



TESSI Newsletter

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2007

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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

QUICK CALENDAR:

12/15/07 -- Tuition Due

*Tuition payment 5 of 11
\$10 late fee as of 12/23*

** WINTER BREAK **

*Check with your teacher(s)
for their specific break dates*

1/15/08 -- Tuition Due

*Tuition payment 6 of 11
\$10 late fee as of 1/23*

2/15/08 -- Tuition Due

*Tuition payment 7 of 11
\$10 late fee as of 2/23*

2/17/08 -- Recitals

*1:00pm Wiggles N' Tunes®
1:30pm and 3:00pm - Suzuki
-- Carbondale Civic Center
*See the kitchen bulletin board
at TESSI for time assignments
and refreshment signups*

Sat/Sun 2/23 and 2/24/08

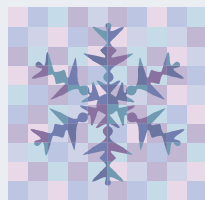
NFMC Junior Festival
(participating students)

3/15/08 -- Tuition Due

*Tuition payment 8 of 11
\$10 late fee as of 12/23*

4/13/08 -- Recitals

*1:30pm and 3:00pm
-- Carbondale Civic Center*



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Performances: Exposure, Experience and Sharing

This year, TESSI has expanded it's recital season to five concerts, two of which include a 12:00p.m. (noon) program devoted to Wiggles N' Tunes® Pre-school students.

For a school of TESSI's size, this concert season is an ambitious undertaking: comparable and somewhat larger schools average two concerts per school year.

We teachers see student-focused positives: Increased confidence, desire to share through music, stick-to-itiveness, eagerness to do their best, moving forward.

The following quote comes from the American Music Teacher journal:

"Frequent performances over the course of the year serve to motivate students to work harder and can offer opportunity for formal or informal evaluation. In reality, every performance involves informal assessment by the audience and also an opportunity for self-assessment by the student."

Very succinct, and we couldn't agree more. We conducted a casual survey with parents and students to discover other views on the benefits of frequent performances. Here are some results:

- "My daughter wanted to know why students made mistakes in the recital. I welcomed the opportunity to talk to her about what "mistakes" are, and how nervousness can impact our behaviors and reactions when we are presenting anything to an audience. TESSI recitals allow opportunities for students to become used to nervousness and work toward continuing in spite of them." – violin father
- "After the October recital I saw a significant increase in daily practice. I know that the recital touched my child by inspiring her with an audio "vision" of what the future can bring through consistent, daily work and carefully listening at her lesson." - violin mother
- "I work to do my best at recitals, through focused, detailed practice. I am able to feel a sense of accomplishment afterwards, and notice changes in my playing. I grow as a result of performance." - violin student

(continued)

More Recital Plusses

"I get to see improvement in students." -- piano student

"You can fine tune a piece." -- piano mom

THE COLOR GREEN

Sorry if we missed you, but our pre-holiday TESSI merchandise fundraiser, featuring Irish Green tees, sweatshirts and totes closed on November 19th.

We did order a few extra items, so check with us if you were interested but missed the order deadline.

We will be doing another one in the spring, so *please let us know* if you have any suggestions for colors, styles etc..

GO CATCH A SHOW!

Keep your eyes and ears open for live performances happening in the area during the winter season. Enjoy!



TESSI

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Send Us Your News!!

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- "In addition to focus, confidence, recitals teach something about letting go. They help us learn that we can survive our mistakes, learn from them, and move on. In other words, they teach us to balance the drive for achievement and perfection with a form of wisdom." - piano mom

Shake, Rattle, and Oh No!

Within the last couple of weeks we've been treated to shaky strings, bent bridges and perverse pegs – all indications of seasonal weather changes. In the studio, the piano has gone out of tune, then back into tune when the furnace was started. Guess what, it's that time again: season and climate changes, grumpy instruments and out-of-sorts musicians. What to do, oh dear, what to do?

Comfortable temperatures and humidity feel good to us and help us maintain good health: likewise with musical instruments. In order to get and keep the best sound from your instrument we advise the following:

- Keep consistent storage and practice temperatures.
- Maintain even humidity levels as recommended, during heating season.
- After beginning furnace use, wait a couple weeks to have your piano tuned.
- Position pianos and store portable instruments away from heating vents, windows and exterior walls.
- When traveling, keep instruments in the passenger compartment, *not the trunk* whenever possible.
- If it's too cold (or hot) for comfort, do not leave instruments in the car – keep them with you.
- Arrive early for lessons, classes and concerts in order for instruments to acclimate and be playable.

We appreciate spending time working with students during lessons and classes. With your help we will be able to do our work together with minimal time lost due to preventable instrument maintenance.

Plan Ahead for June 08

Will you be traveling in June of 2008? With the 40-week school calendar in effect this year, that could result in missed lessons unless you plan ahead.

This past summer we had a fair amount of double swaps (2 lessons in one week) due to travel, and it worked out very well for those involved.

As soon as you know what your travel dates are, get in touch with other families to determine if any lesson trades can be made, and check with your teacher for other possible scheduling options. We can also post a note on our studio bulletin boards for you. *The early bird gets the worm!*

Wanted: Student Feedback - holiday music activities

Calling all pianists, guitarists and violinists! We'd like you to let us know about music in your upcoming holiday vacation. What special music did you perform? (At school, for friends, at church etc.) What special music concert did you hear? Who did you play music for?

If you share your holiday music story, we will publish it in our next TESSI newsletter, and you will get "extra credit" for it!