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Spring Solo Recital Set for May 22nd

The third piano recital of the school year will take place Saturday, May 22nd at 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. You will be informed as to which recital you should attend by a written notice later this month. I have chosen to hold two recitals to prevent the program's length from becoming unpleasant. The recital will be held at the Church of the Resurrection in Hartland, WI.

The recital will be a formal solo recital in which each student will perform solo piano repertoire. The recital was designated as a solo recital to provide students with an opportunity to show their friends, parents, and family members the ability and skill they have gained since this past fall. When students play solos at contests and recitals, it is appropriate that they play their pieces from memory (i.e. without music).

Not all students are eligible to participate in the spring recital. Students must be able to read at least nine notes on the musical staff (page 47 in the purple lesson books) to participate, as all of the music currently available requires these skills. Participation for adults students is optional (but strongly encouraged!), and all younger 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 and approval in a non-judgemental setting. The recital is structured such that students playing the most advanced pieces play latest in the program, so that students and parents may enjoy witnessing the pro-

From Your Teacher

It's been a busy fall for our studio. Our studio remodeling has been mostly completed (parents of students are invited to stop in if it's been a while since you've been to lessons!)

As many of you already know, there have been many things going on in my world outside of lessons of late. We're very pleased that we are expecting our second child this summer (probably in late June or early July). This is very excited, but it also means that we are rapidly outgrowing our small 'starter' house. To that end, I've been spending my weekends (and some mornings) refinishing hardwood floors, laying tile, painting, completing various repairs, and moving furniture to accommodate carpet layers, drywall finishers, etc. etc. There is also time being spent searching for a new house, dealing with realtors, and bankers, etc. I have done my very best to ensure that these activities have as little impact as possible on the quality of instructions all of my students receive. I would, however, ask your

continued patience if it takes me a little longer to return your phone calls or e-mails.

When our child is born this coming summer, I will be taking about a week off of work. I will call you to give you as much notice as is possible, and of course there will be no charge for the lessons I miss. They will appear as credits on the following month's statement.

If you are a high school student attending a public high school and would like to participate in this year's WSMA contest, please speak to me at your next lesson. As a private music teacher, I am unable to enroll you (this is done through your school) but I can help you to select a piece and begin work on it. Please don't wait until your school announces the contest; the 3-4 weeks notice the school typically gives is not nearly enough time to prepare even a class C piece, much less a class A piece.

As always, thanks for your support and for making my job a continual joy!

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gression 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 spouses, children, 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 additional questions about what to wear, please speak to me privately.

Students should plan to arrive at the Church of the Resurrection at least ten minutes before their scheduled recital time. I recommend that you take ten minutes out of your day at least a week 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

Federation Festival Reminders

It's about this time of year that everyone wants to know when their federation festival audition will take place. The audition schedule will be made up on Saturday January 23rd, and will be distributed the following week. If you have a schedule request, please let me know as soon as possible. After the 23rd, schedule changes may not be possible.

All of the students in our studio should have received a practice theory test at this point. If you didn't get one, or if you'd like some additional practice, they're available online at the federation national site:

<http://nfmc-music.org/Festivals/festivals.htm>
(You'll have to scroll down to see them)

Practice at home in the outfit that you plan to wear to festival. Make sure that your shoes allow you to pedal comfortably and that your clothes don't restrict your movements. Practice handing the music to the judge, adjusting the bench, and setting up to perform.

Plan to arrive early at the festival. The rooms tend to run ahead, and you could end up playing with no warm up time if you're not there early. Remember to arrive early enough to allow your shoes to dry, or to wear boots outside and to carry your shoes in so that they don't squeak on the pedals.

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! Please understand that 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.

Immediately following each recital there will be a brief awards ceremony during which students will receive their Gold Cups, large federation certificates, and WMTA plaques.

There is no admission charged for the recital, but we will be accepting donations to benefit the WCCM scholarship fund which provides music lessons for needy and gifted students at the Waukesha County Conservatory of Music. Please give generously at the recital! Your contributions are tax-deductable and 100% of the funds you donate go directly to deserving students.

Federation Theory Test

All students participating in the National Federation contest on February 10 will also be participating in the Federation's theory/musicianship event that same day. Students take a written examination to test their knowledge of music theory concepts. Students may take as much time as they wish to complete the examination, but most students are able to finish in under 15 minutes.

Students should plan to arrive at Hartland Music about 20 minutes before their scheduled performance time. This allows them to be ready in the judge is running ahead. In the unlikely event that the judge is running late, students can then take their theory test if it appears that time will permit. Students may also take their theory test following their performance if they wish.

Students should know which level of theory test they are scheduled to take. If students do not know, Federation officials have to dig through all of the tests to try to find one with the student's name on it. About 3-4% of students will not have a correctly labeled test, which means that there is a good possibility they make end up taking the wrong level of test and be disqualified. It is therefore *very* important that every student knows what level theory test he or she is scheduled to take. If you have forgotten which level you are to take, please ask at your next lesson, and I will be happy to remind you!

Top Student Honors

At the end of each semester, I like to publicly acknowledge students who demonstrate exemplary achievement, progress, improvement, preparation, attitude, and talent. A sort of "honor roll" for piano students, the list is compiled without consideration of student's ages, levels or duration of study. Please congratulate these students on their hard work when you see them!

Ethan Ackelsberg

Jeremy Bell

Jacob Beranek

Becki Culhane

Kyle Ray

John Schindler

Olivia Sherman

Missy Weber

David Wittmann

Hand Washing for Your Health

Flu/cold/Nepalese Fever season is upon us once again, and this is an ideal opportunity to remind all students of several things which help greatly to keep everyone happy and healthy this winter!

Before coming to lessons, please stop into the lavatory and wash your hands thoroughly. Parents of younger students may want to go over hand washing procedures and/or supervise their student's hand washing. I frequently use Lysol on my piano, computer keyboard and mouse, and the door handles of my studio, but a little hand washing can go a long ways to help.

Please remember that students all touch the same keyboard, and that I am frequently required to touch students's hands to correct hand/wrist position or tension, and I find that I am placed at very high risk of contracting every cold that circulates through every local school. In order to better serve all of my students, I would ask that each student takes time to wash their hands before each lesson to promote the common good and general health of all students. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter!

Lake Country Solo & Ensemble Contest Announced

I am pleased to announce the annual Lake Country Solo and Ensemble contest which is set to take place on Saturday, February 27th at Stone Bank School. The contest will take place from 8:00 a.m. until early afternoon.

All students who have achieved a high enough level of proficiency (i.e. he or she can read enough notes on the musical staff to perform a piece) are invited and encouraged to enter this contest. However, unlike the National Federation of Music Clubs contest in February, participation in the solo and ensemble contest is optional. While I would encourage all eligible students to take part in this contest, I would especially encourage students who are relatively new to piano to participate as the Solo and Ensemble contest is an excellent, low-pressure introduction to contests for piano students.

Like almost all contests my students enter, the Lake Country Solo and Ensemble contest is a noncompetitive contest. Each student is judged on their ability to play their chosen piece, rather than competing against other students.

Students will be assigned a particular time to perform play one composition in front of a judge. Please plan to arrive about ten minutes early so as not to make the room to which you are assigned run late. You may request a morning or afternoon time, and I am happy to submit this request to the contest scheduling committee. However, please be aware that while the committee makes every possible effort to accommodate each student's schedule, it is not always possible to accommodate everyone.

Scholarship Opportunities

In today's difficult economic times, paying for lessons can be difficult. I have access to many scholarship and work/study opportunities for hardworking and talented students, as well as contest opportunities where students can win cash prizes. If you are interested, please talk to me during lessons, or call me at my studio where I can be reached most weekday mornings.

What's Next?

All dates subject to change.

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

2010

January 22 - Jr. Composer's Entries Due

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 13 - **WMTA Auditions** at Wisconsin Lutheran College

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

May 22 - **Spring Solo Recital** at Church of the Resurrection *Participation Mandatory**

May 31 - No Lessons - Memorial Day*

June 7 - Summer Schedule takes effect*

July 1 - Jr. Composer's Institute tuition due*

July 17 - Fall Sign Up Begins*

July 18-24 - Jr. Composer's Institute at University of Minnesota*

August 1 - Absolute Deadline for Fall Sign Up*

September 6 - No Lessons - Labor Day*

September 7 - Fall Schedule takes effect*

November 25-26 - No Lessons - Thanksgiving*

December 24- January 2 - No Lessons - Winter Break*

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