



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



SETTLING INTO THE ROUTINE ...

Getting back into the swing of things in September is sometimes hard. The students (and teacher) sometimes suffer from "vacation-break-syndrome".

I half-jokingly ask my students: "Do you remember where Middle C is?" Luckily, everyone could still find it!

During the summer break, more than half of them took summer lessons

with me. (Much more relaxed lessons, new music to learn, and we had fun summer projects!) The other half took the summer off, but still practiced or played now and then. Only about one quarter of my students took a complete vacation from piano. (Usually because they were travelling and didn't have regular access to a piano).

I think September is great because it's a chance for us to re-connect and get back to our student/teacher relationship. It's a chance for us to re-examine goals. Are they realistic? Has anything changed this year? Are there songs you want to learn?

Everyone was excited to be back in the studio and back into the routine of practising! Here's to new beginnings!

the-piano-studio.com Spotlight!

If you haven't had the chance, make sure you check out the 40-piece challenge videos from 2015-2016.

I am currently participating in this year's 40 piece challenge (2016-2017 edition). New videos get uploaded on the website and my YouTube channel (the-piano-studio.com). This year's challenge will be focusing mainly on introducing more of the Royal Conservatory of Music repertoire, but there may be some surprises along the way. Like last year, I will be exploring Canadian compositions, contemporary music, traditional favourites, movie music, and other things may pop up unexpectedly. Sometimes, even I'm not sure what will be posted that particular week!!!

“ Music
speaks what cannot be expressed
soothes the mind and gives it rest
heals the heart and makes it whole
flows from heaven to the soul.”

Quote of the month! If I had to put into words what playing the piano means to me, it would be along the lines of this lovely quotation!



MUSIC ALPHABET BLOCKS

New in the studio and coming soon to the-piano-studio.com online store, are Music Alphabet Blocks.

These cute blocks were the product of a morning crafting session. On impulse, I posted a picture to our piano pedagogy forum and got lots of great comments and feedback. Everyone's excited to get their hands on these!

These colourful wood blocks are the perfect size to fit on the keys of the piano. I tuck them in near the fallboard of the piano and they provide a great reminder to students that are learning their note names.

Sometimes, I stack them up on the piano with one line of the letters and their corresponding solfège symbols stacked on top. This is a helpful reminder for those students that are working on learning both systems of note naming.

Some younger students that are learning their 5 finger positions, colour-code their music to correspond with the blocks.

We also use the Music Alphabet Blocks as a composition and improvisation tool. (We pick five randomly and try to create a melody or harmonic progression around those five notes).

The possibilities are endless and I am looking forward to creating new uses and having new ideas for using these in the studio.



Until next time!

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