

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

During the year there are many chances to perform outside of the studio events. Many are organized by the Seattle Music Teachers Association (recitals at Hearthstone, at Soundbridge and in the lobby prior to Discover Music concerts at Benaroya, mini-marathons at department stores, and a day of music at Seattle Central Community College), others include a Bach Festival, and a celebration of Grieg in Ballard. I will let students know about any extra performances that I'd like them to participate in.

Students and their parents are encouraged to attend these events to see whether they might like to participate in them in the future.

Mini-marathons are pretty informal. We (the Seattle Music Teachers' Association) have been doing these informal concerts for over ten years. Our goal is to make the general public more aware of the level and quality of performance our young students have acquired. I book a half-hour of time within a three-four hour block on a Sunday afternoon. Students dress nicely but not fancy. I usually program about 15 minutes of music and then the students can all play again. (Since the audience is moving through the store, no listener is keeping track of what's been played.) It's a great way to get ready for recitals. Nobody has to announce anything. I just try to make sure that each student plays a few short pieces in a row so that there's more music than walking to and from the piano!

Seattle Music Teachers' Association recitals are more like a studio recital. The students of many teachers in the organization perform. Usually there are two recitals back to back (at around 2pm and 3:30pm) in order to accommodate the number of students who wish to perform. This is another great opportunity to "try out" performance repertoire.

MTNA adjudications are held every year in chapters like ours (Seattle) throughout the country. All students are eligible to participate. They go with a group from my studio and perform for another teacher in a class setting. This mini-lesson provides students with an opportunity to learn from another teacher; the students who observe also participate by writing down their own comments about a student's playing and then comparing their thoughts with the ones that the adjudicator shares. This event also serves as an important performance review for me. These teachers are scheduled to listen to students from 8 -5pm, (usually during the first full week in March), so we often play during the school day. Entry fees run between \$15 -\$45, depending on how much time a student needs (based on levels of advancement).

I'll send home information about the **Seattle Young Artists' Music Festival** with those students who are eligible (fifth grade and up, late intermediate level of performance,) in November. Students play for a teacher (usually a professor of piano performance or pedagogy from a college or university in the US or Canada) in a small group of students their own age who come from all over the Pacific Northwest. Most often these classes are scheduled during the school day at the U of W School of Music during their spring break.

We begin programming for festival in the late spring of the year prior to the festival, so if you don't want your child to participate please talk to me ASAP. Entry forms are due mid-January, fees are about \$35 for each class a student chooses to enter.

Students who perform in adjudications and SYAMF will sometimes participate in special workshops for some weeks prior to these engagements. Together we will decide whether a student should have private lessons in addition to these small group classes during those weeks. This can be a really extraordinary opportunity to hear fine performances of great piano literature and I encourage all of my students to sit in on a class or two. *I don't teach during the week of the festival so that I can spend those days observing knowledgeable and experienced teachers working with my students as well as those of my colleagues.*