



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



Welcome to another year of piano lessons! This year's theme is "Canadian Composers". Our practice incentive is based on this theme, as well as our year-end recital in May.



Summer Activities

Being President of the PEI Registered Music Teacher's Association means that I am also a board of director for the Canadian Federation of Music Teacher's Association. I had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Edmonton in July for a CFMTA 13 hours of meetings followed by a two-day conference. It was wonderful to be able to meet and interact with well-known Canadian composers Janet Gieck, Martha Duncan Hill, and John Burge at this event! Want to know more about CFMTA?

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cAUcqcf0IN9h9Dbcy-qB1D-tmmANVS6e/view>

At the end of June I spent the afternoon in Victoria-By-The-Sea with Nova Scotia composer Rebekah Maxner.

September 5th will be the start of a new piano year! Please keep the following in mind:

- Each student will be sent home with a Handbook/Playbook. Please take the time to read this.
- Please ensure that hands are clean. Do not apply hand lotion or sanitizer before playing as this leaves a sticky film behind on the keys. Sanitization wipes will be provided for all students to use before entering the studio.
- Ensure outdoor footwear is removed at the door. Please NO bare feet (socks are preferred) or wet/moist socks.
- Please do not touch any parts of the piano (inside or outside) except the keys. To protect the high gloss finish of the cabinet, please consider the following:
 - Refrain from wearing open zippers on the fronts of sweaters or hoodies, buttons on the front of open blazers, work ID badges, or long necklaces with pendants that can hit the piano when getting on and off the piano bench.
 - Avoid wearing long sleeves which have zippers on their cuffs, bangle or charm bracelets, or any other clothing and jewellery (ie belts with sharp edges) that could potentially scratch the finish of the cabinet while playing.
 - Proper fingernail length is key to avoid damage to the fallboard.
 - Please ensure books placed on the music rack are clean and dry. Please do not slide books across the music rack of the piano with force.
 - Please do not use writing utensils on the piano.
 - Do not bring food or liquids of any type to the piano, even water.
 - Do not place objects of any kind on or near the piano.

Performance Psychology Workshop

With Dr. Nicole Strum

Nicole Strum will offer an introductory workshop in performance psychology on Saturday, September 23rd for students at 10:30am. Discussion and activities will focus on optimizing learning, effective preparation, and developing mental skills for performance, and include the opportunity for participants to begin to develop a personal pre-performance routine, which, when practiced regularly, can dramatically improve performance and one's performing experience. Workshops will take place in Steel Recital Hall on the UPEI campus. The cost for the workshop is \$15. I encourage all students studying at RCM Level 4 and up to attend. To register, please email me (info@joyfulmelodies.ca) by September 20th.



Upcoming Dates

- September 5-7: Piano Lessons Begin!
- October 3-21: No Lessons
- November 4: Composition Workshop at UPEI (all ages)
- November 18: Studio Recital at Harmony House - 10:30am
- November 18: Canada Music Week Recital at UPEI - 5:00pm
- November 25: Group Classes
- December 18-January 5: Winter Break

*In our Handbook I have listed our Winter Recital date as November 25th. Please note that Harmony House has had to move our recital date up a weekend to November 18th.



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