



News & Notes

A monthly update for students and parents

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"It is cruel, you know, that music should be so beautiful. It has the beauty of loneliness and of pain; of strength and freedom."

-- Benjamin Britten, 1913-1976
Composer, conductor, pianist

Happy 2009!

A new year is here, and I hope you enjoyed the holidays! Probably you didn't spend as much time practicing the piano as you normally would, so now is a great time to get back into the practice routine. Perhaps you'll even make a New Year's Resolution to practice more! Remember, the goal is to practice at least five days each week. Even when you get really busy try to fit in a few minutes at the piano each day – a little bit of practice is better than none at all! Most importantly, make sure that your practice time is quality practice time – that you're focused, concentrating on what you're playing, working to improve, and not just filling time!

A final reminder that there will be no piano lessons from Jan. 12 - Feb. 13, 2009, as I will be with my husband on his pastoral sabbatical. Your practicing will be very important during these next few weeks. Please keep up with regular practicing, spending time at the piano just like you would if you were coming for a weekly lesson. Continue to play your warm-ups or scales, practice all your assigned pieces, complete any written assignments as soon as possible, and try to perfect all material that you are currently working on. Once you feel that you have a song or exercise as close to perfect as you possibly can play it, keep practicing it - I want to hear all your pieces when I return! Once you've perfected your assigned pieces, I give you permission to turn the page in your books and try to learn the next song on your own – good luck! Be sure to consult the time signature and key signature when you begin, try to read all the notes carefully, and count. And remember, guessing is not allowed!!! ☺



While I Am Away

- Please note that there is an additional page included in this month's newsletter. I already talked about practicing while I am gone; to assist you with this, I have included a blank practice log, on which I would like to keep an honest record of your practicing over the next few weeks. At the bottom of the page is a line for your signature (or the signature of your parent, if you are 12 years old or younger) which I would like you to sign at the end of the five week period, verifying that your practice log is an accurate representation of your practicing during that time.
- I have a series of fun listening assignments for you to complete while I am away. Each week please visit my new website, www.melodicmusings.com, where you will find instructions to download and listen to an assigned piece; after listening send me an e-mail to let me know you've listened, and answer a few questions, or post your comments online to share your thoughts on the assigned piece.
- Check back on my website for a special online version of the February newsletter.



Happy New Year!

Payments & Cancellations

To simplify my bookkeeping, monthly payments are appreciated at the beginning of each month. If you need to cancel for any reason please be sure to let me know as soon as possible. Credit will only be given for lessons missed due to sickness and family emergency, and only if I receive advance notice. I will let you know if make-up options are available.

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