played so well at the Spring Concert, and to their supportive families.

My adult students had a busy year, attending the September seminar, two repertoire classes, a winter movie night hosted by a student, and several concerts attended together. Patsy took the MSMTA Keyboard Examinations last fall at Level 10 and earned the MSMTA Advanced Honors Trophy!

***The big event on the horizon is **Movie/Pizza/Ice Cream Rep Class on June 19**, which turns out (thanks to the snow) to be a school night. I've decided to hold it at 5pm (instead of the usual 6) and to show a short movie of about an hour, so after the rep class at 5pm, the pizza at 6pm, and the movie at 6:30pm, kids should be ready to go home at 7:30pm. I hope that everyone can participate, despite having to go to school a half day on Thursday and Friday. Lessons will continue through the following Thursday (June 27).



Saturday, May 4	all day	MSMTA Piano Solo Competition (UMCP)
Sunday, May 5	7:30pm	The Spring Concert @ Christ Episc
Wed+Fri. May 15+17	morning	MSMTA HS Exams (First Pres HoCo)
Wednesday, June 19	*5:00-7:30pm*	Movie Pizza Ice Cream!
Tuesday, June 25	7:30pm	Adult Repertoire Event
Thursday, June 27		LAST DAY OF REGULAR LESSONS
July 1 – August 22		SUMMER LESSONS BY APPOINTMENT
Wednesday, July 24	10:00am	Rita's Rep Class!
Sunday, September 1	3:45 pm (4:00)	Kick-Off Rep Class
Monday, September 2		FIRST DAY OF REGULAR LESSONS

Parent's Practice Tip # 29:



A FINAL "URGENT VS IMPORTANT" MESSAGE

I began this year's newsletters with a quote attributed to Pres. Dwight Eisenhower:
"What is important is seldom urgent, and what is urgent is seldom important."

Summer is coming, and we all want some time off. It's a trick to balance the need for free time with the **importance** of building some compulsory keyboard skills. The fall Keyboard exam and expectation of performing repertoire will involve anxious **urgency** if piano is neglected.

1. **Schedule regular practicing every week over the summer.** Really. This is really **important**.
2. I do not require summer lessons, but even **two lessons every summer make a difference**. Some students take two lessons **per week** in the summer! What a child spends their time doing over the summer will be reflected in quality and advancement come September. Lessons are **important**.
3. **Nervous and novice performers benefit from the plethora of performance opportunities I provide, but only if they are ready for them.** When a student 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's important.**