

THE SPRING PIANO RECITAL

One of the great things about playing the piano is sharing music with other people. And the spring piano recital provides students with the opportunity to do just that. It is a great way to demonstrate new skills and to build self-confidence.

Though a piano recital is intended to be fun, it is also considered to be a formal occasion. This means that there are certain rules of performance and protocol that must be observed in order for the event to be successful.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

- * Invite as many friends and family members as you wish! The recital hall is large enough to accommodate everyone.
- * Wear nice clothes! Dresses or dressy pants are appropriate for girls; dress pants with a nice shirt, sweater, or jacket are good for boys. It is not necessary to wear NEW clothes; however, wearing the proper attire shows respect for the audience as well as for your own accomplishments. Avoid wearing rings or bracelets, and make sure your fingernails are neatly trimmed.
- * Be on time! As a matter of fact, I ask that you arrive fifteen minutes early. This allows you time to try out the piano, get comfortable in the recital hall, and prepare yourself mentally for performing.
- * During performances, there should be no talking or distracting activities (gum chewing, giggling, or whispering). Handle your music and your recital programs quietly. Please use the restroom BEFORE the performances begin.
- * You will be seated in performance order. Please follow the recital program closely so that you will know when your turn is coming. Rise and go to the stage after the previous performer has bowed. Do not rush. Adjust the piano bench to suit your needs and place your foot on the damper pedal if you will need it. Take a moment to collect your thoughts; take a deep breath, RELAX, and begin playing only when you are ready.
- * I require my students to memorize their piano solos. But you should bring your music with you to the recital hall so that you can look over it before you play! Think about playing your piece as if it were the most beautiful music ever written. Be as expressive as possible. Remember, music is more than correct notes and correct rhythm. Making music means turning the notes and rhythm into something beautiful to listen to. If you happen to make a mistake, do not panic! Everybody makes mistakes. What matters is your ability to recover and continue. If you have a memory lapse in the middle of a longer composition, try to restart at the beginning of that phrase or skip to the next phrase.

* As you finish a piece, make sure to count to the end of the last measure before lifting your hands from the keyboard. If you are playing more than one piece, take a deep breath in between them; if your audience claps between pieces, wait until the recital hall is quiet before starting the next one. After your performance, face the audience, smile, and acknowledge applause with a bow. NEVER start playing before you sit down or get up before your fingers leave the keys.

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS AND OTHER GUESTS

* Turn off your cell phones, pagers, and beepers.

* Do not take flash photographs during performances, as this can be very distracting to the performers. Your children will be allowed to pose for photographs at the conclusion of all performances.

* Remain seated and refrain from speaking to others during the performances. Applaud the efforts of performers after each piece.

* Plan to stay for the entire recital. Everyone looks forward to the cookies and punch afterwards!

I hope these simple guidelines will help to answer questions and alleviate any fears. The weeks and months of preparation are behind you. You have worked hard; the recital is your reward. Do your best and have fun!