

# studio news

January 2015

Katz Hokanson

## CALENDAR UPDATES:

### Playing Classes

Sunday, February 8:

1-2pm

Elementary School students  
adjudications class  
with special guest

2:15—3:30

Middle School playing class

4-5:15

High School playing class

7:15

Adult students playing class

## REMINDER:

No Lessons

Mon Feb 16 - Sat Feb 21

Mid-Winter Break

## *How to Protect Your Investment: LISTEN!*

CRASH AND BURN. We all know that expression, right? Well, that is how I describe the approach that many students take to their practicing. They play fast, ignore the road signs and bump into things constantly! CRASH! Do it again —CRASH. Do it again—CRASH! This is a *really* inefficient way to practice. You may ultimately reach a desired goal, but problems are usually created in the process (which means extra practice time later to UNDO these) and I believe this is a waste of valuable student time. We all invest a lot of time and energy (not to mention \$\$) in music lessons. Protect your investment: if you hear (or are guilty of doing this yourself, older students!) a lot of mistakes and corrections—what I call “musical stuttering” – you know that this is not what I am training my students to do. I liken the piano score to a road map—you are in a new place, you must go slower than you usually do; you must read the signs very carefully so that you can see what lies ahead and plan your moves accordingly. Parents — if you hear a lot of crashing and burning, tell your student to SLOW DOWN.

Another tip: suggest they READ THE ASSIGNMENT-book. Here you will find reminders about the ideas we discussed at the lesson for ways to improve each piece.