

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS OF MUSIC STUDENTS

The BENEFITS OF MUSIC STUDY

For your child:

- Problem solving
- Teamwork
- Goal setting
- Self-expression
- Coordination
- Memory skills
- Self-confidence and esteem
- Concentration
- Poise
- And much, much more!

For your family:

A child's music study also offers opportunities for shared family experiences, including:

- Musical event attendance
- Family music-making
- Performing for, and with, family and friends
- Learning about the lives of the composers and the cultural heritage of Western Civilization
- A sense of pride and accomplishment for the entire family

PARENTS... HOW YOU FIT IN

Always keep in mind that your support is a key element in your child's success with piano study.

Schedule practice times

Music achievement requires effort over a period of time. You can help your child by:

- Providing a quiet place in which to practice
- Remaining nearby during practice times as often as possible
- Scheduling a consistent, daily time for practice
- Praising your child's efforts and achievements

What to do

To give your child the best possible support, you should:

- Encourage your child to play for family and friends
- Offer compliments and encouragement regularly
- Expose your child to talk with you about his or her lessons
- Make sure your child's instrument is always in good working order, including a tuning at least once per year (for pianos)
- Allow your child to play many types of music, not just study pieces
- Listen to your child practice, and acknowledge improvement
- Help your child build a personal music library
- Try to get your child to make a minimum two-year commitment to his or her music studies

What NOT to do

Your child's progress will be greatly enhanced if you...

- Don't use practice as a punishment
- Don't insist your child play for others when they don't want to
- Don't ridicule or make fun of mistakes or less-than-perfect playing
- Don't apologize to others for your child's weak performance

- Don't start your child on an instrument that's in poor working order or condition
- Don't expect rapid progress and development in the beginning

If your child loses interest

In the event your child loses interest in his or her music studies, don't panic.

- Discuss the situation with your child to determine why their interest is declining
- Talk to your child's music teacher to see what might be done to rekindle their enthusiasm
- Encourage your child to stick with lessons for an agreed to period of time
- Offer increased enthusiasm and support

*For more information, read "A Parent's Guide to Piano Lessons" by James W. Bastien,
published by KJOS WEST, San Diego, California*