

The STUDIO NEWSLETTER

Helen R. Weems Piano Studio *** March/April 2020

Tip #32: "PRACTICE MAKES ... PROGRESS"



I am reading a seasonal series of meditations which began with "The Purpose of Practice." "We focus on practicing because our desire is for each of us to strengthen our ability to act with courage, especially when we find ourselves in the midst of challenging circumstances. . . . We grow in our ability to do something when we practice it. The truth is not that 'practice makes perfect,' but rather that 'practice makes progress.'"

Do you see this quote as deflating, or hopeful? I think it's a good attitude for all my students to consider as they begin the final push to our spring performance season (see calendar on reverse.) And as always, I remind parents and students here below of the specifics of making those performances confident through these practice steps.

1. **Technique** solves many performance anxieties; 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. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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 6 immediately.

For serious performance anxiety: Ask me for further recommendations; try meditation (there's an app for that); or write a mastery script (again, ask me).



THE BIG KAHUNA EVENTS (with some changes)

Sunday, March 1	all day	MSMTA Ensemble Comp @ UMCP
Saturday, March 28	7:30pm	ABDURAIMOV CONCERT OUTING (UMBC)
Sunday, March 29	3pm	Spring Outreach @ Morningside
Sunday, April 19	3:15 (3:30-5)	Spring Repertoire Class
Saturday, April 25	all day	GCMTA Spring Competition (local venues)
Sunday, April 26	3pm	Santiago Rodriguez Master Class (HCC)
Saturday, May 2	all day	MSMTA Piano Solo Competition (UMCP)
Sunday, May 3	7:15pm (7:30)	SPRING CONCERT (Christ Episcopal)
Wed/Fri, May 13&15	morning	MSMTA High School Exam (1 st HoCo Pres)
***Tuesday, June 16	7:30pm	Adult Student Repertoire (NEW DAY!)
**Tuesday, June 23	6pm	MOVIE PIZZA ICE CREAM REP (NEW DAY!)
Tuesday, June 30		END OF STUDIO YEAR