



POP STUDIO NEWS

September 1, 2017

September Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Halloween Group
Lesson
Friday, October 27
5-7:00pm
(More info on next page)

If you need your piano tuned or are looking to buy a piano, I highly recommend calling **Joe D'Alessandro**.
570-655-0414

POP Music Center
420 Main St.
Dallas, PA 18612

Jennifer Hunter
570-574-8900
JLHunter01@hotmail.com

September's Theme: Sight-reading

Why are you taking piano/voice lessons? Think about that for a minute. Why does anybody take lessons? What is your overall goal? Many people say they want to be able to pull out any piece of music and be able to play/sing it. I won't lie...it takes a lot of practice to get to that point, but it is definitely something worth working towards. Sight-reading is the skill you will need to develop in order to achieve that goal.

Are you wondering what in the world sight-reading is? Playing/singing a piece of music that you have never seen before, for the first time, is sight-reading. It is a skill that can be developed and one that we will be concentrating on this month.

Tips for Better Sight-Reading:

- Study the music first and notice the clef, key, time signature, tempo, etc. Look for patterns and changes of clef, key, time, and tempo throughout the music.
- Once you start playing/singing, don't stop. Keep a steady beat.
- Remember that you are not practicing. You are sight-reading. Don't go back and fix mistakes. Just keep going.
- Choose a tempo you feel you can perform at comfortably.
- Keep your eyes moving ahead of where you actually are in the music.

Grand Canyon



Grand Canyon



West Fork, Sedona



Wilson Mtn., Sedona



Pizza Party • Fun Music Games • Recital in Costume

**When Friday October 27, 2017
5:00-7:00pm**

**Where Prince of Peace Music Center
420 Main St., Dallas, PA 18612**

Cost \$35 (due Oct. 6 with registration form)

Please R.S.V.P. by Friday October 6th

JLHunter01@hotmail.com

(570) 574-8900



Don't forget to wear your costume!

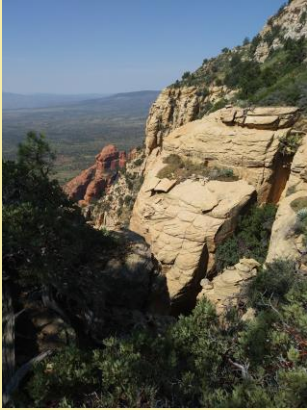


A Hiker's Guide to Learning Music

I recently was fortunate enough to spend a week in Arizona hiking the Grand Canyon and three other trails in Sedona. Each hike was intense and required just as much mental effort as physical. While climbing these mountains, it occurred to me that there are many similarities between hiking and learning music. Here are a few that came to mind:

- **One step at a time.** It is easy to get overwhelmed just looking at how big the mountain you are about to ascend is. You may even feel like giving up before you ever start the climb. If learning a new song feels like that for you, just remember that the way to climb any mountain or to tackle any musical challenge is to simply take it one step at a time.

Bear Mtn., Sedona



Sedona



Sedona



- **It's about the journey not the destination.** If you are only focused on getting to the end, you are going to miss all the valuable lessons you will learn along the way. Learning to play the piano or sing is not something that ever ends. There is no finish line that you reach. There is always another trail to explore or piece to learn. I've been playing for over 25 years and I still have so much to learn. Enjoy the ride!
- **Anything worth doing requires a lot of effort.** Hard work and dedication are needed to achieve your goals, whether it is hitting the trail or mastering a piece of music. We don't appreciate the things that come easily to us. After some blood, sweat, and tears (ok, maybe not blood), however, we feel a huge sense of accomplishment.
- **Glance back every so often and take note of how far you've come.** When you are in the middle of a hike or months into lessons and feeling discouraged about how far you have to go yet, take a moment to look back on how much progress you have already made. What can you do now that you couldn't when you started?
- **Slow and steady wins the race.** That was my hiking partner's mantra. Take time to enjoy the scenery. It is not actually a race. You have all the time in the world.
- **Look at things from a new angle.** Even though you pass the same scenery on the way up the mountain as you do down, your perspective changes, allowing you to see things in a new light. How can you view your music from a different perspective?
- **Mindfulness is key.** One wrong step while climbing a mountain can be disastrous. While music isn't nearly as dangerous, the consequences of practicing mindlessly can be just as devastating.
- **Never hike alone.** Not only is it safer to hike with a buddy, but it is also more fun. Having someone with you to encourage you, motivate you, and push you to reach higher levels is a great way to accomplish your goals. Find a practice partner, play/sing duets, join an ensemble, etc.
- **Never give up.** There will be times when it gets really hard and you want to quit. Just take a little break, catch your breath, refocus, and get moving again. You can do it!
- **There is wisdom in every step.** As you venture into the unknown following switchbacks all the way up the mountain you start thinking, "How long is it going to take to get to the top? Am I almost there? Which trail do I follow?" Many questions come to mind. Sometimes you have the opportunity to ask descending hikers. Other times you have to figure it out yourself. That is part of the mystery and adventure of it all! Once you reach the summit and start climbing down, you realize that you now possess the information you were looking for and are able to pass it on to other hikers.

“The best view comes after the hardest climb.”

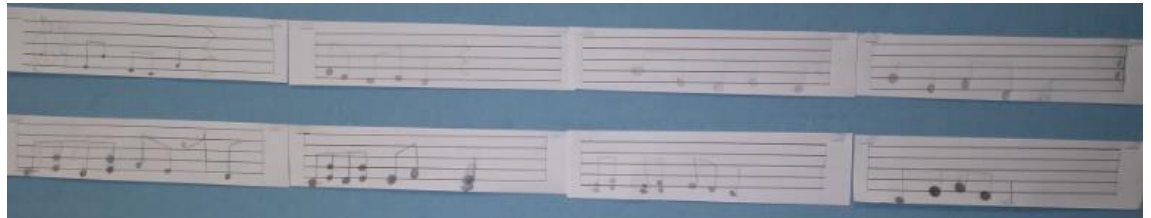
**“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”
-Lao-Tzu**

- **Don't underestimate the importance of the right equipment.** Good hiking boots and a backpack filled with food/water and other essentials keep you alive out in nature. For pianists: A piano that is tuned and in good condition makes a big difference in your journey towards learning to play. For singers: Staying hydrated and keeping yourself healthy is extremely important.

C's Group, Fluffy Ducky, The Ocean, Popcorn Chicadee, The Kitten Tale, That's a Good Question

Last month's theme was all about composing. Each student wrote one measure of the piece you see below. We weren't sure what to title it, but as you can see from the heading, there were many suggestions. After learning about the nuances of writing music the old fashioned way (pencil and paper), they explored online music notation software (MuseScore) and were able to create a professional looking score, also seen below.

Written Version



MuseScore Version



For more information regarding lessons visit:

<http://www.princeofpeacedallaspa.org/#!music-center/c20i2>