

# The Soundboard

Vol. 13, Num. 5

A Musical Newsletter

May/June 2009

## In This Issue

Summer Recordings on CD & Web	1
The Summer Session	1
Spring Recitals Information	2
Piano Coffee House (Gr. 8-12)	2
Welcome Student Teacher Brynne Bartiromo	3
Parents Considering Piano Lessons	3
Should We Take a 45 or 60 Min. Lesson?	3
Memorizing & Performing Music Tips	4
Student Advice Column	4
Annual Earth Day Project	4
Spring Party Photos	1-4

## Spring Recitals

**Adult Student Recital – May 17**  
**Younger Students**  
**May 18, 19, 20, & 21**  
(see article on page 2)



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## The Summer Recordings on CD and the Web

One of the best features this studio offers is our technology: every student who takes lessons gets their music on their own personal CD and their own personal music webpage on the internet. The CDs and Online Recordings are yet another unique feature this studio offers above and beyond traditional piano lessons. Here are some features of the CDs:

- **Superior Quality.** Superior digitally mastered CD quality with professional recording technology.
- **Student Recordings.** All pieces are actual recordings of students playing their pieces (including original pieces they compose during the year).
- **Custom Made.** Every student's CD is given individual attention and is custom made for each student.
- **Live Recital Recordings.** Each Summer Recordings CD includes every student's live recital performances.

- **CDs Played On Any Player.** CDs can be played on any normal CD player, including normal car and home stereos, and most computers.

Every student taking lessons during the academic year receives a CD of the pieces they record during the course of the year. Additional CDs can be ordered for friends, relatives, or posterity for \$10 each. Students also have their own personal webpage with all their music they record on the internet. The files are in high quality MP3 format to download and email to share with friends and family. The Online Recordings should be posted sometime in June, and the CDs will be available by the end of July. The studio will email you when they are ready to be picked up, or you can get them at your first lesson in the fall. 🎵

## The Summer Session

The Summer Session at the studio is meant to be flexible and fit in with most family's vacation schedules. You may sign up for June, July, or both months. You only need to sign up for three of the four lessons offered each month. So if you are on vacation for a certain week in a month, simply don't sign up for that week. There are many benefits to continuing lessons in the summer, including studying pieces of your choice and the opportunity to add to your CD pieces. You need to discuss your summer plans with your family and your child. What is most important is that your child enjoy the piano and music, and not be forced to move ahead.

Lessons are on Wednesdays roughly from 2:00 to 9:30 pm beginning May 27, and ending July 22. Please ask for the information sheet on the Summer Session for more details. 🎵



## Online Resources

Don't forget all the resources available at [www.NazzaroMusic.com](http://www.NazzaroMusic.com), including the Yearly Lesson Schedule, links to educational musical web sites, and the color version of *The Soundboard*.

# Spring Recital Information

**Adult Students** — The Adult Student Recital is Sunday, May 17, with a rehearsal (not dress) from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, with the recital starting at 7:30 pm. The Adult Student Recital features a wine and cheese reception, just like the Repertoire Parties during the rest of the year.

**Parents Considering Adult Piano Lessons** are encouraged to come to the adult recital on Sunday, May 17 at 7:30 pm to meet the other adult students.

**Younger Students** — The younger students' recitals are May 18, 19, 20, & 21 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday) at 7:30pm here at the studio, with a rehearsal

(not dress) from 4:00 — 5:00 pm the same day so the students can run through their songs. This gives the opportunity to practice, go home and eat dinner, and come back for the recital. There will also be ice cream cake (to note the important things).

### **Family and Friends Invited.**

Due to space limitations, students may invite two others to be at the recital, for a total of three persons, including the student (for example, one student and two parents). You may request more guests, but we cannot guarantee these extra spots. The studio will let you know at your request as forms are returned as to what space is available.

Please return your form as soon as

possible. While the performance is short and festive, **we request that only brothers and sisters six or older attend.** This is a special night for the students, and it is important to ensure quiet and respect during the recitals.

### **Preparing for the Recital.**

Since preparation is the best tool in performing, we recommend practicing and memorizing pieces far in advance of before the recital date. Crammed last-minute practicing can make anyone more nervous for the performance. Regular practice time is encouraged the week of the recital. Please see the article in *The Soundboard* for tips on memorizing pieces. (Not all pieces must be memorized for the recital.)

### **The Summer Recordings.**

All students can look forward to receiving their Summer Recordings on CD and online over the summer. Each student gets a CD of their music they record during the year. The students have been working hard on their recital pieces included in these recordings. You will get an email notifying you when the MIDI files are posted online (sometime in June), and another email when your CDs are ready (sometime in late July). The recordings will also be available online at the studio's website ([www.NazzaroMusic.com](http://www.NazzaroMusic.com)) to listen to and download anytime from anywhere — a very unique feature of the studio! Additional CDs are available for a discounted \$10 each for friends, family, and posterity. ♪

## The Piano Coffee House

Thursday, May 14, 7:30—9:30 pm (Grades 8-12)

Just as the adult students have enjoyed repertoire parties here at the studio for many years, this party is just for our older students (Grades 8-12) in preparation for our recitals.

**Relaxed Opportunity to Perform.** This party provides a relaxed opportunity to play in front of other people in preparation for the recital the following week. It also provides the opportunity to see and hear the other high school students play at the studio since they are mostly spread out on different evenings for the recitals. High school students can support each other, talk about their own experiences in practicing and playing, get to know other people who share the same love of music, and just have fun.



Get creative and don't worry about making mistakes!

Play just a part of a piece in progress, not even a whole piece, or use this opportunity as a warm up for the recital the following week.

We can even do a live recording of your performance in you like, just like at the recitals for your CD.

Bring a friend! (or make a new one here!)

We'll have snacks and drinks, you bring your music! (and no, it's not just coffee!)

We have about 19 students at the studio in grades 8-12, so mark your calendar now. We hope you all can make it! ♪

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The Soundboard

A Musical Newsletter | May/June 2009 | Page 2



## Upcoming Studio Events

April 25 Earth Day Project  
 May 14 The Piano Coffee House (Gr. 8-12)  
 May 17–21 Spring Recitals  
 June & July Summer Session  
 June Online Recordings Available  
 July Student CDs Available





The Spring Piano Party



Repertoire Party for our adult students

## Welcome New Student Teacher Brynne Bartiromo

The studio is proud to announce our new student teacher, Brynne Bartiromo. Brynne will be replacing Mark Raimondi, who is graduating high school this year. Mark taught at the studio for 3 years, and will be attending Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ pursuing a degree in Music Education. We wish Mark all the best with his musical career!



Brynne Bartiromo

Brynne has performed as the keyboardist for the Terrill School Jazz Band and Concert Band for 4 years, as well as an accompanist for the school Chorus. Brynne is looking forward to participating in the High School Music Program soon.

Brynne's dedication to her musical studies has already led her to performing and recording many advanced pieces such as sonatas, advanced popular pieces, and jazz standards. Brynne has composed many of her own works for solo piano, including *The Four Seasons*, a multi-movement piece which she performed in recital. Brynne has gone through extensive training with Mr. Nazzaro and has a talent not only for music, but making music fun for every student. Brynne is looking forward to a career in teaching music as well as composing. ♪

Brynne will be starting this Fall as our student teacher on the staff with remarkable accomplishments for her age. She will be a Freshman at Scotch Plains Fanwood High School this Fall. She has been studying piano for about 6 years at the Nazzaro Music Studio, and has performed in each year's recitals and parties.



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The Soundboard

A Musical Newsletter | May/June 2009 | Page 3

## Parents Considering Piano Lessons

We have had a growing number of parents taking lessons here at the studio as part of our Adult Student Program.

and other adults here at the studio. Please call or email with any questions you may have.

It is just as rewarding to take piano lessons at any age — not just as a young child! It makes it even more special when you can share your musical experience with your children

All are welcome to come to the adult recital on Sunday, May 17 at 7:30 pm to meet the other adult students. ♪

## Should We Take a 45 or 60 Minute Lesson?

Generally, the more teacher-student time the better. ***It gives teachers more time to explain things, give direction and advice, and simply helps students progress faster.*** It should be pointed out to students that while a longer lesson does not necessarily mean you need to practice more than appropriate for each age level, but the commitment to practice regularly should be quite strong.

Taking a longer lesson should be discussed with each student, parent, and teacher to see if it is appropriate for each individual student.

*Students who should consider a longer lesson are:*

- Students 3rd grade and older who have demonstrated special talent and have a longer attention span,
- Middle school or High school students who have been studying more than a year,
- Adult students.

Discounts for 60 and 45 minute lessons are listed in the discounts section of the Admissions Agreement. Hour and 45 minute lessons may only be taken with the approval of the studio. Please contact the studio if you think your family can benefit from these longer lessons. ♪

# Memorizing and Performing Music Tips

## Memorizing Tips

**Different Tempos.** Be able to play the piece at the extreme tempos and in between. Practice at very slow, medium, and faster tempos to make you more secure. The most valuable is slow practice.

**Counting Out Loud.** When you count out loud, this helps you be more focused and lets you remember more accurately.

**Hands Separate and Together.** Even when you know a section very well, it is still a good idea to play hands separately sometimes. It keeps you more secure, especially for fingering.

**Know Thy Sections.** Know where the beginning of all your sections are and be able to pick up from any of them "cold." Start playing in the middle of the piece and go to the end.

**"Three Times In A Row, Perfectly."** This is a learning tool as well as a memorizing tool for practicing. If you can play a section three times in a row perfectly, you know you have a good handle on the section. Perfectly includes counting, fingering, notes, and remember a pause counts as a mistake.

## Tips For Preparing for Performance:

**Play For People.** Sit some family or friends down and give a mini-performance as a run-through. Make sure you keep going!

**Control Over Speed - Keep Your Brain Ahead of Your Fingers.** Only think about what is coming up, not about a little mistake you just made.

**Cold Play-Throughs.** While you are walking by the piano randomly during the day, sit down without warming up.

**Plant Some Distractions.** Have a family member or friend try to distract you by a sudden cough or sneeze, or make other noise to see how you can focus and concentrate on your playing.

**Play Through Your Performance Pieces In Order.** If you know the order of your pieces, play through them all the way even if you make a mistake.

**Check Your Body Position.** Before you begin the first note, check that you are the correct distance away from the piano (Your elbows should be slightly in front of you, lean a little forward, and keep your feet flat on the ground).

**Hear The Tempo and Dynamics.** Tap out the starting tempo of each piece before you begin and remember how you want to start with your volume.

**Jump To Another Section.** If a memory slip happens where you completely stop, jump to another section. If you go back and make the same mistake again, jump ahead to a secure section - don't dwell on it.

**Breathe Calmly.** Yes, don't underestimate the importance of breathing - it helps keep you calm and in control.

**Pretend You Are At The Performance.** Envision yourself playing beautifully and as well as you do at home. When you are at the performance, think you are at home with no one else around.

**Practice In Performance Clothes.** Make sure you can pedal in those shoes, that your collar is not too tight, whether you are going to wear the watch or not, and not have excessive jewelry.

**Mistakes happen.** Do your best to prepare, and enjoy your performance. Focus and concentrate on

your music at all times, and be as expressive as you can. You should be congratulated for all your efforts and hard work you put into piano - that is what is worth the most.

## While You Are Performing Tips

These performance tips are listed in their order of importance:

**1. Keep Going.** Don't stop and start over again, say "oops!", or have a strange look on your face.

**2. Keep In Control.** Go slower than you think the piece should go, always keeping up your concentration.

**3. Keep Counting.** Count softly out loud. This will keep your rhythm consistent and all one tempo.

**4. Keep Smiling.** You prepared well, so relax and enjoy your playing! Say "Thank you" when someone tells you that you played well. ♪

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A Musical Newsletter | May/June 2009 | Page 4



## Annual Earth Day Project

**Saturday, April 25**

**10:00 am to 12:00 noon — Rain or Shine**

**Helping Our Environment.** The purpose of the project is to foster a care for our environment and our community with your help, and to encourage others to care for the world around us.

**Organized By: The Friends Of Mindowaskin.** This project is officially sponsored by the Friends of Mindowaskin, but we are encouraging anyone who can help to participate in this project. Each year we team up with the Friends of Mindowaskin, a group of Westfield volunteers, to coordinate our efforts and resources to help our community and nature.

### **Park Cleanup, Tree Donation.**

We traditionally do a park clean up at Mindowaskin Park (one block from the studio) and the studio donates a tree to the park. The tree might be planted that day or a different day, depending on weather and soil conditions, and also when the landscapers are available.

**Counts As Community Service Hours.** Since this is volunteer work, this project counts as community service work, which can count for



Scouts, church or temple service hours. There are also some refreshments available for the volunteers.

**Involve Your Whole Family.** It is certainly a rewarding experience to share as a family, and even more with many families working together. It's a wonderful message we are sending to our children. We hope to see you there!

**Special Thanks.** A special thanks to all those who can participate, and to The Friends of Mindowaskin and the Town of Westfield for their support in making this project possible, particularly Debby Burslem, President of the Friends of Mindowaskin, as well as Craig Stock, a local landscape architect and board member of the Friends of Mindowaskin.

### **What Does This Have to Do With Music?**

While it might appear that this project has nothing to do with music, it should be pointed out that many great composers were deeply inspired by nature. A few examples: Beethoven's 6th Symphony "Pastoral", Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons", and Grieg's Peter Gynt Suite.

We hope to see you there! ♪

## Student Advice Column

*Please feel free to submit to your teacher or email us with your helpful tips. If it works for you, it probably will help someone else too....*

**Maddy Sherry (Gr. 2)** — Sometimes I played too fast, and then slowed down, and it made more sense.

**Sydney Stewart (Gr. 4)** — Playing another instrument [the cello] has helped me with piano, in particular with the bass clef.

**Olivia Castorina (Gr. 6)** — Play each section slowly, and make sure your fingering is correct, and tempo do-able, especially for fast pieces.

**Connor Jennings (Gr. 12)** — Practice DOESN'T make perfect if you are practicing a piece wrong.

**Chuck Genco (Adult Student)** — Recognizing chords has helped with reading music and remembering notes. Counting out loud has helped me to see where I am making mistakes, not just trying to remember a version of a song in my head. ♪