

NEWSLETTER-NOV 09, DEC 09, JAN 2010

WHAT'S NEW AT IMAGINE MUSIC INC

We had a strong start at Imagine Music Inc with many new clients and returning clients. Hard to believe winter is around the corner. Our students are back at it and ready to show their stuff at the upcoming recital.

We have also hired 4 new teachers.

Tony Purvis - Guitar and bass teacher with a studio in Marlborough NE

Kevin Shredder – Saxophone, beginner flute and electronic Musical Instrument (EMI) teacher with a studio in Ramsey SE

Roberta Romero – Lopez – Violin teacher with a studio in Arbour Lake NW. Roberta will also teach in-home lessons.

Linda Hsieh – Piano teacher with a studio in Rocky Ridge. Linda will also teach in-home lessons.

All of our teachers' bios are posted on our newly updated website.

And yes, the website is finally finished but always a work in progress. If you are looking for client information such as our musical calendar that lays out all the holidays for the year, the

registration form for the upcoming recital or our newsletters then please go to www.imaginemusicinc.com There will be a link on the home page called client information at the bottom right hand of the site.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NOV 14 2009

- Winter Recital registration form deadline

NOV 28 2009

- Winter Recital

DEC 2009 – JAN 2010

- No lessons December 20 to January 3, 2010

FEB 2010

- No lessons Feb 13 to 15

MAR 2010

- No lessons March 27 to April 4

THE WINTER RECITAL IS COMING SOON



Tala sings Path to Moon at last year's recital.

Due to the increasing activities of this wonderful venue, we've had to book the recital in November. Yikes!

It will be held on:

Saturday Nov 28, 2009

At the Thornhill Baptist Church 128 Tache Ave NW

From 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Everyone is asked to bring a snack to share.

There will be a musical prelude at 1:45 pm and a reception following the recital.

In order to participate in the recital, you must register by Nov 14, 2009. It is either the teacher's or parent's responsibility to send/submit the form into the office. This form is attached to this newsletter and is also available on the website.

If your music lesson conflicts with the recital schedule, please contact your teacher and arrange a make-up lesson. If a make-up cannot be arranged, please contact the office.

We also ask that participating students and their families stay for the entire recital.

Thank-you!

FROM THE OFFICE

A reminder that our music calendar outlines scheduled lesson days. We do not bill clients for lessons that fall on our scheduled holidays.

Lessons cancelled by our teachers will always be made up. However,

there are no make-up lessons for student cancellations. In these situations, clients may choose to forfeit the lesson or substitute another family member only if the lesson is at the same time and place as the original lesson.

Please talk to your teacher directly about make-ups or cancellations.

PARENTS GET THE REAL NEWS!

Parents like to hear good, solid feedback about how their children are progressing in their music lessons. December is the month to discuss the musical accomplishments, performances at the Winter Recital, and to set up musical goals for the New Year. Please take the time to talk to your teacher about your child's progress. These meetings are usually done informally either in person during the lesson time, by email or by phone.



Tim sings one of his original pieces at the last Spring Recital.

HONARBLE MENTIONS

Great performances by Andie Deak, Melissa Forsyth and Tala Rosenthal gave way to excellent feedback by Derek Stoll at the Alberta Piano Teachers Festival last May. Great Job Girls!

Student Julian Salazar receives 100% in his Grade 2 Royal Conservatory exam.

Congratulations Tala Rosenthal for receiving Honors at her Grade 5 Royal Conservatory Voice Exam

Did you know that student Christina T took "super" lessons (two hour lessons 2 to 3 times per week) auditioned and was accepted to the Red Deer College Jazz Program. She also completed her Grade 2 theory exam and her Contemporary Level 6 exam with Conservatory Canada.

She accomplished this in 5 months.

AWESOME JOB CHRISTINA!



Melissa performs a great jazz standard, Georgia.

WHY DO PIANOS GO OUT OF TUNE?

A question commonly asked of piano technicians is "Why do pianos go out of tune?" This is the most misunderstood area of knowledge in the piano world. Most people think that moving a piano will put it out of tune. Wrong. For the most part, a piano can be handled roughly and still stay basically in tune.

The main reason that pianos go out of tune is because of changes in humidity. Picture a piece of wood that goes from one side of the piano to the other, and is forced into a crown shape to withstand the down bearing of the strings. If this piece of wood takes on moisture, it will expand and rise in shape making the strings tighter and therefore sharper in pitch. If humidity is lowered, the opposite will occur, i.e. the piano will go flat. Unfortunately this never happens evenly throughout the piano because of different stresses on the soundboard and strings, and it also never goes back in tune when humidity reverts back to where it was. In fact, it is possible for just one area of the piano to go out of tune, and make the instrument sound bad, while the rest of it is in fairly good tune.

Some old pianos never seem to out of tune. This is usually a sign of a soundboard that is not being affected by anymore. The

crown and down bearing of the strings has gone and although it may be staying in tune, an instrument like this is probably lacking in the tone department.

A piano should be tuned when it goes out of tune. If you cannot tell when it is out of tune, get it tuned regularly. A piano technician will tell you the status of your tuning and advise you on the frequency of necessary visits. Is there a best time to tune a piano? It is always a guessing game, but if you realize that an instrument will go out of tune with humidity changes, wait till the humidity changes and then tune the piano. A digital humidity gauge, (\$25.00 at Canadian Tire) will let you know what the humidity is doing in your home. Control the humidity in the piano's environment and it will stay more stable. If it is not possible to stabilize the humidity around the piano, consider a Damp Chaser climate control system that will keep the area around the soundboard at an ideal 43 percent relative humidity. This is only part of the story though. A new piano will take longer to acclimatize to the ambient humidity. If an instrument comes from a damp to a dry climate or vice versa, it will probably take at least a year and a number of tunings before it is stable. Also, a new piano we will humidity have strings that are

constantly stretching and settling in around the bearing points on the piano.

With all due respect to the piano technician, it is not possible to do a fine tuning that will hold until the instrument is stable and at pitch. Some pianos are trickier to tune than others, but if the tuning is done conscientiously, it should stay fairly well in tune for some time after the tuning if the humidity is stable. If not, any good technician will stand behind their work. It is possible for the technician to know just by testing the instrument, if there was a shortfall in their tuning, or if there is a problem with the instrument or its environment.

Piano tuning is an exacting art, and good tunings are a real pleasure to experience. If you understand that most concert pianos are tuned each time that they are played, you will appreciate the work involved in keeping an instrument in top shape. Normally, the more often the piano is tuned, the better it is going to sound and the more enjoyment you will receive from it.

By Chris Gregg
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