

WDSS NOTES

***In this Issue: *How to have a GREAT Piano Rehearsal
*How to have a FABULOUS Solo Recital *Eli Update
*Super Saturday Practice Report *Summer Lessons***

How to have a GREAT Piano Rehearsal!

1. **BEFORE-** When your teacher tells you the time of your rehearsal with Mr Evan, clear out your schedule so that you can arrive at least 5 minutes before your scheduled time calm and collected and ready to make beautiful music together. BEFORE you come check that you have your instrument your bow, your rock stop (cellos), your music (even though you have it memorized) and a phone all charged top to record the rehearsal.
2. **DURING-** Have fun meeting Mr Evan, he is on your team! Before you come, OVER PRACTICE, hopefully with a recording or metronome so that you will have little trouble fitting together. Also OVER LISTEN to your piece. Your mind is amazing and will catch non-verbal cues from the recording which will support you when you perform. Don't be afraid to ask Mr Evan to play it through again with you. Getting comfortable with listening to the piano *while* you play I can be a bit tricky.
3. **AFTER-** When you drive home chat about the rehearsal with your parent. This will help you both remember so that you can talk to your teacher and plan how you will continue preparing for your sharing at the solo recital.



How to have a FABULOUS Solo Recital!

1. **Carefully, thoughtfully OVER practice.** During the time that you will be sharing your music at the Solo Recital, there are many things which could lean towards diminishing your music. There is a bigger room, dress clothes, more people, the piano, and how long you have had to wait. Maybe you are a bit hungry or forgot to go to the bathroom. Maybe a baby cries in the back of the sanctuary or there is rain and thunder! All kinds of things could happen. But if your song is totally firm in your head, hands and heart, it will be great. So OVER PRACTICE, carefully, not sloppily or too fast or just

to get it over with. Use a recording to mentor your tempo and memory. Record yourself, give mini-performances to ... anyone who will listen. What you are preparing is important as you are important and make a difference in this world.

2. **Try your dress clothes on ahead of time** and see how it feels to play in them. It is not fun when you find out the morning of the recital that you have grown and your pants are way too short or your shoes uncomfortably small. If you are wearing heels or a tie it can alter your balance and comfort so it is smart to practice with them on. You'll get used to it and you'll look honoring of the audience and your work.
3. **Arrive for your recital with plenty of time to spare.** You can find a seat, go to the bathroom, let your teacher know you have arrived, get tuned to the piano, rosin your bow, play some warm up songs, find out where you are on the program, greet your friends, maybe even chow down on a power bar. You might think of bringing a book or other kind of quiet toy. Unless specifically requested, the placement of students is rather random so you might go first, middle or towards the end. Best to be prepared.
4. **When it is your to share your music, there is no hurry.** Let your teacher check your instrument to be sure you are still in tune and give you a cheery send off. Find your stool or the X spot and take a lovely bow. When you get ready to play, check your posture and take a breath. Now you are ready to focus in on the work of playing your piece. The audience will love it and totally appreciate you. Don't forget to bow after you are done acknowledging the audience and your great job.
5. **After the recital, practice saying 'thank you'** to everyone who congratulates you and maybe you could even find someone who's performance you particularly enjoyed and make the effort to congratulate them. Also, teachers love it when you say goodbye to them before you leave!!



Concert Clothes Exchange



WDSS Group Class Concert and Recitals are coming up and there is a dress code. DRESSY white on top and black on the bottom. Shirts may be short sleeved but NOT a golf shirt. Pants which have belt loops should be worn with a belt. Black shoes/black socks. Long ties(not bow) with a dress shirt.

We can help each other. Please check your closets! As your children grow, consider donating small concert clothes. You may give the items to your teacher or the Concert Clothes box which is usually stored under in the Ms Crystal's studio

Eli Update

by Mrs B

Last month Eli Pouliot, a former WDSS student, shared with us about his 100 Days of Era time project. Last evening I was able to attend his Junior Recital at CU Boulder. He was amazing. He played beautifully with such passion and power. I am sure he was thankful for all of those 100 days of practice! **Bravo, Eli!**



- String Quartet No. 2**
Alexander Borodin (1833-1887)
III. Notturno: Andante
Eli Pouliot, violin
Sarah Payton, violin
Len Eppich, viola
Evelin Roark, cello
- Polonaise de Concert, Op. 4**
Henryk Wieniawski (1835-1880)
Eli Pouliot, violin
Ye-Feng Yang, piano
- Between Worlds**
Carlos Simon (b. 1986)
Eli Pouliot, violin
- Sonata in A Major for Violin and**
César Franck (1822-1890)
I. Allegretto ben moderato
II. Allegro
III. Ben moderato: Recitativo-Fantasia
IV. Allegretto poco mosso
Eli Pouliot, violin

WDSS Concerts!!!

May 1 Wednesday 5:00pm Group Class Concert

Call time 4:30pm St James Sanctuary

May 18 Saturday WDSS Spring Solo Recitals

10:30am, 12:15pm, 2:00pm, 3:45pm

Call time 20 minutes before your recital time



Super Saturday Practice Report

by Ms Autumn

The Super Saturday Practice was really lovely to witness. At first the mentors seemed a little nervous, but after the first initial moments of working with their mentees, the ease of music took over. It seemed like they all fell right into stride since they're all so used to the process of practice in the first place! I was really impressed with all of the mentors for stepping outside of their comfort zone and trying something new. I also admired the mentees for going into a studio with a teenager they might not have known and let them guide them through practice! I loved seeing the mutual respect grow and the magic of the Suzuki community come to life. It's really cool to realize that since we all know the same songs from the Suzuki books, we can really make fast friends by playing the same repertoire. I saw smiles all around and I loved being able to facilitate the event. It definitely gave the teenagers a sense of purpose and responsibility and helped the younger kids feel valued and taken care of.



Isabelle and Carl



Evelyn and Caleb



Robert and Lucas

I'm sure we'll do more events like these if we have enough mentors who would like to donate their time! Having pizza and treats afterwards to debrief was also really helpful. I love getting to know the older kids better and it helps to know what is going on inside their heads so that WDSS can better serve them, as well as everyone!

From Helen, 8yrs and Clara 8yrs and their parents

Did you have fun? C-Yes! We got to play a fun game.

H-She had a great time and it was evident as they went over the 20 minute mark!

Were you glad to practice with someone else?

C-Kind of. I was kind of nervous at first. But it was fun.

H- It was weird at first but it was easy once we started playing..

Would you do it again? Maybe/Yes

Did you want to stay longer? Yes/Yes

What was the best part? C-Getting to play a game and work on Cileta Lindo. H-Maddie was really nice!

Do you think we should have a Treasure Chest or cookies for the kids afterwards?

C-Yes! H-No

Parents, would you sign up your student again?

Yes. She took away some new things from the practice and it got her out of her routine and comfort zone bit.

We would definitely do it again. It was a good way to mix things up and hope she (Clara) can be a mentor some day!



Coraline and Twylah

SUMMER LESSONS

by Ms Crystal

Can we take summer lessons? Do we have to take summer lessons? Why do we take lessons in the summer? Many a parent (and student) have asked me these questions as we are closing out the spring semester.



Most other activities take a break for the summer. Why is music different? Muscle memory. Violin, viola and cello are not like school or soccer. Without regular playing of your instrument, your muscles forget what to do and your progress not only stops but goes backwards. I have experienced this personally after vacation and it is frustrating, because you can remember what you could do, but your fingers refuse to cooperate! After a lot of time off, kids are often frustrated when their playing goes backwards and are more likely to want to quit. Stamina also shrinks, causing additional frustration. Think about how much happier in lessons your child is after a good practice week compared to a not so good one! It's sort of like that. Regular practice increases the quality of your lessons and regular lessons improve the quality of your practice. This is not to say that you should never take vacation, or a day off practice, because you can certainly relearn things, but rather taking the whole summer off can lead to a desire to quit and you often have to relearn things that you already had lessons on and practiced.

How many lessons should we take over the summer? How should we practice? The answer is up to you and your teacher! Most WDSS teachers require somewhere between 5-9 lessons over the summer, but you can probably take as many as you would like! Here are some options to keep you in shape while still having a great summer! The most important things are *to have a plan*, at least one goal and to have fun! Talk your teacher about what kind of goals might be good to work towards over the summer. This could include things like: fix my thumb on my bow hold, or learn vibrato, straight bows, finish book 1 or polish all my review pieces.

Three Summer Options

Summer Intense: Summer is great time to focus on music! Take as many lessons as you can and practice as much as possible. Use your time off from school to get *really* good at your instrument. Goals for this plan might include: finish the book that you're working on, learn a new technique such as vibrato or shifting, fix those things that your teacher has been reminding you about!

Summer Regular: Take the middle of the road approach and take more lessons than the minimum, but not necessarily lessons every week. Practice around your normal amount of time. Goals for this plan might be to learn a new style of music or to learn a new piece (or two) out of the Suzuki books.

Summer Light: This plan would include the minimum number of private lessons with practices between each lesson. You might also ask your teacher for some fun music such as fiddle tunes! A good goal for this plan might be to fix one aspect in your playing that your teacher consistently points out.

ALL the best for a GREAT Summer!