



# music steps

November, 2022

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*"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent"*

Victor Hugo

# December Recital



YOU ARE INVITED

## Jolly Jamboree

A MUSIC STEPS STUDIO RECITAL

DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2022

TIME: 2:00-3:30 PM

LOCATION:  
THORNHILL PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

MORE DETAILED  
INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

## Practice

A big part of preparation, of course, is practice. The more our young musicians practice, the better prepared they are for the recital and the more comfortable they are playing in front of other people. When they experience success performing in front of others, their self esteem gets boosted and they are more likely to perform or present in front of their peers. They will also be more inclined to face their fears in the future.

Here are some tips for successful practice:

- try to fit in a small practice every day, even if just 5-10 minutes
- connect practice time to an activity in the daily routine, like arriving from school, dinner time, leaving to school, brushing teeth
- in order to accommodate short practice times, songs can be alternated from one day to another
- play "Drive Through Practice", where students play a small passage or a piece every time they pass the piano or the door of the room the piano is located in
- sit with your child, read them the lesson notes, let them play for you (this is especially beneficial for younger pianists)
- check the notes I send after every lesson

## Preparation

The results of the survey are in, and the majority has decided. Our winter recital will take place in person.

Preparations for the event are well underway. All the pieces have been chosen (most students have two songs they will perform) and we are now working away at learning and perfecting everything.

# Studio Challenges

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we started studiowide challenges in October. The novelty this year is that we have several different ones going on, and my students had the freedom of choosing what they wanted to work on.

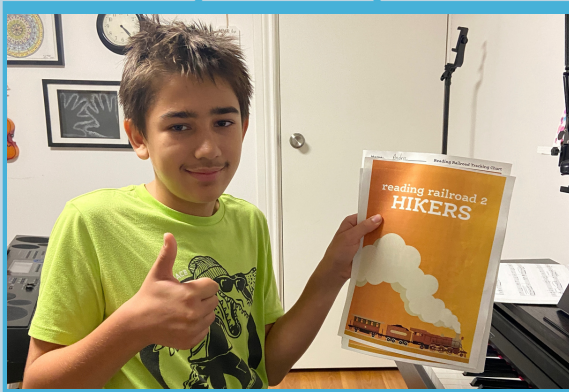
By now almost everyone has a challenge they are tackling, and some of my more competitive crickets have already completed a task.

I would like to bring to your attention that we now have a board up in the studio with all the ongoing challenges. As students complete a challenge, their name will be posted on the board, for everyone to see and appreciate.

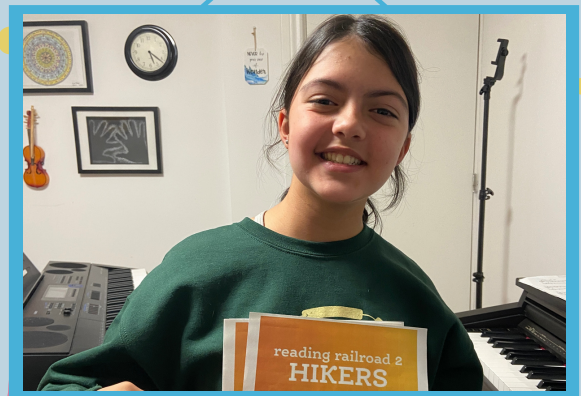
I will make sure to announce the accomplishments in the monthly newsletter and on my social media sites.

## Music Steps Challenge Hall of Fame

*Congrats!*



*Danny F.*



*Isabella F.*

They have both completed the Sightreading Apprentice challenge, and are now working their way through the Sightreading Sage level.

# Mini Musicians



Our new class, Mini Musicians, is off to a great start. It took the little ones a bit of time to warm up to the environment and their new friends, but by now they have learned our routines, they are volunteering enthusiastically to play and are singing along beautifully.

The goal of the class is to introduce young children to the basics of piano playing and music theory in a playful, age appropriate way. Here are some of the things your children have been learning:

- Improvising (making up on the spot) nature sounds on the piano
- Hand/finger technique-wrist relaxation, finger independence
- Lots of work on the initial steps to note reading through interpreting colorful stars (each representing a different music note)
- Pattern recognition
- Playing on the glockenspiel-a percussion instrument that requires less fine motor skill than the piano

Besides all of the above, we are also trying to learn a couple songs for the recital. For this task I am asking for some assistance from the parents, please. Here is how you can help:

- Ask your child to "poke" each star on the sheets I have handed out at the last class
- While they do that, they could say the colour of the star
- Once more comfortable, they could also attempt to sing along with the words
- I will keep you informed on the next steps we will take as we approach the recital



# November Dates and Events



**WELCOME TO THE MUSIC  
STEPS FAMILY  
NIAM**

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME  
ENDED**



Nov.7

**WE ARE DELIGHTED TO  
HAVE YOU  
AMONGST US!**



**SAVE THE DATE:**

In Person Holiday Recital:  
Dec. 17 @ 2:00 pm

**FOCUS OF THE MONTH:**

Recital Preparation  
Studio Challenges



**REMEMBRANCE DAY:**

Nov. 11



**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL  
MEDIA!**



Click on button above!