The STUDIO NEWSLETTER

Helen R. Weems Piano Studio *** September/October 2026

Creative Analog Immersion and the Piano Learning Process



Welcome back from The Summer. I dedicate this space to the promotion of concentrated mental striving and the avoidance of distraction during practice time. Our goal: analog immersion, which improves piano progress (and life!).

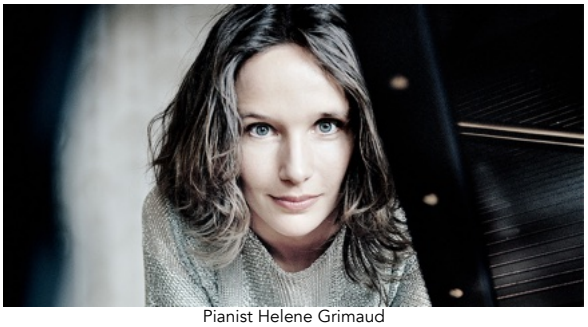
Learning to play piano is a struggle. Learning advanced piano music is a struggle. Learning the keyboard exam at Level 2 is a struggle, and certainly learning the exam at Level 8 is a struggle. Learning to perform in front of an audience, developing paths for knowing your music inside and out, developing self-knowledge to deal with performance anxiety – these skills take grit, knowledge, stamina, concentration, the habit of centering oneself, practiced and exercised fingers, and musical, creative, analog immersion.

Encourage your child to find something in a piece or exam task to work on each day that requires full concentration and commitment. Keep the pet and the cell phone away, ask family to pipe down, and let your child relish a moment of full problem solving.

We all need more of this!

Sunday, August 30	3:45-5pm	Kick-off Rep: BYO Chair
Sunday, October 4	3:45-5pm	Fall Rep Class
Tuesday, October 20	7pm	Adult Seminar (Romance on 3)
Friday-Sunday Oct16-18	All day	MSMTA Keyboard (studios)
Thursday, November 26		Thanksgiving Holiday (closed)
Saturday, December 5	3:45-5pm	Holiday Rep Class
Sunday, December 6	4pm	MSMTA Composers Circle
Tuesday, December 8	7pm	Holiday Adult Rep Class
Sunday, December 13	4ish pm	GCMTA Outreach (TBA)
Sunday, December 20	6:15pm	Holiday Caroling
Mon-Thur Dec 28-31		Closure – lessons by appt.

PIANOPALOOZA



Pianist Helene Grimaud

There are more iconic piano concerts between here and Baltimore than you can shake a "full-stick" at. In 2000, the only options for quality solo piano concerts were DC's Kennedy Center or Hopkins' Shriver Hall. Vive la diffèrence! November especially is piano nuts! Google any of these pianists to learn who they are in the classical realm (!) playing for you locally. Students are always free everywhere with paying adult.

Igor Levit. Sunday November 1 5:30 pm Shriver Hall (Shriver Series)
Brian Ganz. Sunday, November 8 3pm Christ Episcopal Church (Sundays @ 3)
Jean Rondeau. Sat, November 21 7:30pm First Luth Ellicott City (Chamber Mus Md)
Helene Grimaud. Sunday November 22 5:30 pm Shriver Hall (Shriver Series)
Richard Goode. Sunday February 21 4pm UMBC (Chamber Music Maryland)
Piotr Anderszewski. Saturday April 24 7:30pm HCC (Chamber Music Maryland)