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Fall Recital Announced

The first piano recital of the new school year has been set for Saturday, November 11th at 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. (Students will be assigned to a particular recital time. You will receive this information one week before the recital occurs.) I divide my students into two groups so that the recitals do not become unpleasantly long. Recitals usually last 30-45 minutes. The recital will be held at Church of the Resurrection in Hartland, located at W287 N3700 Northshore Drive.

The recital will be a duet recital in which I will play duets with each student in turn. The recital is a duet recital because duet recitals provide a more relaxed atmosphere for students. Duets are not played from memory, and students also feel more confident when their teacher is seated beside them, helping them along should they encounter any difficulties.

Not all students are eligible to participate in the Fall recital. Students must be able to read at least nine notes on the musical staff to participate, as all of the music currently available requires these skills. Participation for adults students is optional, but all other students are required to participate.

From Your Teacher

It's hard to believe that we've almost completed the first month of the Fall semester! Where does the time go? We've been very busy in the studio, mastering concertos for Jr. Festival in February, preparing duets for the fall duet recital, and making great strides through lesson and literature books.

As we move toward the holiday season which tends to be stressful for parents and students alike, please remember that one of the best things you can do to get the most from your piano lessons is to ensure that there is good communication between parents, students, and teacher. Students are sometimes reluctant to express their difficulties and concerns to their teacher, and parents are sometimes too busy to take time to talk to their student's teacher. As a parent, there

Recitals are a very important part of learning any musical instrument. Recitals give the student a wonderful opportunity to gain poise in the public eye, demonstrate their abilities for their families and friends, and to receive praise in a non-judgmental setting. Students playing the most advanced pieces play latest in the program, so that all students and parents may enjoy witnessing the progression from novice to skilled pianist.

All students are invited to attend, even if they will not be playing in this recital. In addition, it is entirely appropriate to invite grandparents, parents, other relatives and friends of the family to recitals.

Consider recitals to be formal events. Dress should reflect the occasion. Jeans are generally considered a bit too casual. I will be wearing a coat and tie. If you have questions about what to wear, please contact me privately.

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are two very important things you can do to ensure that your student is getting the most from his or her music lessons. First, communicate with me weekly about your student's progress, interest level, and preparation for lessons. Stopping in at the end of your student's lesson is best, but a voice mail or even e-mail is also a good option. Second, spend time each week with your student while he or she is practicing. Take an interest in their music studies. Chances are that if you are interested and supportive of their lessons, your student will be too!

Please notice that I'm in the process of putting together a lesson swap list so that if I don't have a suitable makeup time to offer you, you can elect to be on the swap list and attempt to switch lesson times with another student for one week. You can read about

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MMTA

I am pleased to announce that I have been accepted as a member in the prestigious Milwaukee Music Teacher's Association. MMTA is a senior club in the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs. Eligibility for membership is based on teaching experience, academic requirements, and pedagogical references.

Students in our studio are now eligible to compete in MMTA's Recital competition. Students perform three selections from memory before a panel of judges. Winning students are given the opportunity to either participate in a group recital of the best MMTA students at the Charles Ellis Art Museum, while especially promising students will receive a 30 minute solo debut recital at the Charles Ellis Art Museum sponsored by MMTA. This is a great honor and a fantastic opportunity. Watch for more information in these pages and in your lessons.

WMTA Auditions

You will note two new contests on this year's calendar. On March 10, WMTA (Wisconsin Music Teacher's Association) will hold its annual contest at Wisconsin Lutheran College. This contest is referred to as "District Auditions" by WMTA. Students must play three pieces from different musical time periods from memory for a judge. Students must also take a written theory examination.

Students receive a rating and written comments from their judge. Students who earn at least 14 points (out of 15) on their audition and score at least 80% on their theory examination may advance to the state level of competition.

The Badger State Auditions are always held on the third Saturday in May (May 19th this year.) The venue for these state auditions changes from year to year. This year, Badger State auditions will be held in Kenosha. (The exact venue has yet to be announced.) At the state level of auditions, students are grouped into rooms by age and once again receive ratings and comments from judges. Each judge also indicates a single winner in each room whom he or she feels best.

This contest is open only to students in grade 4 or higher. The WMTA event is optional for all students owing in large part to its increased demands for memorized repertoire, mandatory theory exam (with aural component), and competitive elements. However, this contest is a great event for students who would like an additional challenge. If you have additional questions about the WMTA district or state auditions, please feel free to ask at your next lesson!

Fall Recital - Continued from page 1

Students should plan to arrive at Church of the Resurrection at least 15 minutes before their scheduled recital time. I recommend that you take time before the recital to actually drive to the church so that you know where you will be going. It seems that there is always one parent who ends up driving around all of Hartland with half of their extended family in the car, their student in tears, and an angry spouse. Don't let this happen to you! Please find the church today! While I really want each student to have their opportunity to play at the recital, I do not feel that it is fair to all of the students who are punctual to start the recital late.

As usual, we will be accepting donations to the AWCCM scholarship fund at the door. Please give generously to support the scholarship fund that does so much to help music students!

Composition Contest

The National Federation of Music Clubs contest will be sponsoring its composition contest again this school year. Students who wish to compete should tell me as soon as possible so that we can begin to create a piece to submit. Students must submit both a score in Finale format and an audio CD of their composition. Scores and recordings must be received by the state composition chair no later than February 1, 2007 to be considered for this year's competition.

Students who participate in the composition event earn gold cup points as is usual for NFMC contests, but unlike more other NFMC contests, the composition event is competitive, and one student will be chosen at the district, state, regional, and national levels. Winners at national and regional levels receive cash prizes while winners at the state and district levels may receive scholarships to attend the Junior Composer's Institute composition camp in summer. I had the privilege to attend JCI this past summer, and I was really impressed with the faculty and staff who run this excellent summer camp!

All students are encouraged to compete and I know some of you are already working on your pieces!

Lesson Swap List

It's a common practice in piano studios for teachers to ask students and parents to participate in a lesson swap list. The idea behind a swap list is simple: Everyone in the studio gets a list of everyone else's lesson time along with their phone number. That way, if I don't have an opening to offer you as a make up, you can call someone else and ask them to switch with you for the week. I have always resisted implementing a swap list in the past as it means divulging private information to a lot of people, and when students have fewer days between lessons, it's far more difficult for them to come well-prepared for their lessons. However, in the end, I feel that I can better serve my students by offering a voluntary swap list. If you want to be included, please talk to me at your next lesson. If you would prefer not to have the option of switching lesson times with another student and would prefer that other students didn't call you to ask you to switch, please indicate your preference at your next lesson. I feel better about making the swap list voluntary because I feel it will be less awkward calling someone to ask them to switch if you know in advance that they have indicated their willingness to participate. I hope to distribute the lesson swap list during the first week of October.

When making use of the swap list, it will be important to observe two important points: first, please check with me to see if I have an opening that might help you without moving another student's lesson. Second, it will be very important that if you make a switch that you call my voice mail and leave me a message to let me know at least 24 hours before the switch. This is important so that I can continue to be prepared for my student's lessons, ensuring that I have the materials I need to present a great lesson, and that I have an opportunity to be well-prepared for every lesson.

I will still continue to offer makeup lessons as my schedule permits to all students whether you choose to participate in the swap list or not.

Letter from your teacher continued from page 1 on page 3.

One final note: after reviewing the presenters at this year's WMTA convention, I have decided not to attend, and as a result, lessons will occur as usual on Friday, October 20th.

Concerto Recital Announced

Our second annual Piano Concerto recital will take place Saturday, January 20th at Hartland Music Center. At this recital, students preparing for the NFMC concerto competition will perform their pieces to gain additional performance experience before the NFMC contest February 2nd. This recital will be held at Hartland Music Center since two pianos are needed to perform piano concertos. Students play the piano solo part on one piano while the teacher plays a reduction of the orchestra's part on another piano.

The piano concerto event is the most difficult event at the NFMC Junior Festival. Students must play one movement of a selected concerto entirely from memory. Most concertos range from twelve to forty pages in length per movement, so this contest provides a great challenge for musical students.

Even if your student is not competing in this year's concerto event, I would encourage you to attend because it gives students an idea of what they need to do if they decide they want to compete in the concerto event at some point in the future. The NFMC concerto event has a strategic advantage for students who are seeking to earn additional points toward gold cups. Points from the concerto event may be combined with points from the piano solo event under certain circumstances to earn larger gold cups. The President's Cup and Grand Gold cup can only be earned in this way.

The recital will last about 30-40 minutes. I hope to see everyone there!

Flash Card Contest Final Results

Congratulations to this year's flash card contest winners, Laura Sievert and Henry Galles! Laura set a new studio record by correctly answering 30 flash cards in one minute! All students studying music flash cards were eligible, answering as many cards correctly as was possible in one minute. Everyone who participated showed a great improvement in their ability to quickly answer flashcards. Most students were able to double their score by the end of summer! Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard this summer!

What's Next?

All dates subject to change.

Please note that this updated calendar supersedes all previously issued calendars.

2006

September 30 - Students competing in the NFMC concerto competition must have pieces memorized

Week of October 2 - Students Levels M-MA2 choose Federation pieces

Week of October 9 - Students choose NFMC Hymn Play Event pieces

October 20 - Lessons will continue as usual*

Week of October 23 - Students Levels PP-E4 choose Federation pieces

November 11 - Fall Duet Recitals at Church of the Resurrection 12:00 and 1:30

participation mandatory

November 23-24 - No Lessons - Thanksgiving

December 23- January 1 - No Lessons - Winter Break

2007

January 2 - Lessons Resume

Week of January 2 - Students competing in WMTA auditions choose pieces

January 20 - **Concerto Recital 3:00 p.m. at Hartland Music**

participation mandatory for students participating in the concerto event at Junior Festival

February 2 - **NFMC Junior Festival Concerto competition** at Hartland Music

February 3 - **NFMC Junior Festival at Hartland Music** *participation mandatory*

Week of February 5 - Students Choose Pop Piano Contest Pieces

Late March - Lake Country Solo/Ensemble Contest at Stone Bank School (Date TBA)*

May 19 - **Badger State Auditions***

May 19 - **Young Artist Pop Piano Festival at Interstate Music***

May 28 - No Lessons - Memorial Day*

July 4 - No Lessons - Independence Day*

*** Items which have changed since the last calendar was issued are marked with an asterisk.**