



# *fayetteville* Piano Teachers Association

The Fayetteville Piano Teachers Association is a group of highly motivated professional instructors in the greater Fayetteville area. Our faculty is a diverse group of individuals, hailing from many different parts of the world. FPTA is presenting a Faculty Recital at Hoff Hall at Methodist University on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 in the evening. This recital will feature the best professional pianists in the area performing a wide variety of the most dynamic compositions in the piano literature. The purpose of this recital is to raise money for upcoming piano events for piano students in the area. We are currently seeking sponsorship from corporations and individuals. Your valuable contribution will go towards creating a variety of musical opportunities for local students, including recitals, competitions, master classes, scholarships, and much more.

FPTA offers an annual piano competition to local piano students. Competitions are a valuable part of music education. They provide goals by encouraging students to perform several demanding pieces by memory. The teachers and students receive feedback on the students' performance and progress based on the comments given by the judge. Thanks to last year's private donors, we were able to invite a Juilliard-educated university professor to judge our competition.

Next, we would like to host a master class series. A master class is essentially a public lesson, given by an expert to highly talented students. Master classes provide students with the opportunity to study with a world-class musician. Individuals can attend master classes either as a performer or as an observer. The benefits of being an active participant in a master class are obvious; what is important to realize is that simply attending a class as a performer allows the observer to learn by listening. Master classes often rank high among piano students' favorite activities, as the setting provides a way to meet other like-minded musicians, to listen to other performers and hear new music, and is simply less nerve-wracking than a competition.

Additionally, we consider teacher development to be a vital part of music education. It is important that teachers continue to study, to stay informed of the latest techniques, educational trends, and methods, and to pass that knowledge to our students. The Alexander Technique has been proven effective in teaching musicians how to prevent common performance injuries (such as repetitive stress injuries, tendonitis, and carpal tunnel syndrome) by instilling "a practical method for improving ease and freedom of movement, balance, support, and coordination" (source: [www.alexandertechnique.com](http://www.alexandertechnique.com)). We would like to have a trained Alexander Technique instructor to give a seminar in this valuable technique.

Most notably: the importance of musical education in a child's life cannot be underestimated. Numerous studies over the past several years have found music education to have a profound

effect on children's cognitive development and emotional well-being. One study found that students who received piano lessons scored 34% higher on tests indicating that music uniquely enhances higher brain functions required for mathematics, chess, science, and engineering (source: Clavier Companion). This same article stated that playing the piano reduces stress and anxiety more than other creative art activities.

### **Sources Cited and Further Reading:**

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