

Dear Teacher friends,

As the new chair of the Wednesday Music Club Young Musicians' Recitals, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2020-2021 season. Given our special concern for the health of our members and guests in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are making tentative plans for live recitals that carefully honor the guidelines established by health and government officials. These plans are subject to change, depending on what happens between now and October.

Our hope is that you and your students will have a productive and enjoyable year and that participating in our recitals will be beneficial to you. We are excited about our new venue, the Hunter J. Smith Auditorium at The Center at Belvedere. Because this is a very large auditorium that can seat 380 people theater-style, we should have no problem social-distancing in this space. The Wednesday Music Club has exclusive use of the auditorium from noon until 5:00 pm on each of the recital dates. To use this space most efficiently and allow for other WMC events, the Young Musicians' Recitals will start a half hour earlier than in previous years.

Our current plan is to proceed with live performances for all four of our 2020-2021 student recitals. Our first recital will be held on October 18, 2020, in two 30-minute parts (at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm), with about a 30-minute break between them. This will allow the usual number of students to perform, but with fewer people in the audience and for a shorter time. Based on medical and government guidance we will revisit the need for this format for the other three recitals, which are scheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup>, March 21<sup>st</sup>, and April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Because we receive so many applications for our recitals, we must be firm about our **application policies**, which are as follows.

1. Applications for recitals are considered on a **"first come, first served"** basis. When we have received enough applications to fill a one-hour recital, we will place subsequent applications on our wait list, to be notified in case of cancellations.
2. There may be a **maximum of two entries per teacher per recital**; an entry may be either a solo or an ensemble. There may be only **one piece per entry** whether solo or ensemble. There should be **no repeats** played unless absolutely necessary and no piece may be longer than **five minutes**, unless cleared in advance with the Program Coordinator.
3. If a recital is not full, the Program Coordinator may decide to accept **later applications**, additional students per teacher, or longer pieces. You will be notified if this is the case.

Because the purpose of these recitals is not only to give the students an opportunity to play before an audience but also to teach them **performance manners**, we ask that you prepare your students using the following guidelines:

1. Students should **dress appropriately** for a recital; just as soccer coaches expect their teams to wear their uniforms, we must teach students to wear concert attire.
2. Students should aim for **polished performances**. Memorization is strongly encouraged but not required; however, students should be able to play their pieces fluently and musically.
3. Students should **bow to the audience** before they play and again when they are finished. Please remind them that a bow is a musician's way of acknowledging the audience's applause and of saying, "Thank you for listening to me play today."
4. Students should use **original publications** rather than copied music (a photocopy is allowed for eliminating a page turn). We need to teach respect for copyright laws.
5. Students and their families should stay for the entire recital and should be **quiet and respectful** of the other performers as well as the other audience members.

We look forward to seeing you and your students this year!

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Chair, Wednesday Music Club YMR Committee