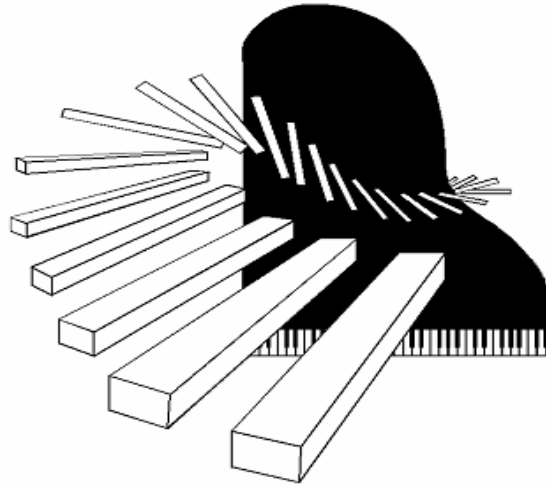


About "Rep," Exercises, Student Responsibility

There are certain things that students ought to be practicing regularly which parents need to know about and listen for. The little heart I draw on the assignment books every week is a reminder to them that they need to practice their "rep." Every one of my students is responsible for maintaining performance repertoire. They have chosen certain pieces they enjoy, have memorized and want to keep ready to play for their friends, for your friends, during school music classes, at talent shows, etc. I believe this is very important for many reasons. **Students need to hear themselves play beautifully on a regular basis.** And it can be very encouraging to be reminded how well you play when you are struggling to learn a new, difficult piece of music!

Piano lessons represent a huge investment of time, energy, and creative thought, in addition to the obvious financial one. Students should be able to share their accomplishments; it is a huge source of pride for all of you. These repertoire pieces represent their very best work. In order to keep this music ready, students should perform these pieces a few times during the week AND they should follow up these performances by playing slowly and carefully, with their eyes on the music to review the notes, rhythms and any notations we've added to their scores. Students must continue to play the music accurately.



The music is a map, full of useful information about how the composer intends the piece to be played. All students have music dictionaries so that they can look up new words or symbols that they come across in their scores. ALSO - they should always number the measures of their music if it has not already been done for them. This makes it easier for me to refer to the specific sections that need work.

When I help students discover places where they are not reading correctly, (wrong notes or rhythm, dynamic indications that are not being followed), I expect the student to make every effort to take care of that by practicing that passage the right way during the next week. Students should check assignment books to remember what points were made and then read through the pieces slowly. **Slow practice** is really the only way to make sure you are catching the things we've

discussed in the lesson. I try to make things clear in the assignments, but if students can't remember something or need help PLEASE have them call or email me. The longer a student plays something wrong, the more difficult it becomes to correct it. Every student will confirm that this is true!

Students need to stay fit, mentally and physically. The exercises that they can find in their Victoria Conservatory books combine theory with the technical skills they need to perform the literature I assign. And even a minimal understanding of how their music is made will help them learn it more easily. All students should be playing scales, chords, and things that sound like exercises EVERY DAY. They need to stretch, warm-up and think about form at some point during their practice sessions.