



TWINKLING THE IVORIES

January 2019

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REGISTER FOR THE SPRING FESTIVAL!

Saturday, March 16, 2019
10720 54 Street
(Suzuki Charter School)

Get ready for the Spring Festival, our annual event where students have the chance to perform for an Adjudicator in a friendly and non-competitive atmosphere! At the Spring Festival, students are grouped into small classes where they perform a polished solo piece. After each performance, the Adjudicator provides written feedback for the student. Then, at the end of each class the Adjudicator provides verbal comments to the students before awarding each performing student a certificate.

This year, we welcome three Adjudicators; from the University of Alberta, music professor **Janet Scott-Hoyt**, and **Carmen Morin** and **Pat Huck**, who are both respected music teachers in Calgary, to work with ESPS students.

Registration Deadline:

February 21, 2019

Registration Fee:

\$25/class – ESPS students

\$50/class – Non-ESPS students

2018/2019 EVENTS CALENDAR

February 3, 10 & 24, 2019 Winter Recitals at PCL Hall, Alberta College Conservatory of Music

March 16, 2019 Spring Festival at Suzuki Charter School

March 17, 2019 Graduation Concert at Muttart Hall, Alberta College Conservatory of Music

April 5, 2018 ESPS at the University of Alberta Symphony

April 27, 2019 Parent Class at Suzuki Charter School

May 5, 2019 Group Concerts at Suzuki Charter School

June 2 & 9, 2019 Summer Recitals at Convocation Hall, University of Alberta

June 23, 2019 Graduation Concert at Muttart Hall, Alberta College Conservatory of Music

BEYOND THE MUSIC

Quinn Sweetzir is a former Edmonton Suzuki Piano School student and Book 7 graduate who studied with Tim Eckert. We asked him to reflect on his experience as an ESPS student and some of the skills he developed at the piano bench.

There is much to be gained from learning an instrument and it's not just about a love of music, playing ability, or even impressing your friends. Looking back on my experience as a student at Edmonton Suzuki Piano School, I realized just how learning to play the piano helped me develop skills which help me daily. So, without further ado, here are 5 examples.

1. **Patience:** In learning piano, there are inevitably going to be times when a student is struggling to overcome seemingly impossible challenges. Piano taught me that with enough time and effort, challenges can always be defeated if you are patient enough to stick with them.
2. **Goal-Setting:** Having a general idea for what you want to achieve in the long run can be pretty easy but figuring out the steps to help you get there is often more difficult. In piano, the long-term goal could be learning a piece and the steps could include learning each hand separately before putting them together. Understanding that everything can't be accomplished at once and how to set goals within goals is something important I learned as a student with ESPS.
3. **Commitment:** Ultimately, being successful at the piano comes down to commitment to regular practice. It's time consuming and challenging nature taught me to focus on what's important and to make sure I'm committed to progressively improving at something.
4. **Problem Solving:** As I mentioned, having goals within goals is important, but what if someone can't solve the small goals with the usual methods? Problems like these can be incredibly taxing, so identifying outside the box solutions is an important skill in piano and the outside world.
5. **Focus:** One of the most important skills for someone learning piano is the ability to focus. Concentrating on very specific areas is an essential part of learning piano, and a skill which I steadily improved at over the course of the Suzuki repertoire. This has benefited me a lot in my post-Suzuki endeavors.

Quinn Sweetzir

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOOK 7 GRADUATE VIVIAN WONG!

ESPS congratulates Vivian Wong, who recently completed her studies of the Suzuki piano repertoire and graduated from the Suzuki piano program. At the beginning of January, she performed works by Handel, Mozart, Paderewski and other composers at a concert at Muttart Hall.

Vivian has been taking piano lessons since she was a preschooler. She has always come in to my studio with a smile and a happy attitude. She has been a joy to have as a student.

Vivian enjoys learning fast and upbeat pieces. She will continue playing piano but enjoys learning other instruments as well. She plays guitar also and is interested in learning to play the double bass soon.

Vivian is in university now, studying psychology and is in her second year. She is also taking a music class that includes music composition and mixing. She has been dancing for five years and enjoying this activity as well.

Ruth Johnson

CONGRATULATIONS JANUARY GRADUATES

Congratulations to the following students for their hard work and well-deserved graduations:

Volume 1

Lexi Lui

Volume 2

Elise Ehlers

Volume 3

Matthew Dyck

Volume 4

Ini Oladunni

"Perhaps it is music which will save the world."

Shinichi Suzuki