

Piano News

January 2012

Group Lessons

Group lessons will be Monday, February 6 & Tuesday February 7. As usual, group lessons will replace the regular private lesson for that week only. I have some great activities planned, and the students will learn a lot, and have fun with piano, too!

Monday	3:30 - 5:00
Name	Grade
Julia Farrel	3
Lydia Fender	3
Morgan Smith	2
Genevieve Gaura	4
Sebi Stiles	3
Alli McKernan	4
Amy Reathaford	4
Emily Armstrong	2

Monday	5:30 - 7:00
Name	Grade
Jakob Distel	5
Simon Stiles	5
Ashley Knighten **	6
Wayne Schreiner **	11
Carrie Schreier **	8
Nicole Brookshire **	6
Olivia Cooke **	7

Tuesday	3:30 - 5:00
Name	Grade
Blake Peterson	6
Micah Johnson	6
George Johnson	6
Grace Stensland	5
Annika Johnson	5
Katie Theischafer **	5
Kelsey Ellenz	5
Gianna Morelli **	5
Roman Morelli **	6

Tuesday	5:30 - 7:00
Name	Grade
Ashley Ellenz	7
Solveig Baylor	6
Claire Grubb	8
Lauren Udlock	9
Sam Stiles	8
Cale Irwin	8
Olivia Spilker **	8

Tuesday	7:00 - 8:30
Name	Grade
Peter Johnson	9
Makenzie Jones	10
Michael McCord	10
Emma Bortz	10
Rebecca Sumner	11
May Lim	12
Zac Ziegler	9

** New Group Lesson Assignment

February Mini - Recitals

The next mini recitals will be held on Saturday, February 25 at Steinway Piano Gallery. If you are new to this location and need driving directions, please contact me. I am still taking time requests, so if you prefer a specific performance time please let me know by Friday, February 3. I will be distributing the assignments during group lesson week.

Times are: 1:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m.

All students will be performing their adjudications pieces – FROM MEMORY – at this recital.

Adjudications Reminders

- I will be letting you know the specific date, time and location for Adjudications by February 8.
- Adjudications students will NOT have regular lessons the week of adjudications.
- PARENTS: Some students are still working on memorizing their music. If you can help your student to keep up regular practice habits, and offer to listen to their pieces every now and then, it would be great! Regrettably, piano study is NOT like preparing a report for school...it's not possible to stay up late the night before to get it all done. Cramming doesn't work for piano!

Calendar Change – Trip to New York for MTNA Conference

As a reminder – I will be gone from Thursday, March 22 – Friday, March 30. I WILL be teaching regular lessons during Spring Break to make up for this week. A few of you have contacted me already because you will be gone during that time, and I will be making specific arrangements for those students.

If you plan to be gone during Spring Break – please let me know. I would like to have a completed list by the end of February so I can create a schedule and try to meet the needs of all my students.

I will be happy to re-arrange lessons during Spring Break week, also, to teach during the day if you prefer to not come during your normal late afternoon or evening time.

Musicfest Northwest – Entry Deadline March 1

As many of you know, Musicfest Northwest is a music competition held annually on the Gonzaga Campus in Spokane during the 2nd week of May. This year it will be May 13 – 18. This event is exciting, full of young musicians who are anxious (and nervous) to share their hard work with some of the best teachers and musicians in the country. The judges who listen to the performers come from very prestigious college and university music departments and are professional performers themselves. The level of performance at Musicfest is very high, with the best students receiving awards and recognition – but all students can benefit.

This event is a mostly a competition, although there is one non-competitive section that can be entered. But ALL sections are graded. Students usually perform 1 piece from memory in a class geared for that style and age: 6th grade Romantic, or 8th grade Bach, or 4th grade Sonatina, for example. Each class has 6 – 8 students who come from all over the inland northwest, and even a few from out of state or from the west side of Washington. Cost is approximately \$25 per class (varies somewhat).

Why should an average student enter Musicfest? They might play perfectly and still not win....they may or may not receive a high score....**they will miss school in order to attend....** (Usually a ½ day – and Musicfest can take place during the weeks of MSP testing, so flexibility is required!)

My answer: ***students who participate in performance events raise their level of musicianship, raise their ability to work under pressure, and have a reason to bring the level of their practice and music to a level they would not normally do.***

The judging and scoring in Musicfest can be unpredictable, and I strongly emphasize keeping an attitude of “I’ll do my best” and not an attitude of “I need to win” or “I need to get a high score”. I have seen students perform perfectly and get a low score, while others play with mediocrity and receive an award. I can’t tell you the number of times I have been in the audience with a group of teachers, and we’re all shaking our heads in puzzlement at the decisions made by the judges...and at other time, it’s perfectly clear who the best performers are, and the judges decisions are totally understood (of course teachers know best!)

I will be talking with students about participation, and would be happy to answer any and all questions from parents about this event. More information is available on their website:

<http://www.musicfestnorthwest.org/>