

I hope this email finds you and your family doing well!

Just a reminder National Piano Guild Auditions are scheduled for June 6-10. I know all teachers and students are working diligently to prepare their repertoire/program for this event, and we really appreciate your help at home encouraging your children to practice and prepare. This email contains important information for all private students so please take a few minutes to read in entirety.

### **History**

The Piano Guild, a division of the American College of Musicians, was founded in 1929 by Dr. Irl Allison. If the name sounds familiar, Dr. Irl Allison was also the originator of the prestigious, internationally acclaimed Van Cliburn Competition. Since 1929, the Guild has grown to more than 850 audition centers where thousands of students enroll annually in international auditions, which are held throughout the U.S. and abroad.

### **Audition Process**

Students of any age, from 4 years to adult, are encouraged to participate in the auditions to be a member of the National Fraternity of Student Musicians. The primary function of the Guild auditions is to establish definite goals and awards--in noncompetitive auditions--for students of all levels, from the earliest beginner to the gifted prodigy. Students are judged on individual merit, by a well-qualified music professional, in the areas of accuracy, continuity, phrasing, pedaling, dynamics, rhythm, tempo, tone, interpretation, style, and technique. The purpose is to encourage growth and enjoyment through the study of piano.

### **Requirements and Benefits**

Working together with the student, teachers will decide on a program consisting of pieces and musicianship phases ranging from 1-15 pieces. Each student will receive a piano report card and a medal. The comments and marks are a great way for us to benchmark a student's progress from year to year! Therefore, we strongly encourage every student to participate in the auditions. It really is a great boost and confidence builder for all students. If a student participates in the Guild auditions throughout the years, they are eligible to audition for a high school diploma in piano as well which is an amazing opportunity which is a fantastic accomplishment to include on resumes for colleges!

### **Location, Times, and Fees**

We are fortunate to have held the auditions for the city of Southlake at our MusicMaker studio over the past fourteen years, and we look forward to resuming the in-person auditions as soon as Guild feels it is safe to send judges to audition centers. For this year, the Guild organization decided in December 2020 that all 2021 auditions would be held virtually over Zoom with judges. Each MusicMaker teacher will be assigned a day by the Guild headquarters between June 6-10, and your teacher will let you know the exact audition time on that day.

Audition fees, set by the Piano Guild, range from \$27-45 per student based on level and number of pieces on each student's program. We will register each student and submit the fees for all students to the National Piano Guild, and you will see the audition fees on your May invoice. Please note that the Piano Guild is unable to refund any registration fees.

Please feel free to contact me directly at [jennea@littlemusicmaker.com](mailto:jennea@littlemusicmaker.com) or your child's teacher if you have any additional questions about this exciting event!

Jennea Potter

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