

Recital Prep and Etiquette

What to expect for your student's big day.

Leading up to Recital day:

One of the best ways to help your child prepare for his/her recital is to have him/her play for the family at home many times BEFORE the recital. Many students are more nervous about playing in front of their family members than in front of strangers. Have your child practice walking up the piano (or performance space) and bow, just like s/he will do at the recital. Regardless of the source of your child's nervousness, experience playing in front of other people will make them more confident when the recital day arrives.

RECITAL DAY:

- Students should dress up for the recital! We have had everything from Sunday best, to full formal on the stage, and anything in between those is great! Parents and audience members need not dress up unless they would like to.
- Let your child warm-up at home before you leave for the recital. Try to arrive for the recital about 15 minutes early. Nothing creates nerves more than showing up in a panic!
- As tempting as it is to get that photo of your child at the piano, avoid **flash** photography while your child (or any other student) is performing, or a phone that makes a shutter noise. The flash/noise is distracting for performers. If you get there early enough, photography is great before or after the recital.
- Stay for the entire recital program. Other students have worked just as hard as your child and deserve an audience. Learning concert etiquette is an important part of your child's musical education, and students should learn to respect the efforts of their peers. Also, your child may learn that his/her challenges and fears are shared by the other musicians. They will learn to accept these challenges as part of the learning process and perceive the obstacles as being smaller. We're all at some stage of learning!
- Students should bow BEFORE and AFTER they play/sing. A bow is a way to acknowledge your audience and thank them for their applause and attention. **To BOW:** Keep hands down at side, bend from the waist, and look at the floor (or your shoes) for 3 seconds. Then straighten, and calmly walk off the stage.
- Each student should feel free to make necessary adjustments to their stand/instrument before beginning their performance. Pianists can adjust the bench. String players can tune their instrument and if needed set up a chair/stand. Vocalists adjust their stand, make eye contact with their accompanist etc. This is not an exhaustive list, but there is no need to feel like one must hit the stage and perform without a moment to be comfortable. The audience will wait, and the student should also feel free to ask for help from a teacher if needed.
- EVERYONE GETS NERVOUS!!! Please prepare your child that EVERYONE gets nervous and makes mistakes. That does NOT mean that their performance did not go well!!! Celebrate the wonderful things that they did on the stage, and reward their bravery! We are SO proud of them! This is a wonderful and courageous thing that they are doing to share their gift with the rest of us!

