A Fantastic First Concert!

The Halloween Costume Concert last month was so much fun! Everybody played so well, and looked great in their costumes. Larissa Valerio got us off to a great start by playing Trick-Or-Treating. I have to mention that she only just started taking lessons this August, and played a stellar first recital. Congrats, Larissa! Logan Ginavan aka Neil Armstrong played Haunted House Ball and It’s Halloween—perfectly pieces to put us in a spooky mood. Well done, Logan! Sylvia Waechter also had something cool to play: Find a Pumpkin and Trick-or-treating. This was also her first recital, after only studying piano for two months. Way to go, Sylvia! A pirated version of Luciana Valerio gave us a real treat when she played Little Ghost’s Recital. It was a perfect way to end the concert. Great job, Luciana! Students, you should all feel really proud of yourselves for working so hard! Thank you, Soojin and Jiwon, for your weekly help in preparing them so well, and thank you, parents and guardians for all of your help and encouragement behind the scenes! You made all the difference, and helped make this a true success. I’m really looking forward to our next concert, the Fall Recital, which will be on Sunday, December 16th at 1pm. For this recital, one of the pieces will need to be memorized, which is a little more difficult. However, there’s a dress rehearsal on December 9th at 5pm where you can practice performing and get some last-minute practice advice. Keep up the great work!

See you soon, -Olivia Jamandre
November Practice Secret

Have you ever played a piece from memory PERFECTLY by yourself, but as soon as someone listened, you made a mistake? Memorizing a piece is hard! Sometimes you may think you know it really well, but it’s not so easy to be sure. Here are some secrets to securing your memory and making sure you have the best performance possible.

1) Be able to play through your piece 3x perfectly, in a row (the last part is important!).
2) Practice every day, with and without the music. Circle any mistakes made while playing from memory, and go over them 10x perfectly (just like you learned to do in the October secret!).
3) Practice performing for people. Ask your family members, neighbors, friends, schoolteachers etc. to be your audience so you can practice playing for people. They will surely enjoy it!
4) Record yourself. This can be done on most cell phones. The quality won’t be that great, but it will put a little pressure on you. Also, you’ll get to hear what you really sound like, and might be surprised at what you hear! Maybe your tempo was quicker than you thought, or maybe you left out some notes you thought you played. It’s a great tool for performance preparation.

Follow these steps and you’ll be on your way to playing like a professional concert pianist!

Good luck, and keep up the hard work!

-Your Practice Buddy

Upcoming Events

KU Concerts


11/18—KU Music Faculty Virtuoso Series. 7:30pm, Swarthout

11/30—KU Percussion Ensemble Concert. 7:30pm, Swarthout

KU Piano Majors in Recital

11/10—Soojin Kim (our very own!) 7:30pm, Swarthout

11/14—Suk Jung Woo, 5pm, Swarthout

11/17—Yuson So, 7:30pm, Swarthout

11/20—Qichen Jiang, 5pm, Swarthout

11/20—Wan-Ju Ho, 7:30pm, Swarthout

11/28—Angel Yaokun Yang, 5pm Swarthout

CMS Calendar Dates

11/19-24—Thanksgiving Break—No lessons

11/19-20—Make-up Days