

December 8, 2009

Dear Piano Teacher,

It is time to begin planning the 8th Annual WLHS Grade School Piano Festival to be held on Saturday, March 13th from 8:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. The honors recital will also take place on Saturday, March 13th at 7:00p.m. Thank you to the many piano teachers who have given input and feedback to help improve our Piano Festival.

The Festival will again be open to all students in grades 4 through 8 taught by our WELS Grade School Piano Teachers in the Milwaukee metropolitan area. Use your best judgment, if you have a mature 4th grade student who is ready, feel free to enter him/her in the festival, however, please do not feel pressured to do so. Also know that all 4th grade students will be adjudicated by a separate adjudicator who is knowledgeable with their level of experience.

When entering students, level of experience will be determined by each piano teacher using the following criteria: **Elementary** (Alfred Levels 1-3 and Faber Levels 1-3A), **Intermediate** (Alfred Levels 4 and up, Faber levels 3B and up, and WSMA Class C), **Advanced** (Standard Piano Literature and items from the WSMA Class B & A list—using the WSMA prescribed editions and instructions). Copies of the WSMA Class A, B, & C lists are included with this letter. The festival is designed to encourage the God-given talents of our young piano players at every level.

Students will need to perform one solo selection for an adjudicator. Memorization will be optional. We request that the length of the piece be a maximum of three minutes for the Elementary and Intermediate levels. Advanced Level students may play their entire selection. No scales will be required at this time. Students should perform from an “original” copy of their selection and the adjudicator should also be provided with an “original” copy of the selection.

Every student will receive individual time with the adjudicator following his/her performance and will receive a rating of I, II or III (I being first place). Results will be posted approximately one half hour after a student performs. Student adjudication forms and medals may be picked up by piano teachers at the conclusion of the festival. If you are unable to remain until the end, they will be mailed to you.

Students entered at the Intermediate or Advanced Levels will have an opportunity to be chosen to perform for the Piano Honors Festival at 7:00p.m. on Saturday, March 13th. Adjudicators will be selecting students of high quality to perform for the recital, which will be indicated with the award of a *I rating. Please encourage all of your students and parents to attend the Saturday evening recital performance in the WLHS Auditorium.

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Enclosed with this letter are a student registration form, parent volunteer form (RECRUIT EARLY AND OFTEN), teacher volunteer form, the WSMA Piano List, a sample adjudication form and a sample packet of information for you to use with your students. Teachers are asked to duplicate all forms needed for your students. You and your students may also access all of these forms/information on our web site – www.wlhsband.org – by clicking on the Piano Fest page. Registration Fees and Forms are due to WLHS no later than February 15, 2010. You will receive a preliminary festival schedule of your students' times by March 1, 2010. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

May God richly bless your Christmas celebration!!

In His Service,

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