

Making the Most of Your Piano Lessons: Programs Available for Children and Young Adults

National Piano Guild Auditions

June

WHAT IT IS:

Local/National Piano Performance Event -

Areas of interest include jazz, popular styles, and composition as well as classical. Solo, duet and ensemble categories.

All participants receive recognition for annual participation.

*NON-COMPETITIVE



Who Should Attend:

All ages and levels

Repertoire can include "pop" or "jazz" selections. Work can be memorized or not.

NOTE: ENROLL EARLY to reserve desired audition dates (i.e. an appointment on a weekend rather than in the middle of a weekday!)

Benefits:

Encourages goal setting. Participating students are provided with an incentive to learn, memorize, and perform repertoire to the best of their ability in a non-competitive setting.

Nurturing, non-competitive

environment – Constructive comments on performance are given by **one judge** in a **private** audition room – no audience.

Designed to encourage everyone – not just the most gifted students. Judges are coached to provide comments which encourage the student to continue his/her study of music, to come back next year showing personal improvement.

Annual incentive provided – for students to continue their music education and improve relative to their own level each year.



EARLY ENROLLMENT
(HIGHLY RECOMMENDED):

December 2003

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

April 2004

Fees:

\$15 to \$37, depending on student enrollment category.

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Long Beach, California

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Certificate of Merit

April

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

November 2003

WHAT IT IS:

Statewide Annual

Evaluation of Music Theory Knowledge, Musicianship Skills

2 pieces of standard classical repertoire from memory.

Preparatory through Advanced Level music theory, sightreading and ear training.

PATH A: Testing done at the California State University Long Beach Campus and other locations.

***NON-COMPETITIVE**

Who Should Attend:

ALL MUSIC

STUDENTS who have studied privately for at least one year!



Benefits:

Standardized test encourages students to acquire critical music theory and musicianship skills.

Cumulative knowledge of music is developed through annual

participation. Prevents students from

“falling behind” or forgetting skills.

Encourages students to stay on track, continue to accumulate important skills in their music education.

Annual incentive provided for students to continue their music education advancing to the next level each year.

Awards & Recognition: Certificates designating level completed are awarded to participants who successfully pass the examination.

Entrance Fee:

Varies – typically \$18 for Path A students.

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MUSIC STUDENTS SERVICE LEAGUE (MSSL)

WHAT IT IS:

Student-run

Organization

providing community

service through

music. Students receive

community service credit at their schools for organizing recitals for convalescent homes and hospitals. MSSL is overseen by participating music teachers in local Music Teachers' Association branches in coordination with local schools and community groups.

Who Should Attend:

Any student between 6th and 12th grades who wishes to receive community service credit at their school while providing service to the community through music.

Performers in MSSL recitals must be performing at Certificate of Merit Level 5 or higher. Non-performing students (Ushers, Assistants, and Student Leaders) have no minimum performance level.

Benefits:

Students are rewarded for

demonstrating leadership and

initiative. Student jobs include contacting relevant

personnel at hospitals and convalescent homes, organizing student-led recitals for the benefit of the elderly.

Students receive credit at school for providing community service through

music. Participating piano teachers and local Music Teachers Association branches coordinate with the student and the student's school to ensure that proper community service credit is received.

Fun and continual musical

development among peers. Students enjoy the energy of being part of a student-run organization while being exposed to higher-level performers at each MSSL recital.

Many hours of community service can be accumulated through ongoing

participation in MSSL throughout junior high and high school years, fulfilling an important requirement on most competitive college applications.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

No Deadline –

There are monthly

projects

throughout the

year

Fees:

\$15 Application Fee

Five hours of

community service credit will be awarded to each performer in MSSL recitals, **three hours** of credit will be awarded to ushers and assistants, and **one hour** of

community service credit will be awarded for each hour of attendance at a MSSL meeting.

*NON-COMPETITIVE

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Southwestern Youth Music Festival (SYMFF) July-August

WHAT IT IS:

Local/Regional Piano

Competition Featuring standard classical repertoire. All repertoire should be memorized.

Piano Open categories

include Concerto, Young Recitalist, Bach and Classic Complete Work, Solo, American, Baroque, Chopin, Duo/Duet, Ensemble, Young Chamber Musician, Jazz Improvisation and Chamber Music and Duo/Duets by American composers.

Piano Qualified

Categories also include Concerto, Bach and Classic Complete Work, Solo, American, Baroque, Chopin, Duet, Ensemble and Duo/Duets by American composers.

*COMPETITIVE

Who Should Attend:

All competitive students at the beginner through advanced levels between the ages of 5 and 25.



Showcase Recital:

Piano Quartet and American Chamber Music competition (for pianists) to perform on a Showcase Recital with professional musicians.

Benefits:

Excellent performance opportunity and exposure –

Participants get to hear some of the best students from all over Southern California.

Encourages high goal setting –

Participating students are provided with a strong incentive to learn, memorize, and perform repertoire to the best of their ability in a competitive setting.

Awards and recognition: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th

Place trophies with personalized nameplates will be awarded in over 350 categories based on age, repertoire and length of study.

Young Pianist Category: First Place winners

in Young Pianist, Young Violinist/Violist, Young Flutist/Clarinetist and Young Cellist categories may be invited to appear as soloists with the Bach Festival Orchestra under Dr. Frances Steiner

Young Baroque Musician Category: First

Place winners in Young Baroque Musician categories may be invited to appear as soloists with our Baroque Chamber Orchestra under Dr. Steiner.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

June 1, 2004

EVENT:

**Last weekend of
July & First
weekend of August**

SHOWCASE RECITALS:

TBA

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Summer Chamber Music Recital

August

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

TBA

EVENT:

TBA

Who Should Attend:

All ages and levels -- Any student playing in a trio, quartet, or quintet.

Benefits:

Reduces the "isolation effect" of only playing solo classical piano repertoire. The recital is a great encouragement for students to learn and play chamber music (small ensemble repertoire) and piano four-hand repertoire (piano duets).

Teacher / Student Duets. Teachers performing with students are encouraged.

Ensemble playing provides a practice goal as well as increases student musicality.



Serious participants in chamber ensembles should enroll in the

Chamber Music

Institute (a flexible, four-week summer class taught by Kay Pech) in addition to their regular private piano lessons.

WHAT IT IS:

Local program that encourages chamber music ensembles of all performance levels and piano four-hand ensembles to perform for each other.

Teacher/student or student/student piano duets are allowed. Repertoire is not as advanced as the

V.O.C.E. Recitals and Competition.

***NON-COMPETITIVE**

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Making the Most of Your Piano Lessons: Programs Available for Children and Young Adults

Southern California Junior Bach Festival

January

WHAT IT IS:

Region-wide festival /

competition featuring the works of J.S. Bach. Works from the Ana Magdalena Bach Notebook are also acceptable.

*COMPETITIVE

Who Should Attend:

Students between the ages of 6 and 21. Late beginner through advanced levels.

Benefits:

Students learn how to prepare for and perform in a competition, musical artistry, dealing with competition.

Encourages goal

setting -- Participating students are provided with an incentive to learn, memorize, and perform the repertoire of J.S. Bach in a competitive environment.

Benefits (continued):

Development of Piano Technique – The dense contrapuntal movement of J.S. Bach's works encourage the student to develop independence of the fingers, musical awareness of voice leading and the beginnings of advanced technique.

Awards and recognition:

The top local performers are sent on to perform in the regional festival. Top regional performers are selected for the final "Honors" concert. The top finalist receives a cash prize, and a performance with a local orchestra.

Performance opportunity / Exposure

to works of J.S. Bach – Participants get to hear other students at the same level perform the works of J.S. Bach.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

January 17, 2004

WHEN:

Piano (Local):

January 31, 2004

Regional Winners:

May 9, 2004

30th Annual Long Beach Bach Festival Student Program:

October 20, 2004

Los Angeles Bach Festival Audition & Concert Series:
TBA

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Composers Today / Improvisation State Contest

Spring (Annually)

WHAT IT IS: Regional/Statewide program to encourage students and teachers to compose original music, develop improvisation skills in music	Who Should Attend: Students of any age and level who have composed or would like to try composing music!	Benefits: Access to composers and constructive feedback -- Students receive constructive comments on their original compositions from noted composers!	Application Deadline: March
*NON-COMPETITIVE to COMPETITIVE		Awards and Recognition: All participants have the opportunity to have their work played at the Music Teachers Association State Convention.	

Music Teachers Association Branch Recitals *Ongoing Throughout the Year*

WHAT IT IS: Local program held three times a year to provide performance opportunities for MTAC students of all levels. *NON-COMPETITIVE	Who Should Attend: All ages and levels Recommended additional recitals for students who want opportunities to perform in addition to quarterly teacher recitals and workshops.	Benefits: Additional performance opportunities for students of all levels. Exposure to students of other music teachers in a non-competitive environment.	Application Deadline: RECITAL #2 ENTRY DEADLINE: April RECITAL #2: May RECITAL #3 ENTRY DEADLINE: September RECITAL #3: October
		RECITAL #1 ENTRY DEADLINE: January 1st RECITAL #1: Late January	

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V.O.C.E. ★ Recitals & Competitions

★ Voice, Orchestral Instruments, Chamber Music & Ensembles May (Annually)

WHAT IT IS:

State competition to encourage top caliber students to their highest standard of achievement.

More competitive than the

Summer Chamber Music Recital, with advanced repertoire.

Pianists performing at CM Level 4 and higher are strongly encouraged to participate!

***COMPETITIVE**

Who Should Attend:

Any intermediate – advanced student playing in a trio, quartet, or quintet.



Serious participants should enroll in the **Chamber**

Music Institute (a four-week summer class taught by Kay Pech) in addition to their regular private piano lessons.

Benefits:

Recognition: Branch recitals and/or competitions award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place recognition.

\$100 and \$1,000 Cash Awards: Students recommended to continue to the MTAC State Competition are eligible to win cash awards of \$100 to \$1,000 in the following divisions: String Soloist (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior) and Chamber Ensemble (Intermediate and Senior).

1st place winners in the MTAC State Competition will perform in recital at the MTAC State Convention.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Late April

EVENT:

Middle of May