

MUSIC NOTES

Noteworthy Events from the Lecky-Springer Music Studio

Announcements

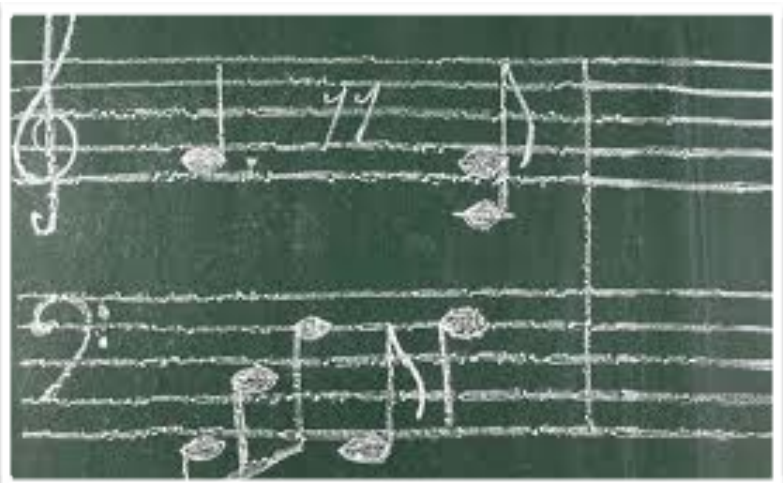
- ◆ Our Fall Schedule will commence the week of August 11th. If we have not set up a regular weekly time for you, please contact me with your availability ASAP.
- ◆ The week of August 18-22 there will be NO LESSONS. My family is taking a (late) vacation this summer.
- ◆ A new Theory Competition is underway! Students will be asked to purchase a theory book (about \$9.00) to use as weekly supplemental material. More information will be provided in lessons.

Friendly Reminders

- There are **5 Fridays** in August.
- Please plan to arrive no earlier than 5 minutes to your lesson to ease congestion issues.
- I must keep lessons running on time- late arrivals will still end at scheduled time.

Balancing the Schedule Harmoniously: Homework and Practice Sessions

By *Karen Lecky-Springer*



Now that the school year is upon us, the most common dilemma I find students face is how to balance an ever-growing amount of homework with the need to practice and stay up-to-date with weekly music assignments. Much like any mathematics, history, language arts, or science class, music must be practiced regularly and consistently to understand new concepts and to advance the technique.

So what are some things students can do at the beginning of the school year to help ensure they keep up with their music studies without sacrificing grades in school?

Let's Remember: Put School First: Yes, I said it, school must come first. If you are a student, your primary job is to go to school and put forth your best effort.

Plan out your week: Schedule out time each day for what homework or activity you will be doing. Each



Upcoming Events

- ♦ **August 11th:** Seminole County Schools Begin
- ♦ **August 18th:** Orange County Schools Begin
- ♦ **August 18th-22nd:**
NO LESSONS (Studio Closed)
- ♦ **September 1: Labor Day**
(Studio Closed)
- ♦ **October 21:** 7:30pm Rollins College Choral Concert
- ♦ **November 30:** 3:00pm Messiah Choral Society Concert (Bob Carr PAC)

August Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following people who have birthdays this month!

- ♦ **August 11th:** Hannah Warner

academic class will have different time requirements, but literally block out time for each assignment. For music lessons, I generally expect each student to fit 4 30-minute practice sessions in a week to progress adequately. Of course, more sessions will see quicker results! Think of music practice time as homework for an academic class and literally schedule it into your week. Don't forget, middle-schoolers start school later in the morning- I remember some of my BEST practice sessions happened in the 30 minutes *before* the bus came to pick me up for school each morning.

Multi-Task: On the way to and from places, students can work on reading assignments in the car. I encourage voice students to do vocalizes in the shower in the morning (we all know the bathroom has the BEST acoustics anyways). Students can listen to lesson recordings or recordings of the songs they are learning if they have an mp3 player with them nearly anywhere.

Be Realistic: Some weeks will be more demanding than others. I know that every student will not be able to get those 4 practice sessions in every week, so you must also not be too hard on yourself if you have a "bad" practice week every now and then. With that said, if you find you have a lighter homework week, try to fit in some extra practice time to help buffer against the inevitably busy weeks to come!

Keep it fun! Music lessons should be challenging, but fun. If students start to feel too overwhelmed and stressed, then they won't have fun practicing or coming to lessons. Don't make music a chore: always remember why you chose to take music lessons in the first place and keep that in mind during every practice session.



Don't forget you can log into my Studio Website to view lesson dates/times, review lesson notes, log practice hours, view invoices, read past newsletters and more!