

The Soundboard

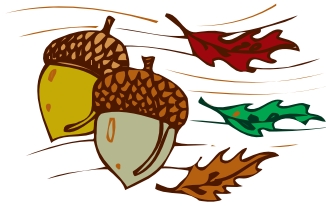
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Summer Into Autumn 2010-2011

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THE AUTUMN PIANO PARTY

Sunday, November 14 • 2:00-3:30 PM
Grades K-7

THE PIANO COFFEE HOUSE

Friday, November 19 • 7:30 PM
8th Grade through High School

ADULT REPERTOIRE PARTY

Thursday, November 18 • 8:30 PM



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Summer Recordings On CD & Internet

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.

The Online Recordings. Students also have their own personal webpage with all their music they record on the internet. From the studio's homepage, under "Quicklinks," click "Listen To And Download Student Recordings" (which are the studio recorded versions) and the "Live Recital Recordings." (See below) The files are in high quality MP3 format to download and email to share with friends and family. Copy and paste any page's URL into an email to have friends and family listen too! 🎵

*Extra CD copies available. (\$10 each)
Call or email if you would like more.*

Live Recital Performances On Summer CDs and on the Web!

Live recordings of every student's performances at the recitals are on your Summer Recordings CDs, as well as online. Check the "Quick Links" on the homepage www.NazzaroMusic.com, and click on "Live Recital Recordings" to listen to these live MP3 recordings of every student! Remember you can listen to the entire recital and all the pieces on all the recital nights using the studio website! That's over 200 pieces! The studio recorded versions are under "Listen To + Download Student Recordings." This is another unique way this studio uses music technology for its students. 🎵



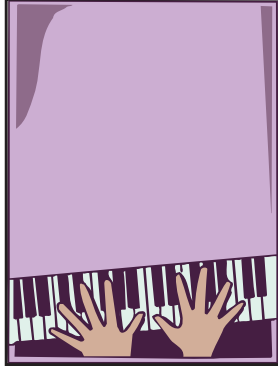
THE SUMMER RECORDINGS ON CD AND ONLINE

Don't forget all the resources available on our website, including over 1000 student recordings, the live recital recordings, and great web links.

How Do We Use Our Music Technology In Lessons?

While you may know that this is the only studio to offer CDs of studio recordings and live performances as well have all the students' music online, there is much more we employ to enhance each student's learning of the piano — certainly not just computer games!

Professional digital sequencing software is used to record the pieces for our students' CDs during the lessons. This is how every student gets their own CDs twice a year.



Music notation software allows students to write their own pieces and have their own professional printouts. We submit students' pieces annually to the Piano Explorer Magazine, which has published our students' compositions to their readership numerous times.

Slow down software takes a recording and slows it down from 33% to 400%, all without changing the pitch. A student can then hear difficult, fast pieces played slowly and accurately, and yet have the human sound (since it is played from the original recording, not a MIDI file). We send students home with a practice

CD to work on slowly and carefully, so that they can learn the piece quickly and accurately.

Live audio recording is used at recitals to record each student's recital performance. We have also found a growing interest among our students to record vocals along with their piano accompaniment. This software also has become a valuable practice tool when we record a teacher counting out loud to a piece. The student can take a CD home to practice with the teacher's recorded instruction.

Digital Sheet Music Library In addition to the tremendous library of sheet music we have at the studio, we have on CD and can print the complete piano works of the following composers as needed: Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Grieg, and Chopin. We also have "The Ultimate Collection of Piano Studies and Exercises" which includes Hanon, Czerny, Gurlitt, Pischna, Brahms, Burgmuller, Heller, and many more. Another "Ultimate Collection" in our library is "Sonatinas and Easy Classics" which includes almost 50 composers. We have thousands of pages of original music by the masters available to the students.



Online Music History We have access to special online musical resources that we reference to print out or email to students about virtually any composer you can think of. Pictures, artwork, and music samples, as well as a complete history of music help make this a valuable teaching tool.

Printable sheet music online We download sheet music from professional sources online to find the newest releases of pieces and music available, as well as only having to pay per piece instead of having to pay the full price for a compilation book. We can search, download and print immediately and there are no shipping costs, of course.

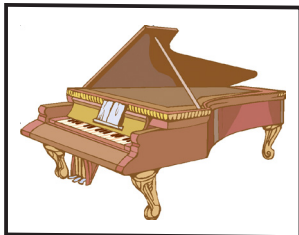
Other online music references These are incredible resources we use to show students how to look up composers, explore many styles of music, have a free preview to listen to pieces, and read reviews. ♪

SLOW PRACTICE FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICING

Slow Practice = Faster Learning. Slow practice is one of the most efficient ways of practicing. You will learn a piece faster using this practicing strategy. Master it early, and you will be ahead of many piano players!

Avoid Learning Things Wrong. Slow practice means you can read your music carefully as you learn it. If you learn your piece carefully, you won't have mistakes to fix because you won't make them in the first place.

Aids Understanding. When you play slowly, your brain is involved, not just your fingers. You can see what is going on — fingering, rhythm, notes, and expression. You will understand your piece better and be able to learn it faster.



The "One-Two Punch". The "One-Two Punch" is slow practice with counting out loud. This combination is your best bet to learn a piece quickly, as well as to keep it learned. This is not easy to do! But if you can, you will have mastered the piece.

Aids Security. Slow practice will help you keep the piece in your fingers and in your memory. This is helpful for fast pieces that you make mistakes in difficult sections, as well as slow pieces that take extra control.

Build Tempo Slowly. Now of course you should gradually go faster, too. But remember there is more value in slow practice than in fast. When you do build the tempo, do it a little at a time. ♪

"Tell A Friend" Discount

*This has been a terrific success!
Thank you to all who have referred your friends to the studio!*

If you refer a family to the studio and they sign up for lessons, both your family AND the signing up family will get a \$30 credit on the next bill. Consider it free books, free lessons, or however you like. Please note this does not apply to referring a sibling — we have a separate discount for that.

Why Does This Work? Your first-hand opinion matters a lot to other people. You can give your honest opinion about the special things we do at the studio, like our CDs and piano parties.

Everyone Benefits. Not only do your family and the family you refer benefit, but we take that savings from advertising and instead of paying advertisers, we pass the savings along to you!

If you are happy with the teaching and technology we have to offer and want to share your positive experiences at the studio, pass it on! ♪

Upcoming Piano Events

THE AUTUMN PIANO PARTY

Sunday, November 14 • 2:00-3:30pm
Grades K-7

This is an informal party where students play any pieces they want, (or just come and listen). Families can bring friends, brothers and sisters, or a parent to help out, too. We play the piano, have food, play games, and meet new musical friends!

THE PIANO COFFEE HOUSE

Friday, November 19 • 7:30pm
8th Grade through High School

The studio's Piano Coffeehouse is a great musical hangout opportunity for a Friday night! We have over 22 students in this range, and students can bring a friend as well, who are all welcome to play piano, sing, or perform other instruments, too. We have pizza, play piano, hang around and talk, and meet new musical friends. And, no, it's not just coffee!

ADULT REPERTOIRE PARTY

Thursday, November 18 • 8:30pm

The Adult Repertoire Party is one of the studio's best aspects of our adult program! Our 15 adult students (and friends and family welcome) come to hear new pieces you would like to add to your repertoire, show a work in progress, and get helpful feedback. We discuss practice and performance techniques, and have wine and cheese, coffee and tea, and other refreshments.

For full details for each of these events, please read the corresponding handouts, or contact the studio for more information.

Love The Music You Play

Pick From Three Pieces. We teachers try to offer many choices in your pieces every time you pick one. We try to offer three pieces we think you would like and be able to accomplish.

For a beginner, we offer a little more guidance as to the pieces you pick. So if you are just starting lessons, remember you have to learn the notes and certain skills before you can play something too hard. We don't want to give pieces that are too hard or too easy.

Pick an Easy, a Moderate, and a Challenge Piece. Usually students are happy with three pieces and some technical exercises. This way, you are learning new skills with the harder ones, yet have something fresh to turn to that is easier during your practice.

Rate How You Like Your Music From 1 to 10. When you get a new piece, rate it in your mind and be honest and tell your teacher how much you like the piece. (Ten

being "I love it" and one being "I can't stand it.") We will ask you again the week after you get each new piece to make sure you like it enough to want to complete it. On the other hand, you don't want to simply continually trade in pieces and never finish one either. So pick carefully when you choose one, and tell us honestly what you think. There is more great music out there that you will like than you could ever play in your lifetime!

Practice Every Piece a Minimum of 10 Minutes. If you only spend five minutes a day on a piece, you simply aren't going to learn it very quickly. We say 10 minutes minimum so you have time to maintain sections you learned, as well as learn new parts and make progress every day. Do you think Mozart only spent 5 minutes a day practicing a piece? Probably not (even though he probably could have). So if Mozart didn't spend 5 minutes a day on a piece to learn it, why do you think you'll learn your piece quickly only doing it for

such a short time? Don't get frustrated — be realistic with the time you put into your practice.

Deciding On Your Pieces. What kind of pieces do you like? Do you like fast or slow? Exciting or peaceful? Soft and flowy or loud and majestic? What style do you prefer? (Broadway, jazz, top 40, classic rock, movie hits, etc.) In the classics, you probably have preferences too, like you might love Bach and Beethoven and not like Mozart and Schumann. And tell us!

Have A List In Mind. If you can have a *written* list of pieces you would like to play, that would be even better. Keep the list in your binder and keep adding to it as you hear music you like.

Be Open To New Music. If you do gravitate to certain styles of music, remember to try out the other ones too once in a while as well. Those different skills will come in handy for pieces you will love to play in the future. ♪



Spring Recitals — Monday, May 17



Spring Recitals — Tuesday, May 18

Helpful Hints For Practicing

Wouldn't it be great if you could learn that piece faster and it was easier? That's exactly what can happen for you if you follow these tips. These suggestions are easy and don't take a lot of time — the best thing to do is let these tips be automatic so when you practice you don't have to think of them. The most important thing to remember about practicing is keeping your focus. It's not how long you spend at the piano, but the quality of the time spent that will get you further. It is much better to play something once correctly than many times incorrectly.

Musical Setup. Make sure you have no distractions while you play, including TV, radio, or brothers and sisters making noise. The less interruptions you have the better.

Good lighting is also a bigger help than you think. Make sure you have a light that shines directly on your music, not just an overhead light. Even a lamp on your piano that does not shine light on your music because of its shade is not ideal. Make it easy for your eyes to see those notes.

Proper seating can help you spend more time at the keys. It keeps your back from getting tired. Make sure your bench is at a proper height, and your keyboard is at the right setting too. Ask your teacher for exact measurements. Part of proper seating is how you sit; good posture makes it easy for you to be comfortable while sitting at the piano. Good posture includes keeping both feet flat on the ground, keeping your back straight, elbows slightly in front of your body, keeping the bench back and leaning slightly forward.

Using a Weekly Practice Schedule is a great tool to help remind you of when to practice. Know what times you have chosen for each day of the week and try as much as possible to stick to those times.

Have a sharpened pencil with a good eraser on your music stand. Use this to circle fingering, write in counting, highlight trouble spots, and to analyze your pieces. Pick it up often!

Read Your Practice Plan Carefully. Your teacher works very hard to write down all the helpful hints and tips for each individual piece you get, so reading your lesson plan carefully is a great place to start. You can't remember everything your teacher said at the lesson, which is why teachers write it down for you. Knowing what to look for when practicing can save you hours of work and make your practicing more fun. Your teacher has had years of practicing and playing experience, so listen to their ideas.

Learn It Right The First Time. Take your time learning new pieces to make sure rhythm, counting, fingering and notes are correct. It is so much harder to UN-learn these things because you programmed wrong things in your mind and fingers. It will also make it that much longer to learn the pieces. Be patient and work slowly at first, then build from there.



Spring Recitals — Wednesday Evening



Spring Recitals — Thursday Evening

A Little At A Time. Work in small sections so you can master a little at a time. Look first for four measure phrases, (and don't forget pickup measures and notes) and start slowly, and build the tempo gradually. Be comfortable with each section before moving on to the next.

Try working hands separately, one hand at a time. Give more attention to whichever is more difficult. There's no point in working on something you're already good at. Have each hand be able to do their thing faster than the piece is actually supposed to be played at separately, and then put them together at HALF that speed.

Slow practice is the key to secure playing. This is especially helpful when you will be playing for a recording or for other people. Always start slow and gradually build your tempo; don't suddenly jump to a fast tempo. Sometimes it is good to test yourself and see how slowly you can play and how fast you can play a piece, but most

of the work is done in slow practice. You can always build the tempo later.

Smooth practice is very important. The listener can easily hear when you speed up for easy sections and slow down for harder ones. You want to keep your piece all one tempo. Playing a piece slower and smoothly always sounds better than fast and out of control. Find a tempo that you can play the whole piece in, not just the easy parts.

Try starting in the middle of the piece. You should be able to pick up and play to the end starting from one of your sections or phrases. This way you know that you know it well. Try playing a section "three times in a row perfectly." Remember, a pause counts as a mistake. Just because you made it through once doesn't mean it will be in your fingers the next time.

Playing and Listening. Play for other people as much as possible. Make sure you play a piece you are finished with and are comfortable with (that's a piece in your repertoire). Play for family and friends when they come to visit; maybe even memorize a piece to play when you are not at home.

Attend as many recitals, piano parties, and concerts as possible. Play in front of larger groups of people who are there to enjoy hearing you play. The more you hear others play, the more that can add to your own musicality.

Listen to recordings of many styles of music. Find out more about the composers, the musicians playing the music, and read any liner notes included with the recording.

If you have a recording of a piece you are laying, listen to it while following along looking at the score. Then try playing with the recording, hands separately and then hands together.

Understand Your Pieces. The more you understand about your pieces, the easier they are. Always look for patterns in music. Many times sections are repeated or only slightly changed.

Understand the hand positions and chord changes to help remember your pieces so you can focus on playing musically and expressively. The more you understand the structure of a piece, the more that piece is a part of you.

Get a musical dictionary. Try to know what all those strange markings and foreign words mean. If you don't have a musical dictionary, be sure you ask your teacher what they mean and how to play those expressions.

Have Fun. Listen to yourself play sometimes. All work and no play can be dull, so make sure you are enjoying playing too. It's even better when you can share it with friends and family. 🎵