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## Success at Greater Milwaukee Baroque Fest!

The second annual Greater Milwaukee Baroque Music Festival was held on Saturday, October 3rd, 2009 at Wisconsin Lutheran College. Twelve students from our studio participated in the festival which ran all day in the Center for Arts and Performing. This year's festival had twice as many participants as last year's festival, and featured a guest speaker for the first time.



Becky Schindler tries out WLC's Harpsichord

Highlights of the day included a master class and lecture with noted Baroque scholar, Christos Tsitsaros, a recital featuring all of the student audition winners, and an opportunity to play a real harpsichord.

Two students from our studio, **John Schindler**, and **Michael Jarrell** participated in the master class and received helpful advice from Dr. Tsitsar-

os before an audience of many piano teachers and other students.

We are also very pleased to announce that **Jacob Beranek** received honorable mention in the K-5 age group and **John Schindler** received second place in the K-5 age group. Congratulations on your outstanding achievements!

## From Your Teacher

The fall semester is now in full swing, and we already have had lots of excitement. With the Baroque Festival past, our next big excitement will be the second annual Duet Festival sponsored by WMTA-GMC at Wisconsin Lutheran college. Good luck to the duet team who will be representing our studio this year!

I'm pleased to announce that our studio will receive a makeover over the holiday break. It's been about four years since I've made any real changes to our studio, and about 8 years since I've made major changes.

Before I sat down to write this newsletter, I spent a couple of hours replacing lost CDs, lost jewel case inserts, damaged CDs, and damaged jewel cases from our studio listening library. Certainly, some wear and tear on these items is to be expected, but I would like to encourage each of my students to treat the CDs which you borrow with care and respect so that I can spend time increasing our studio's borrowing library rather than replac-

ing CDs which we already have. I would encourage parents to take a moment to talk to students about care of CDs, being sure not to touch the bottom part of the CD, and being sure to return it to its case when you are finished listening to it. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Given that there are several highly contagious viral infections going around right now, I'm going to make an executive decision to make some case-by-case exceptions to our studio policy regarding absences. If you are having flu-like symptoms, please stay home. I'd be happy to see when you feel better, and if it is not possible or convenient to make up missed lessons, I'll grant you additional excused absences. In an effort to promote good health in our studio, I've taken to lysoling our studio's keyboard 3-4 times daily, and there is now hand sanitizer available atop the piano for your use. Please keep washing your hands before lessons so that we can all stay as healthy as possible! Thanks for your consideration.

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## Fall Recitals Announced

The first piano recital of the new school year has been set for Saturday, November 7th 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.

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.

## Federation Festival Times

As always, if you have time constraints on the day of Federation Festival, I can put in a request for a morning or afternoon time. This year, because of an anticipated decrease in the number of students playing concertos, there will be a limited number of openings on Friday evening for students who wish to play piano solos. The advantage to playing Friday night is that students will get to audition on a grand piano rather than on an upright. If you are more comfortable with a grand piano and would like to audition Friday night, please contact me so that your time can be arranged.

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.

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 LCMC scholarship fund at the door. Please give generously to support the scholarship fund that does so much to help music students! The Lake Country Music Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and your donations are deductible.

## WMTA Auditions

You will note two WMTA contests on this year's calendar. On March 21st, 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 15th this year.) The venue for these state auditions changes from year to year. This year, Badger State auditions 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 plays 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!

## Michael Jarrell Wins WMTA High School Virtuoso Competition

The ninth annual WMTA High School Virtuoso competition was held Saturday, October 24th in Watertown, Wisconsin. The WMTA High School Virtuoso Competition was created in 2000 to provide an additional opportunity for high-achieving music students in grades 11 and 12. The competition represents a major achievement for the talented, highly motivated high school student who wishes to prepare and perform a demanding program comparable to the MTNA Senior Performance Competition but without the concerto requirement. The High School Virtuoso Competition is sponsored by WMTA. There is no advancement beyond the state level.

## 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 January 20, 2009 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 winners will be chosen at the 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!

Entrants were required to play a memorized program consisting of a minimum of three pieces, each from a different style period. Michael played a Bach Prelude and Fugue, the first movement of a Haydn Sonata, and a Prelude by Rachmaninoff.

As first place winner, Michael received a \$100 cash prize as well as 10 WMTA points for participation, and an additional 5 points for winning. As the winner, Michael will perform at the WMTA state convention next weekend at the Kalahari hotel in the Wisconsin Dells.

# What's Next?

All dates subject to change.

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

## 2009

October 30 - No Lessons - WMTA State Convention\*

November 7 - **Fall Duet Recitals** at Church of the Resurrection *Participation Mandatory*

November 13 - Adult Student Salon at Hartland Music Center 6:00 p.m.\*

November 14 - **WMTA Duet Festival** at Wisconsin Lutheran College

November 26-27 - No Lessons - Thanksgiving

December 24 - January 1 - No Lessons - Winter Break

## 2010

January 4 - Lessons Resume

February 5 - **Federation Festival Concerto Event** at Hartland Music Center

February 6 - **Federation Festival** at Hartland Music Center *Participation Mandatory*

March 7 - **MAPTA Auditions** at Mount Mary College

March 21 - **MAPTA Honors Recital** at Mount Mary College

March 21 - **WMTA Auditions** at Wisconsin Lutheran College\*

April 5-9 - No Lessons - Spring Break\*

April 17 - Summer Sign up Begins\*

May 1 - Absolute Deadline for Summer Sign Up\*

May 15 - **WMTA Badger State Auditions** - Location TBA\*

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