



www.AshleysPianoStudio.com

December 17, 2025

Dear Students and Parents,

I want to begin by saying how truly sad and disappointed I am that our Annual Christmas Recital was canceled. This recital is always such a special night, and my heart goes out to our students who worked so hard and looked forward to sharing their music. Please know how incredibly proud I am of every student. The time, effort, and dedication put into preparing for this recital did not go unnoticed. I could not be more proud of their progress and commitment.

I also want to share some clarity about what happened. The decision to cancel the recital was ultimately made for us. Just hours before the recital, I received a phone call informing me that we were not permitted to hold our scheduled event at the high school due to a weather-related decision made by the Superintendent of Jackson County Schools. This was confusing for me, as we had previously verified with the school administration that, even though school was closed, the evening event would not be affected. Based on that information, we moved forward with our plans. We paid to have a grand piano moved into the high school, prepared, and had decorations in place in anticipation of a wonderful evening. While I fully understand and respect the responsibility of the Jackson County Schools Superintendent to make decisions in the interest of safety, I do wish this situation had been handled with more care and notice. With additional time, we may have been able to explore alternative options or make other arrangements and would have saved a tremendous amount of effort and expense.

Since the cancellation, I have received many thoughtful and kind suggestions about how we might reschedule or move forward. I want to sincerely thank each of you who reached out with ideas and encouragement. Please know that all those suggestions were carefully considered. Unfortunately, rescheduling this event proved to be far more complex than it may appear. There are many factors involved, including family schedules, student availability, staffing, equipment, and venue logistics. We also considered multiple calendars and date conflicts with the many other Christmas events taking place in our area. Additionally, there are very few venues locally that can accommodate the size of the crowd our recital draws. Even my own church (Ripley Baptist Temple), which has the largest church auditorium in Ripley, is not large enough to host this event comfortably or safely. After much careful consideration of all these details, I came to the conclusion that there was no proper way to safely and professionally host the recital. While this was a very difficult decision, I believe it is the most responsible one for our students, families, and people involved.

I also want to address recital fees. I understand that parents and students paid recital fees, which helps cover the cost of music, promotion, setup, decorations, programs, equipment, and the manpower required to make this event possible. Although the cancellation was out of my control and many of these expenses have already been incurred and cannot be recovered, I want to offer a full refund of your recital fees. I have set up a short refund request form on my website. To receive a refund for the recital fees you paid this semester, please simply complete the short form by December 24. This will allow us time to process refunds before the first of the year. Requests that are not made by the deadline will not be able to be refunded.

On a separate note, those of you who have not yet turned in your "Spring Intention Form", please inform me of whether or not you plan to continue lessons next semester. Letting me know as soon as possible would be very helpful.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you so much for your understanding, grace, and continued support of Ashley's Piano Studio. I am truly grateful for our studio families and look forward to many more opportunities to celebrate our students' hard work in the future.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Miss Ashley

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