

Yuan Piano News

Summer 2018



First student house concert

Congratulations to all who performed in our first student house concert on July 15th 2018. *Photo Credit: Irene's dad. (Thank you!)*

We had our first student house concert this summer. All of our young performers challenged themselves to new ways of learning and played new repertoire with two months of learning time. Many of them broke their records of time taken to learn new repertoire this time! Congratulations to all!

The purpose of the newsletter is to encourage all students to challenge themselves, break their own records and achieve their goals. Other than achievements in competitions or performances, the main focus will be on the students' hard work and improvements worth mentioning as well as Interesting musical info. Good luck to all!



First time playing a duet together, Daniel and Ryan performed together with only two rehearsals (how professionals do it!). Impressive!



Alex broke his record of learning a whole first movement of a sonatina in 5 weeks and performed it in front of an audience. Congratulations!



Thank you to all for the amazing food! :)

Yvonne Hung's first piano solo recital

Yvonne (10) is the youngest to do a benefit solo recital in the studio.

Yvonne showed very little interest in piano when she first came to the studio. She was extremely shy and scared of performing, and she wanted to quit at some point. Something special about Yvonne is that she is extremely sympathetic and caring for animals. When she learned how she could use her music to fund raise for the B.C.S.P. C.A., it gave her a different motivation to practice.



It was the week after her first UBC student recital experience, she came to me with the idea of doing her own solo recital. I was quite

surprised! She said she wanted to fundraise for animals in the need of help.

We made selections of her repertoire, and made a tentative date for her recital. At some point, I thought the ten-year-old may find it too difficult and give it up, but she surprised me with her strong will to make this happen. Even when she faced challenges and frustration in our preparation, not once did she mention she wanted to cancel.



I am extremely proud of Yvonne for having a successful solo debut recital this summer. She was very excited and thankful to all who came to support her. She feels great for helping out the animals with her music. She is already thinking planning her next recital!

Congratulations to Yvonne! :)

Photo Credit: Irene's dad.



*"Life is like a piano.
What you get out of it depends
on how you play it."
- Tom Lehrer*

“Why take so long to prepare for an exam?”

Congratulations to Daniel for passing his Gr. 8 RCM piano examination with only two months of preparation.



When I asked Daniel if he would like to take his Gr. 8 exam with all new repertoire in two months, he decided to take the challenge with no hesitation. After the June recital, we chose a full program for the Gr. 8 exam in August. Daniel came back showing me all the things he learned on his own the next lesson.

To do a whole program with eight weeks of preparation is definitely a big challenge for anyone. During the preparation for this challenge, for sure he had his moments of

doubts and frustration, but Daniel is not the one to give up! When he overcame all the difficulties, he not only showed me his capability and growth in music, but also he proved to himself his own capability as long as he works hard and never gives up. And what will be his next challenge? We will find out!

Congratulations to Daniel for the successful challenge. I am very proud of you!

Photo Credit: Irene's dad.

MUSIC QUIZ

1. What country is Ludwig van Beethoven from?
2. What physical condition did Beethoven suffer from which made him hard to get along?
3. What era is Beethoven from?
4. What language did Beethoven speak?
5. Which symphony did Beethoven dedicate to Napoleon, and later changed to "Heroic Symphony"?

The students or parents who bring me all correct answers will be mentioned on the next newsletter.

THE LEGENDARY FALCONE

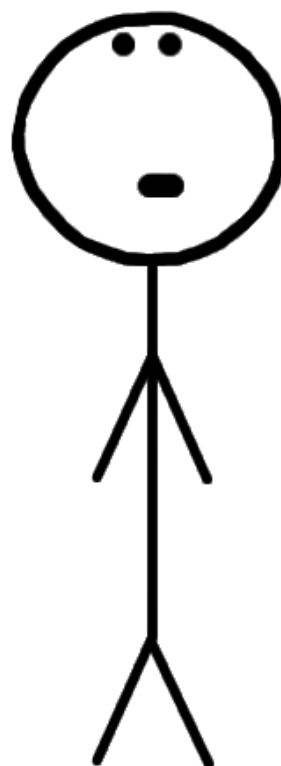
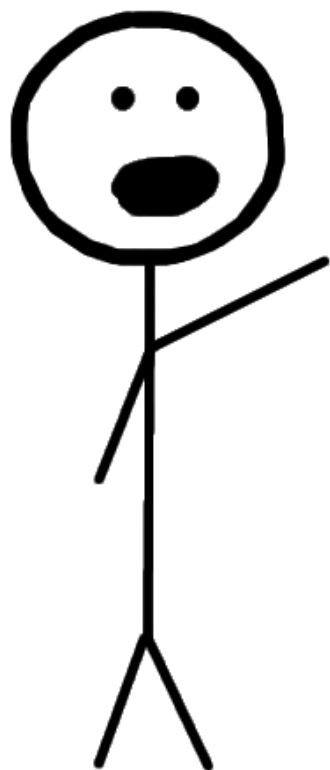
The handcrafted Falcone was referred to as the "Ferrari of pianos" by the critics in the 80's. It is a Sicilian piano built by Santi Falcone aiming to produce the highest quality pianos within a reasonable price. There are only fewer than 200 original Falcone pianos produced, and they are no longer in production. If you ever see a Falcone, make sure to enjoy the beautiful sound it produces!



MUSICIAN FUN

STOP!!

You're under
a rest!!



Persistence can be trained from piano practice

By: Clare Yuan

Piano learning is very closely-related to learning a language. As it is a study of a skill, piano practicing is essential. For example, if one tries to learn the English language skill by only relying on the weekly lessons, and without spending his/her own time practicing the vocabulary, listening, speaking and writing repeatedly, the progress will become minimal, and the mastery of the language will become impossible. This also applies to piano-learning. The beginners material may be simple and easy, so it may not require much practice time to learn a tune. However, when it gets harder and more effort is in demand, without a good practicing habit, many kids will lose interest because it no longer comes easily. The question is: can one learn anything well without any effort?

“... when parents decide to enrol kids in music-learning lessons, parents should be prepared to help developing the kids’ persistent attitude by having a practice routine.”

The first and most important thing in piano-learning is to develop a persistent attitude in learning. The necessity of daily practice is just as much as brushing teeth, eating, or drinking water. From the moment when parents decide to enrol kids in music-learning lessons, parents should be prepared to help developing the kids’ persistent attitude by having a practice routine. At the beginners level when the practicing material is still easy, long practice sessions may

not be necessary, but high quality daily practicing must be established. If the kids can only focus for so long at once, the length of the practice sessions can be adjusted. For example, if the kids can only focus for twenty minutes at a time, then the kids can have three twenty-minute sessions. If the kids are forced to practice beyond their focus time, it reduces their interest in music, it lowers their efficiency in practicing, and it also damages the parent-child relationship.

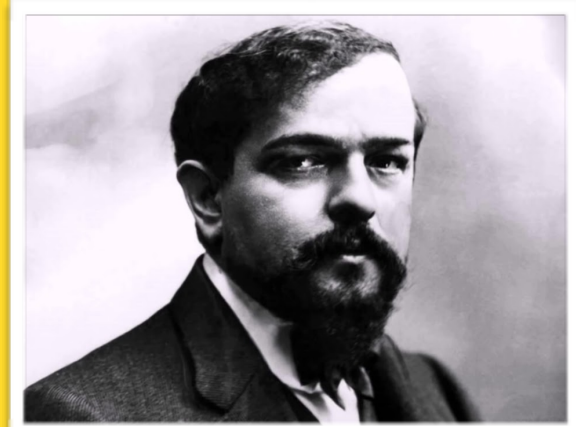


The first thing to do to establish a good practicing habit is to discuss and set a practice time with the kids from the very beginning. Parents should be firm about the set time. The kids will learn to respect the practice time and keep their promises, and therefore develop the routine. Often I hear complaints from kids, who have no set practice time, about how their parents tell them to practice when they are engaged in other entertainment. The kids will subconsciously grow to dislike the piano, because it is the thing that takes away their free time. One thing to note is that when the practice time is discussed and set, parents should avoid scheduling conflicting activities to their practice time; frequent changes to the practice time must be avoided.

In the past I've had students telling me how the parents promised that they don't have to practice on piano lesson days, or weekends. I am always speechless when I hear such "rules". The parents' attitude towards practicing will pass on to the kids, so it becomes a bad influence when parents don't take practicing seriously. It is the best to practice after a piano lesson while the memory is still fresh. When the kids have no school during the weekends, they can also focus better during their practicing, and therefore often achieve higher efficiency. Kids learn to be persistent through the piano teacher and the parents, but since only the parents will see the kids everyday, the parents play a much bigger role in training the kids' persistence. If there are activities scheduled during the weekends, as much as possible, the kids should practice before the activities as practicing is the best when the mind is most clear.

"...parents should avoid scheduling conflicting activities to their practice time; frequent changes to the practice time must be avoided."

I can understand some parents may find this hard to do, but to help kids develop persistence, parents must see the bigger picture. Piano trains more than just musical learning, but one's mind and personality. I believe under such training, kids will also learn to be responsible for things outside of piano.



Claude Debussy
(Aug. 22 1862 - March 25th 1918)

Did you know?

This year is 100 years after French impressionistic composer Claude Debussy's death.

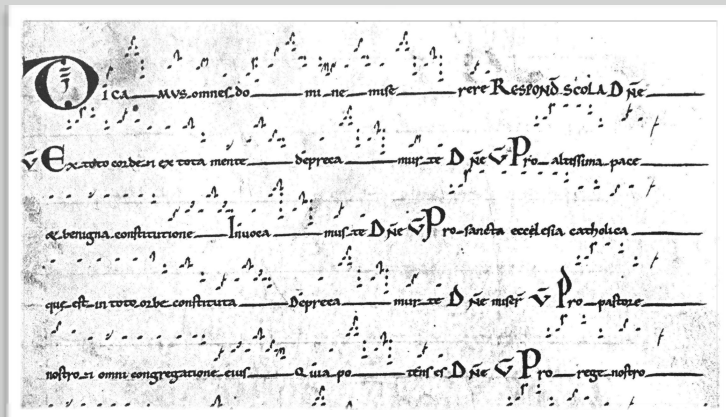
If you're unfamiliar with the name Debussy, you must have heard some of his famous works, including "Clair de Lune", "The Girl with Flaxen Hair", "Arabesque No. 1", "Estampes" and "Images". Have a listen!

Practice Tip

When learning a new piece, avoid playing it right away. First look through the whole piece and try to find any repeating sections or similar sections first. Then, compare the sections to see if they are exactly the same, and this will save you lots of time when learning a new piece!

Before the Five Lines

This picture is Gallican chant from the 11th century Gradual of St. Yrieux. This is the litany for the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist. Before the staff lined notations were invented, this was the way to write down the high and the low pitches. The main method to pass down tunes was orally. Generations sing to the next generations, and so on.



(The pictures on this page are from *A History of Western Music* by Grout Palisca, sixth edition.)

Music notation was becoming more complete, we now have four lines in the staff

Ant. 1.
S Al - ve, * Re - gi - na, máter mi - se - ricór - di - ae :
VÍ - ta, dulcé - do, et spes nó - tra, sál - ve. Ad te
clamá - mus, éx - su - les, fí - li - i Hé - vae. Ad te suspi - rá -
mus, geméntes et flén - tes in hac lacrimá - rum válle.
E - ia ergo, Advocá - ta nó - tra, fillos tú - os mi - se - ri -
córdes ócu - los ad nos convér - te. Et Jésum, benedí -
ctum frúctum véntris tú - i, nó - bis post hoc exsí - lí - um
os - ténde. O clé - mens : O pí - a : O dúlcis
* Vírgo Ma - rí - a.

Can you tell the following two pictures are the same piece?

Sal - ve* Re - gi - na, ma - ter mi - se - ri - cor - di - ae:
VÍ - ta, dul - ce - do, et spes nos - tra, sal - ve.
Ad te cla - ma - mus, ex - su - les, fí - li - i Hé - vae.
Ad te sus - pi - ra - mus, ge - men - tes et flén - tes in hac
la - cri - ma - rum val - le. E - ia er - go, Ad - vo - ca - ta
no - stra, il - los tú - os mi - se - ri - cor - des o - cu - los
ad nos con - ver - te. Et Je - sum, be - ne - di - ctum fructum ven -
tris tu - i, no - bis post hoc ex - sí - lí - um os - ten - de.
O clé - mens: O pí - a:
O dúlcis *Vir - go Ma - ri - a.

Match Game

Please match the following common tempo terms to the correct definitions:

Adagio

Largo

Andante

Allegro

Lento

Grave

Allegretto

Moderato

Presto

Vivace

Slow

Moderate tempo

Slow and solemn

Moderately slow; at a walking pace

Very slow and broad

Slow between andante and largo

Fast and lively

Lively, brisk

Moderate tempo

Very fast

The students or parents who bring me all correct answers will be mentioned on the next newsletter.

ARTICLES WELCOME

Welcome to all parents and students to raise questions or share your musical learning experience and feelings. Your questions may be the questions of other parents or students. Your experience may help the others facing similar confusion and insecurities.

The help of articles is beyond words, therefore I invite you all to share. (I will help translate all articles, and to your preference if you'd like your name to be mentioned or to be anonymous. Don't worry!)

Thank you!

Clare Yuan's page : <http://www.clareyuan.com>
 Meeks Duo page : <http://www.themeeksduo.com>



Our CD for is also available for download now! You can now enjoy our music anywhere in the world.

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