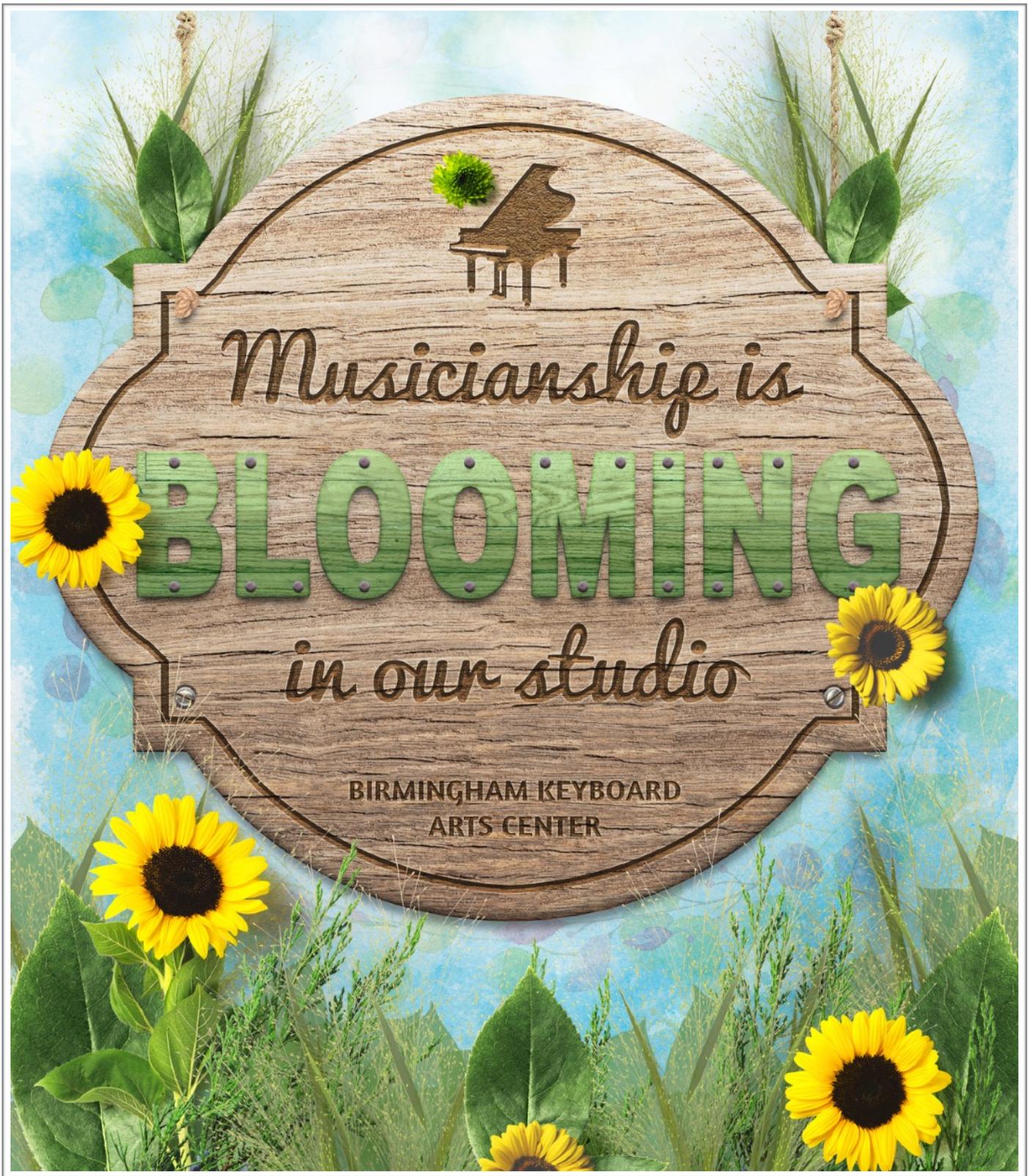


March 19, 2017



PIANO *Spring Quarter News*

Heather Byars, Director

Spring Recital



Saturday, May 6, 10:30 a.m., Chapel in the Pines

Our Spring Recital will be held on Saturday, May 6, at Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church in Hoover.

Students should dress for a special occasion. Several students have asked me if they may wear a costume that coordinates with their piece. I can't resist adorable kids in costumes, therefore the answer is yes. You may wear dressy recital clothes OR a costume.

The church will be opened up for practicing at least thirty minutes before the performance begins. Plan to be in your assigned seat fifteen minutes before showtime. Recitals usually last about an hour.

There will be an award ceremony following the recital during which participation awards, AMTA certificates, and practice trophies will be presented.

At the beginning of the Spring Quarter, a seven dollar per student recital fee is applied to tuition. This helps cover the expense of renting the church, printing programs and awards, and purchasing trophies. If you have not yet paid your recital fee, please take care of it now.

Our group class on April 29th will serve as the rehearsal for our Spring Recital. Classes are held in the studio from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Please RSVP so that I may know how many students to expect.

AMTA District Auditions

Saturday, April 8, Samford University



The Alabama Music Teacher's Association District Auditions are for piano students, age six through eighteen, and are held in March or April of each year. They are composed of a Performance component of three pieces of contrasting style and a Theory component (scales, arpeggios, cadences, etc.) Students, age 10 and older, who receive an Outstanding rating in both Performance and Theory can progress on to the State level of this competition in May.

District Auditions will be held at Samford University on April 8. Our district participants this year are Tina Gao, Michael Qu, Mina Hu, Anusha Mukherjee, Roshni Datta, and Theo Simonton.

The State Auditions will take place at the University of Alabama on May 13. A handful of winners will be selected from State Auditions to participate in a Winner's Recital.

Spring Quarter Schedule 2017

March 27 - 31: Spring Break. No Lessons.

April 3 - 7: Tuition Installment #2 Due.

April 8: AMTA District Auditions. Samford University.

April 29: Group Class. Recital Rehearsal. 10:00 - 11:00 am. Please RSVP.

May 1 - 5: Tuition Installment #3 Due.

May 6: Spring Recital. 10:30 a.m. Chapel in the Pines.

May 12: Letter of Intent Due.
May be digitally signed or returned in person.

May 13: AMTA State Auditions. University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

May 15 - 19: Last Week of Spring Quarter.

May 22 - 26: Spring Makeup Week.

Summer Quarter Schedule 2017

June 19 - 23: Summer Lessons Begin. Tuition Installment #1 Due.

July 3 - 4: Summer Break. No Lessons.

July 10 - 14: Tuition Installment #2 Due.

July 26 - August 1: Last Week of Summer Quarter.

August 2 - 8: Summer Makeup Week.

The full 2017-2018 schedule can be found on our web site, bkac.net. Select [calendar](#) from the Schedule drop-down menu.

Summer Quarter Policy

The Summer Quarter will consist of six weeks of lessons plus the bonus week for make-up lessons. If absolutely necessary, during the Summer Quarter only, students may have the option of arranging their six lessons individually with me rather than having a regular weekly lesson time. This flexibility will allow students to get in all of their lessons around their travel and summer camp schedule.

Lessons will still need to be scheduled with me during my normal working hours and within the dates specified for the Summer Quarter.

Please understand that, without payment, it isn't possible for me to reserve spaces in the studio. The studio maintains a waiting list of interested students. Some students remain on the list for a long time before they are able to begin study. Lesson times will be offered to these students immediately when they become available. Some families actually prefer to begin in the summer. Students who have terminated their lessons are always welcome to return, but please know in advance that availability could not be guaranteed after an absence. Written notification is required one month in advance of ending lessons. Students who fail to give the one month notice will be billed for the month or will forfeit

their deposit. No refund will be given for tuition paid in advance. Please complete the google form [Letter of Intent](#) or print and return the final page of this newsletter to me by May 12.

Visualizing Progress

Learning to play piano requires students to set long-range goals. Developing the patience to persevere in an activity that cannot produce immediate gratification is a worthy goal in and of itself. I understand how hard this is, for all of us. We live in a world where knowledge is delivered instantly, simply by "asking our phone". In contrast, the fluent and automatic translation of symbols into fine motor movements takes years to develop.

I'm always striving to help my students visualize their progress. It's a little bit like trying to watch your own height grow. Without a growth chart, you just can't see it happening. I've presented my students with several larger goals to work on this school year. I hope they have told you all about them.

Falling for Piano

To encourage a commitment to practicing, I created a poster of a colorful fall tree. If the student practiced a minimum of five times during the week, they were invited to remove one leaf and drop it to the pile on the ground. Each week they came in eager to see how much more bare the tree had become. Collectively the studio met my goal of removing all the leaves from the tree before our Fall Recital.

30 Piece Challenge

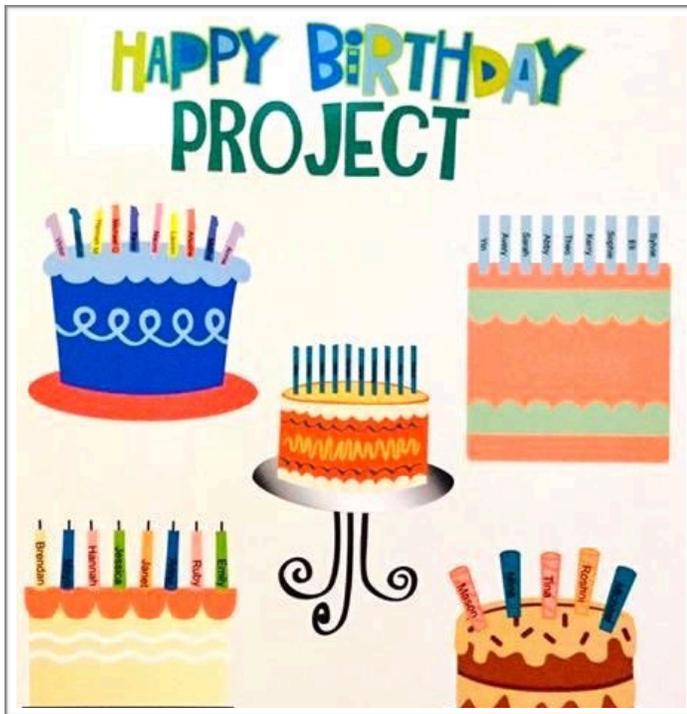
This fall, students were given a form to chart their repertoire. When they reached their goal of mastering 30 pieces, we added their photo to a star displayed in our studio and promoted their accomplishment on our studio Facebook page.

Happy Birthday Project

In an effort to promote fluent playing, I gave each student a level-appropriate version of the popular and short Happy Birthday song. We created a display of cakes in the studio, one for each day of the week. The cakes were topped with candles labeled with each student's name. When they are able to play Happy Birthday for me, by memory and in a fluent, singable tempo, we "light the candle" by adding the flame.

Musicianship is Blooming

A cheery display of a potted plant filled with meandering vines has been added to the studio. As each student masters their Spring Recital piece, we'll place their personalized blossom on the vine. It will be fun to watch the plant bloom with developing musicianship.



Heather Byars

1820 Highfield Drive
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

e: hbyars@me.com

p: 205-253-9671

LETTER OF INTENT 2017

Due May 12

Please fill out this form and return to me before May 12. You may also sign the form digitally by [clicking this link](#).

- I will be continuing my piano lessons and will see you in the Summer Quarter.
- I would like to terminate my lessons and have no plans to return in the future.
- I would like to terminate my lessons. Please add me to the waiting list for a future opening in the studio.
- I can't attend any lessons during the Summer Quarter, but I plan to pay the Summer Quarter tuition before June 19, 2017, to reserve my space in the studio.

Student Name(s): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Heather Byars, Director
1820 Highfield Drive
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
e: hbyars@me.com
p: 205-253-9671