

# *Jeanette Winsor, NCTM*

## *Pianist, Winsor Piano Studio*

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### *FALL NEWSLETTER 2011*

Listed below are the various events available to my students. Students are encouraged to participate in as many of these events as they are comfortable doing. In the next month or so, we will plan which events each student wants to do. Check out the studio web site at <http://www.jeanette.winsor.com/> for calendar information and practice tips throughout the year.

**STUDIO RECITALS:** These are held in the studio once a month on Saturday evenings at 6:00, 7:00, and 8:00. Students perform when they are ready. These recitals give students a chance to try pieces in front of a friendly audience. (I want students to play any audition or competition pieces in at least one recital here before playing in front of a judge.) Fall dates: 9/24, 10/22, 11/19 & 12/10.

**SOLO RECITALS:** Adult and high school students have the option of performing a solo recital at the studio and may invite their own audience (25 maximum). Printed programs and a reception after the recital will be provided.

**HYMN PLAYING FESTIVAL:** Students prepare 2 hymns (memory is not required) for a judge. This will occur on Sat. November 19<sup>th</sup> at Good News Baptist Church, Chesapeake. The deadline for entry is Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> and the fee is \$10.

**JUNIOR FESTIVAL:** This occurs on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at the Marsh School of Music, Virginia Beach. Students accumulate points toward gold cups and receive a certificate and judging sheet. Entry and Gold Cup fees total \$8. The deadline is Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.

**CITY-WIDE RECITALS:** These are held two times a year on Sunday afternoons. Each participating teacher may enter 6 students. Each student is allowed to play

one memorized piece. Families are invited and printed programs are provided. This year's recitals will be held Sunday, November 20th location TBA and Sunday, February 26th at Second Presbyterian Church, Norfolk.

**LEVELS OF PROGRESS:** This event will be held on Sunday, March 4th and Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Marsh School of Music, Virginia Beach. (If we get bumped from this location, I will request ODU as our 2<sup>nd</sup> choice.) Students play 2 memorized pieces for a judge and receive a written comment sheet and certificate. The fee for this event is \$10.

**ODU CLASSICAL COMPETITION:** This is a national competition held at ODU. Students need my recommendation and will prepare 2 contrasting pieces from the Classical era. The first round will be held 3/17.

**HONORS RECITAL AUDITIONS:** This is a competition for placement in the *Honors Recital* held on May 20th at ODU. The auditions will be held at the Marsh School of Music, Virginia Beach, Saturday, April 28th & Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Students competing must play *Levels of Progress* at a minimum of Level 4 and need my recommendation.

**GUILD AUDITIONS:** Students prepare from 2 - 20 memorized pieces to play for a judge. This is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the month of June (after school is out) at the Piano & Organ Warehouse, Virginia Beach. Students receive a written commentary, grade, certificate and pin. They may also work for special awards such as the High School Diploma, Sonatina Medal, and Bach Medal. Fees vary based on what level and how many pieces the student plays. If you prefer a late May time, let me know and I will enter some students in the Norfolk center.

**DAVID CARR GLOVER SCHOLARSHIP:** This event is for students in grades 5 - 8 (Mr. Glover's favorite age of piano student). Students prepare 2 memorized pieces for 2 judges. Scholarship monies are to be used to pay for lessons, buy music, go to music camp, buy concert tickets, metronome, recordings, etc. The auditions will be held Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at Good News Baptist Church, Chesapeake. (Students must participate in the Play-a-thon at Chesapeake Square Mall, December 2nd, 3rd & 4th in order to be eligible to compete.)

**VMTA THEORY, SIGHT READING AND KEYBOARD TESTS:** Theory are held at ODU on Saturday, January 28th. Sight reading and Keyboard Skills will be held Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 12th at Piano & Organ Warehouse. These require long preparation, so a decision needs to be made by early November. The fee for each test is \$10.

**EASTERN DISTRICT AUDITIONS:** This is a competition held at Virginia Wesleyan College on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Participants must have passed the required Theory and Sight Reading Tests. Winners at this district go on to the VMTA State Convention the following Oct./Nov. to compete at the state level. The fee for this event is \$15.

Dates, deadlines, registration chart and entry fees for these events will be in the *Winter Newsletter* and the studio web site. Feel free to discuss any of these events with me if you are interested in more information.

**LESSON FEES:** Lesson fees for this school year as of Sept. 1 are as follows:

30 minutes - \$20	75 minutes - \$48
45 minutes - \$30	90 minutes - \$57
60 minutes - \$38	

Fees are normally due the first lesson of the month for the month, though other arrangements may be made. If I have been given a 24-hour notice, lessons may be missed without financial responsibility. Make-ups will be scheduled at the convenience of both of us. The 24-hour notice is necessary so I can have time to utilize your time for a make-up time for someone else or to schedule a rehearsal. (Special consideration is given for sudden illness.)

The 60 minute (and longer) lessons are designed for the serious adult or high school student. 45 minute lessons are for the serious middle school student and 30 minute lessons are for the beginning student. If you have a question concerning the length of your lesson, feel free to ask. I expect students taking longer lessons to practice longer (next paragraph). These students will make more progress.

A common question is *"How often and how much should a piano student practice?"* My favorite answer is ***"only the days you plan to eat and preferably for the length of your lesson"***. (If you prefer, only the days which end in "y" also works for me!) I am aware that it is not always feasible to achieve this goal: try for a minimum of 5 days a week with your eye on all 7. I am also more interested in achieving results than clock watching. If you practice smarter, you will be able to accomplish more in less time! Check your notebook for practicing tips.

**PRACTICE CHART:** My ultimate practicing goal is for the intrinsic satisfaction in producing music to drive the student to practice. This often takes several years to become apparent to the student. In the interim, I have an extrinsic incentive for those who are interested. The students participating will be required to fill out a weekly practice chart. 5 days minimum are required each week in order to count (5 days = 5 points, 6 days = 6 points, 7 days = 7 points). 16 weeks of the 18 week-semester will be counted. (This allows for illness, out-of-town trips, crazy school schedule, etc.) A chart of all participants is kept on the studio bulletin board. At the end of the first semester, students who have earned at least 5 points every week will receive a small trophy. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophies will be awarded to those with the top points. Students have a choice of a trophy or a composer statuette. A form will be sent home at the end of the semester so each student may make his/her choice. Congratulations to the Practice Chart winners last semester!!!! (Thanks to all of the parents who made it possible!) We had 11 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners!!!!!!

1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners: Leah Drew, Nichole Dorobanov, Lizzy Moss, Kyra Montgomery, Alena Montgomery, Sean Riley, Samantha Riley, Alan Mach, Shirley Diec, Thomas Chase & Ethan Martinez

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner: Michael Salas

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner: Becca Robertson

Regular Trophies: Paige Temples, Dylan Esteban, Jared Esteban, Ben Keckley, Nathan Keckley, Judah Lange, Lina Miranda

Honorable Mention: Sarah Drew, Rachel Salas, Sofia Infante, Daniel Infante & Alex Osborne

**COMPUTER LAB:** Students have the option of working with these programs on theory, sight reading skills, and music history either 30 minutes before or after their lessons. I will choose programs based on the student's skill level and any problems the student might be having. The extra exposure will allow concepts to become solidified. The computer lab fees are:

*\$7/month (\$35/semester)*

Each semester is 5 months (Sept. - Jan. and Feb. - June). The fees may be paid by the semester at the beginning of the semester or may be included monthly with tuition. If you are interested, fill out the registration form at the end of this newsletter.

**MUSIC:** I usually purchase any music needed by a student and then the student reimburses me. I will give you a warning if a large amount needs to be spent. Please let me know if you do not care for this arrangement.

**REACHING ME:** I do not answer the telephone during lessons or rehearsals. I am at TCC during the morning hours. The answering machine is on all the time or a message can be left with Mr. Winsor in the evening. The machine is checked often and calls are returned ASAP. You may also contact me via e-mail: jeanettewinsor@cox.net. E-mail is regularly checked early every morning and late at night. (Please, no phone calls before 8:00 AM or after 10:00 PM. E-mail 24/7.) Since we switched to Cox, we lose our phone if we unplug the computer modem during bad thunder storms. If you are trying unsuccessfully to reach me during such an event, try my cell - 614-725-6746. That is the only time I consistently monitor my cell phone, so you will be mostly ignored if you use that number normally.

**PARKING:** Please park in our driveway. If you are staying for the lesson, try to park on the left side, especially if you are here for a 2:30 lesson (my side + closest to the door). Mr. Winsor parks on the right side of the garage. If the left side is blocked when you come in, go ahead and park on the right. (Mr. Winsor has keys to both cars!) During recitals, just park up the whole driveway, not worrying about blocking both sides. Try to limit street parking to in front of our house.

**PLEASE WALK IN:** When it is your lesson time (or whenever you have a child in my house), you may just walk in without ringing or knocking. That way, I do not interrupt the lesson I am just finishing.

**SITTING ROOM LIGHTS:** If you come in to wait on your student, feel free to turn on sitting room lights to serve your needs (your already have permission).

**WEATHER:** If school is out due to snow or hurricane, use your own judgement on whether to come to your lesson. Since there is a such wide range in what people consider safe driving conditions and varying distances for people to come, each needs to make that decision. I will be here for those who wish to come. Make-up times will be found for those who opt to not come. (I learned to drive in northern Ohio and am not going to make safe driving condition decisions for others!)

**GLOVES:** When the weather turns cold (45 F and below), please wear gloves to your lesson. Even young muscles become stiff when cold and it can take half of your lesson to warm up. (Expect to be given a hard time if you come in without them!)

**PEDAL RUG:** Students who are in their second year and higher of study will use the damper and soft pedals frequently. Consider putting a throw-rug under the pedals if the piano is on carpeting as over time, the heel will leave a worn spot on your carpet if left unprotected.

**SHOES FOR PEDALING:** The ideal shoe for successful pedaling is one with a thin sole. Please keep this in mind when purchasing dress shoes. I am aware that this is not the current fashion for ladies. The thick soles do not allow you to feel what is going on with the pedal and results in blurred sloppy pedaling.

**CANCELLED DATES:** I will not be teaching on the following dates this semester: Monday, Sept. 5 (Labor Day), Oct. 6 - 9 (in Florida with my mother), Oct. 27 - 29 (I'm attending the VMTA state convention at VCU), Wed. Nov. 23 - Sat. Nov. 26 (Happy Thanksgiving!!), and over the Christmas holidays Dec. 23 - 26 and Dec. 30 – Jan. 2. I will keep you posted as other dates come up for Hardwick Chamber Ensemble concerts.

**CONCERT ATTENDANCE:** Attending live performances is an excellent way to become a better musician yourself. Much can be learned in this way. Each semester, students who turn in at least 3 programs or ticket stubs of concerts they attended (symphony, opera, chamber music, solo recitals, choral concerts) will receive a *Certificate of Participation*. Check the *Virginian Pilot* on Thursdays, the Chesapeake *Clipper* and Virginia Beach *Beacon* for weekly events. You may subscribe to the Art Song Concert Update Calendar. Go to [www.artsongupdate.org/calendar](http://www.artsongupdate.org/calendar) for information on how to sign up. They automatically send you calendar updates every Monday morning as well as notices if concerts are cancelled at the last minute. Several Tidewater arts groups send them press releases. Many of these concerts are free and open to

the public or are available at a minimal fee. You will automatically receive *Hardwick Chamber Ensemble* notices.

**PRACTICING FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS** by Harvey Snitkin is geared for students age 9 and up. Students may borrow it for one week or read it here while waiting for siblings. Students who read it will receive a certificate as well as several practice tips. (It is available at *Barnes & Noble*.)

**THE YOUNG MUSICIAN'S SURVIVAL GUIDE** by Amy Nathan is geared for the high school musician and may be borrowed for a week or read here. Several top artists and high school music students give their tips on how they practice. (It is also available at *Barnes & Noble - Oxford University Press* - \$9.95.)

**THE MAGIC TRIANGLE:** Successful music study consists of three parts - the student, the parents, and the teacher. It takes all three parts working together to achieve a successful musical experience.

*The student needs to practice daily. Most find it is best to set aside a regular time each day and make that sacred. Take a hard look at your schedule and see when you can get to the piano. It does not have to be the same time everyday. If you start school later in the morning, before school practice might be a good solution for you. The student should be responsible for bringing all music and the assignment notebook to the lesson as well as completing all the assignments.*

*The parents can help by showing interest and enthusiasm for their student's musical accomplishments. Please make sure your student has a good instrument which is kept in good repair and see that there is good lighting, a comfortable stool, and uninterrupted practice time. Remind your student to practice and if asked, please sit with the younger student during practice sessions early in the week. Even if you do not read music, you can be very helpful by reading the assignment notebook. Please get your student to lessons on time, to make the most of lesson time and try to be prompt with pick-up times. (Sometimes I need to leave immediately for a rehearsal/concert.)*

*The teacher should be available to discuss lessons with the parents. Parents are always welcome to stay for a lesson or to set a time to discuss the student's progress. I strive to set long and short term goals for each student. It is my job to recognize effort and to try to motivate and inspire each student. It is also my job to stay informed of new music and ideas. I accomplish this through attending conferences, workshops, reading periodicals and books, and by practicing and performing myself. I am the pianist for the Hardwick Chamber Ensemble and the Virginia Beach Chorale. I am active in several music teacher organizations: Tidewater Music Teachers Forum (past president), Scherzo Music Club (past president), Virginia Music Teachers Assoc. (past president), MTNA Southern Division Competitions Chair (past), and am certified through VMTA, MTNA and the National Piano Guild. I also give lectures and workshops on piano pedagogy topics and adjudicate competitions.*

***Hopefully all three of us working together will produce a musically successful year.***