



October 2011 News and Notes



Last month some new or improved programs were introduced which need further explanation now that students are involved in them.

“Circle the Wagons” reminds students to circle back and play through a few of their memorized pieces each day to both *protect* their hard work from being forgotten, and to continue *building their familiarity* with those pieces. Students have begun making this a routine part of their practice, with the rewarding results of having a group of polished pieces which they can play anytime, anywhere. Encourage your student when you hear an “old friend” being played. Knowing that you appreciate hearing these pieces is motivating both to continue holding on to them, as well as to work hard toward adding more polished pieces to their repertoire.

Computer: Most students have restarted their musiclearningcommunity.com program. This is now required for at least 20 minutes each week for students in KITS level 3 and lower, or in the Ultimate Music Theory Prep or Basic levels, and may be done in my studio and/or at home. Students should have a tabbed turquoise chart in their practice notebook listing all the games, student level, username, and password. I mark the assigned game(s) each week with a date, and students are to bring a printout of that week's scores to lesson each week. The assignment will reinforce theory and listening concepts addressed at the student's lesson, giving a fun way to continue that learning.

Piano Explorer Magazine: All students in groups 1 and up have received their Magazine and its required Study Guide to help them prepare for the quiz game at group next week. The excellent educational value of reading this undergirds their music studies with history, technique, theory, and composition articles. This assignment will be rewarded with points for their quiz team, as well as preparing students to be winners each month. Please check to be sure your student is working a bit on this each day. Some are using this as a bedtime parent-child reading activity. Great idea!

Groups Next Week: October 31-November 4 is group week. I plan activities using each of the following materials, so students who come empty-handed, or without one or more of these, are having to sit out on part of their group lesson.

Students should bring to group each month:

- Magazine and study guide (groups 1 & up)
- Music For Life Notebook
- Theory book(s)
- The music they will be playing.

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