

RHAPSODY ACADEMY OF MUSIC

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dear Parents and Students,

We are proud of our students and their work!

Most of the students are well adept with padlet.com. Please make sure that you are reading weekly assignments with your child.

All the group information, practice tips, calendar, etc. are located on the main page: www.padlet.com/rhapsodyacademy/main

It is a very important link to stay informed.

It is coming to my attention that students are not practicing their requirements enough.

The requirements are a very important part of the Auditions. **All students have to know their Scales (Major and Minors), Chords, Cadences, and Arpeggios according to their level of study.**

You can find the list of the requirements on the main page of the padlet.com

In order to understand the importance of scales, lets answer the question “**Why Scales are Important?**”

Answers:

“Proper fingering of the scales on the piano is very important to development of your skills and advancement as a pianist.”

“When you are playing a piece you are not doing anything remotely like playing a scale”.

“The proper fingering is important to improve dexterity”.

Is there a better answer? What would you say?

**If the student does not know their scales and requirements according to the level, they may not proceed to the next level of study and the entire studio may be assigned the probation status and be disqualified to enter national auditions in the future.

I hope that everyone understands the importance of this topic. In order to pass the requirements students have to know not just any scale, but play them with correct fingering, correct octaves, chords and inversions, cadences and arpeggios, including knowing the theory, key signatures, and structures of scales, chords, cadences, arpeggios according to their levels and requirements.

There are resources that would help you to learn your scales. Please take the time to memorize them using correct fingering and ensure that you practice them every day in the beginning of your practice.

There will be NO pieces addressed during the lesson until the student knows their level requirements!!!

The students will have a Scale and Audition Readiness Contest. The winner will receive another week of vacation in Cancun for the upcoming summer. What a MOTIVATION!!!!

Also, is very important for all of us be on **Remind**.

If you do not receive messages from me please see our technical support, Mark, to set you phone with Remind. He can also help you to understand padlet.com and use it with your child.

Very soon we will connect the report-document that you will have to fill in and attach to the practice log of the weekly practice report to your child's padlet.com page.

This is new technology that we should learn and use. The technology should not substitute the brain activities and the social/personal relations, but should be used to help us to achieve our tasks, be more organized, and to be able to do more with our time.

We are approaching that time of year when we are finalizing what we learned during the year and are preparing for our yearly Auditions.

Audition dates are June 17, 18, 19.

Please plan accordingly and make sure that you will be available to take your child to Auditions.

Starting after Spring Break we will start Master Classes. Master Classes are mandatory for all the students. It will provide critical listening skills and performance opportunity for each student.

During Master Classes students will compete in the "Play Scale Game". We have amazing surprises for the winners. This activity is designed to motivate the students to practice their requirements.

During Master Classes we will also discuss musical performance techniques, dynamics, pedaling and memorization. The parents will receive a report of the progress.

The Master Classes Schedule as Follows:

April 15th, 16th

April 29th, 30th

May 13th, 14th

June 3rd, 4th

All Master Classes are 2 hours.

After Spring Break we will offer additional classes similar as we did last year.

Choir is mandatory for all the students and will be held as part of the extended lesson. An additional hour is required on the following days: **April 8, 9; May 6, 7; May 16, 20, 21 and June 3, 4.**

Additional 4 classes are offered for an additional fee (\$50.00) to our students:

Guitar Class: April 16th and 30th, May 7th and 21st - 12:30-1:30PM

All students will require bringing their guitar.

Music History/Theory Class: April 15th and 29th, May 6th and 20th - 7:30-8:30 PM

All students will require completing the project and homework.

Schedule:

Please remember that we will be on Spring Break from March 25 to April 7th, 2016

There will be class on Monday, March 21st - **NOT** April 4th. Please be aware of those changes from the original calendar.

There will be one week break in 3rd week of April from April 18 –April 25th.

Thank you for your loyalty, cooperation, and understanding of how difficult this music journey is.