Welcome Back!

I hope everyone had a terrific break with lots of Holiday cheer, and that your Spring semester is off to a good start. We are looking forward to many great things here at CMS, but before delving into future events, I wanted to recap our Fall Recital. This was such a success! Everyone worked so hard and played really well.

Luciana Valerio played “Home Run Harry” and Jingle Bells. She set a wonderful Holiday mood, not only with her music, but also with a festive Santa hat. What a great start!

Next, Sylvia Waechter continued the festive spirit with a different rendition of “Jingle Bells,” and she also played “The Bike Ride.” Well done!

Larissa Valerio played “Eensie Weensie Spider” with such joy that it was difficult not to smile while she was playing. Wonderful performance!

And finally, Logan Ginnavan gave us a great closing number with “My Secret Place.” What a treat!

It was fantastic see and hear the products of a semester’s worth of hard work—this includes the efforts of students, teachers, parents, and guardians! Thanks for your help in making this a positive experience for everyone. It was really heartwarming, and I can’t wait to see our next recital!

-Olivia
Coming up next:

The Movie Music Recital

When
Saturday, March 30th, 12 noon

Where
Swarthout Recital Hall, Murphy Hall, KU

Attire
Semi-formal (no sneakers or jeans, please!)

Music
Anything from the big screen

Other details
Students: your teachers will talk to you in lessons about what to play, if they have- n’t already done so. You are more than welcome to suggest music that you like or have always wanted to play.

There is no dress rehearsal for this recital, and music does not have to be memo- rized.

Please plan to be in Swarthout 15 minutes before the recital starts.

Join us for a small reception afterwards. Drinks and utensils will be provided, but feel free to bring your favorite snack to help us celebrate.

See you there!
February Practice Secret

Have you ever started a new piece in your lessons, thought you had a good start on it, but then when you practiced it at home you couldn’t seem to remember how to play it? Here are a couple of tools you can use to get you back on track.

- Don’t wait until the day after your lesson to practice. It’s amazing how quickly things can leave our memory! Try to practice on the same day, even if it’s just for a couple of minutes.
- Practice every day. This will help you remember things better. Remember, practicing a normal amount every day is not the same as practicing a lot on one day!
- Look for clues in the music. This includes finding your starting notes, finding your hand position, checking for hand position changes (usually shown by finger numbers above the notes), and making sure your rhythm is correct.
- Read the instructions. Most of the time, your book will have pointers to help you get started and practice successfully. Also check your assignment book for instructions your teacher may have written.
- Ask for help. If none of the above has helped, ask your parents, guardians, siblings, or friends who may be able to help you. You can also call your teacher, or even text them (yes, they really are that cool).

Keep up the good work!

- Your Practice Buddy

Upcoming Events

KU Concerts
2/10—KU SOM Faculty Virtuosi Series. 7:30pm, Swarthout.
2/18—KU Symphony Orchestra. 7:30pm, Lied Center. $7/$5

KU Piano Majors in Recital
2/22—Laura Hrivnak. 5pm, Swarthout.
2/27—Crystal Lam. 5pm, Swarthout.

CMS Calendar Dates
1/25—3rd tuition payment due. Payments received after this date will incur a late fee.

Valentine’s Day Quotes:

"Neither a lofty degree of intelligence nor imagination nor both together go to the making of genius.
Love, love, love, that is the soul of genius."
- W.A. Mozart

"Music is what feelings sound like."
- author unknown