

The STUDIO NEWSLETTER

Helen R. Weems Piano Studio *** January/February 2022

Why is she bothering to make a Newsletter



I'm bothering to write this newsletter only to move ever incrementally toward something like the *Before Times*, when we could *plan our lives*.

However, some things bear saying.

1. The Concerts for Those We Love were amazing, and all because of your beautiful, enthusiastic (or, at least, gamer) children, and the wonderful audience that you invited to attend.
2. Life has been a little less beautiful without The Concerts for Those We Love, but everyone needed a little break.
3. Performance season is upon us, and if your child is having trouble with motivation, please see the reverse, and play a role by listening to what they are playing and offering your enjoyment of their artistic effort.
4. If ever someone in your constellation says, "hey, are there going to be anymore zoom concerts?" ... please let me know. The plan is to return to live concerts. The pandemic is a trickster, and we plan without knowing. The Spring Concert and other events will need to be either in person or online (I can't do both at once, and I don't think the church will have adequate bandwidth). However, there are times for zoom concerts, and I think this group of kids would be thrilled to perform if there is an audience that wants to tune in and watch.
5. Will I travel this year (and close the studio)? Who knows? I've been waiting to travel to Switzerland for two years, now looking like late May/early June. My lovely February-in-California is looking UNLIKELY. ☹️



Saturday, January 15	3:45pm	Winter Repertory Class (Outdoors?)
Saturday, January 22	11-4pm	GCMTA Story & Friends Fests @ Chr Ep
Sunday, February 13	3pm	Brian Ganz, pianist @ Christ Episcopal
Sunday, February 13	7:30pm	GCMTA Outreach @ Vantage House TBD
Sunday, February 20	3:45pm	Back2Normal Rep (Outdoors?)
Saturday, February 26	all day	GCMTA Judged Recital @ First Pres HoCo
Sunday, February 27	3pm	Pierre-Laurent Aimard, pianist @ UMBC
Sunday, March 6	all day	MSMTA Ensemble Comp @ UMCP
Tuesday, March 22	7:00pm	Movie Night for Adults
Friday, April 1		Postmark deadline for MSMTA HS Exam

Everything is tenuous. Breathe, and prepare for change.

REDUX! Practice Tip No. 31 for Parents - Lack of Motivation



Everyone has days (weeks? months? years?) when they lose the motivation to do what they love. Some of us have trouble maintaining motivation for projects not at the top of our heart, or projects that we didn't even choose. How do we encourage piano students who are experiencing a loss of motivation?

One of the most powerful incentives for piano practice is enjoyment of what we hear coming out of our hands. For students starting new pieces, or just beginning to learn to play, that is a rare incentive. That's what the stickers and pencils are for – to offer something else to work toward for students who are struggling to achieve anything. But after a while, what we hear coming from our own two hands becomes pleasurable and something we want to repeat.

It is so important that students that enjoy the sound of the music they choose, and begin to enjoy the feel of it rolling steadily and rhythmically off their hands. Until that happens, your parental encouragement is priceless towards developing that intrinsic incentive.

******Do not underestimate the power of your attention to your child's success.*****
 Your attention and your encouragement are *powerful incentives*.