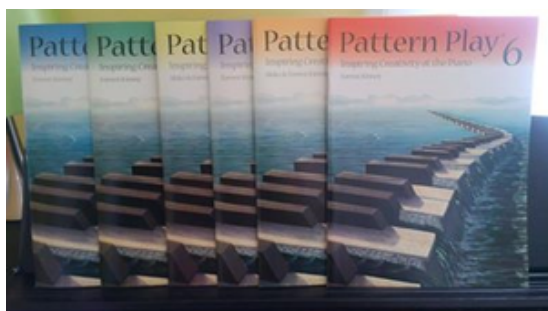




Piano Matters by www.the-piano-studio.com



Pattern Play by Forrest Kinney

I recently got asked what was new at the piano studio this year and I have to say that this series has revitalized my teaching. It is an excellent series on improvisation and creativity within certain boundaries. More on how to use this series in an article coming to the website.



Ohio University - Piano Pedagogy Seminar

This was the first time I have ever attended a piano pedagogy seminar and I left with my brain full of new ideas, excited to try out some new techniques for the fall, and re-energized for teaching. If you ever have the opportunity to attend a piano seminar, *GO!*

INSIDER INFO

the-piano-studio is working on expanding the *Conversations* section of the

website. This month, we added an interview with Israeli pianist Rami Bar-Niv. He visited to chat about the challenges and rewards of teaching adults. Another new interview featured American-Russian performer Alexander Peskanov in an article titled, "*Inside the mind of a concert pianist*". Alexander gave us excellent insight into the life of a concert pianist. We chatted about the Russian School of Technique, memorization, performing, and other interesting tidbits.

Practice Tips - Sight Reading

In lessons this week, one of my students and I had an interesting discussion about Sight Reading. We decided that good sight readers have the ability to 'zoom'. In other words, they can zoom out to get the bigger picture but *at the same time*, zoom in to pay more attention to details.



People who sight read well think of many different things simultaneously. We have notes, rhythm, articulation, dynamics, phrasing, pedalling, tempo, and interpretation.

Probably the most important things to try and get right are the notes and the rhythm. It helps to pay very close attention to the beginning of the piece you are trying to sight read. What clefs are used? What key signature are we in? What time signature is the song written in? Where do we place our hands? These four important questions are answered at the very beginning of the piece.

After that, quickly scan the music and see if anything jumps out at you. Get a quick look at the range of the music, any sudden changes of fingering, pedalling to get ready for? Take a look at the most complicated part and use that to determine the tempo you are going to try and sight read at. Try to keep your pace steady, and slow enough that you have time to react to all the details.

One useful tip is to let your eye 'move along at the same tempo. Think of those sing-along videos with the yellow ball that bounces along with the words. Imagine a yellow ball bouncing along with the basic beat of the sheet music.


Sight reading is an important skill to cultivate, and it takes practice just like any other skill!

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