

# *ten thousand stars* studio

*I'd rather learn from one bird how to sing  
than to teach ten thousand stars how not to dance.*

*-e.e.cummings*

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Fall 2008

As I write this, the final days of July are staring me in the face, reminding me that as hard as it is to believe, another summer is nearly behind us. I almost panic at the thought, because my to-do list is still so long. What ever happened to that endless sense of summer I felt as a kid? As Anne of Green Gables says, "When I was little I couldn't see from one end of the summer to the other. It stretched before me like an unending season." Maybe this isn't a modern problem then? Whatever the case, there's not only plenty I need to do, there is plenty I want to do before I can put this season to rest.

All this is to say that perhaps this break in lessons over the next few weeks is more welcome than usual. After a couple weeks of not teaching, I'm ready to go again, rejuvenated and revived. Enough empty time between lessons means I have mental energy to give to what should come next: to plan music for the fall recital, to organize teaching materials so I can make better use of

them, to think about what students need next on their musical journeys.

These breaks are equally good for students. While I think summer lessons are extremely valuable, time between lessons can be just as worthwhile. Often it is in these in-between times that students get inspired. Sometimes they practice more (imagine that!) because they don't have to focus their work to be ready for a weekly lesson. Students may get motivated to compose their own piece, to learn music just for fun, or to revisit old favorites because there is time to do so.

We all need this balance between the routine and familiarity of steady growth and progress of weekly lessons, and the freedom of the "in-between" times to explore and wander a bit. I have several recitals to play in the next two months so there can't be any real break in my own practicing. But, like your kids, down time gives me a chance to ask myself, "What if...." and indulge in my own

devices a bit. We need both discipline *and* play in our lives and our music.

So, enjoy the next few weeks. Do ask your kids to practice, but also encourage them to find time to play at the piano. We will be back working hard soon enough.

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## ***Contact Information***

All calendar, newsletter items, and policy information can be found on my website:

[www.tenthousandstarsstudio.net](http://www.tenthousandstarsstudio.net)

I also write a column for a national music journal *American Music Teacher*, which has a link to a blog I write about music and teaching. (Yes, your children show up from time to time. No, I don't use their real names. I have way too many lawyers in my studio to risk a lawsuit over privacy issues.) This can be found at:

[www.tenthousandstars.net](http://www.tenthousandstars.net)

Finally, you can always email me at:

[amy@tenthousandstars.net](mailto:amy@tenthousandstars.net)

or call: 573-5121.

## ***Piano Tuners***

If you are not tuning your piano at least once a year, you should be. A tuned instrument is not only more pleasant to listen to, it is better for the piano. Fall is a great time to get your piano tuned if it is been a while. I recommend:

Jean Luc Matton 259 2368

Fred Sturm 345 2154

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## ***Fall Payment Schedule***

You either can pay the semester total at the beginning of the semester or divide into **five equal** payments. All monthly payments are due on the first lesson of every month. There are twenty lessons per semester—16 private lessons, 4 performance classes. Payments received after the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month are subject to a \$25 late fee.

Lesson Time and Day:

Semester tuition:

Monthly payment:

## *Calendar Fall 2008*

August 18 –Fall Semester Begins

August 22-24—Performance Classes\*

September 1—Labor Day;  
No Monday Lessons

September 21—Performance Class\*\*—  
Honors participants only; 6:00-  
7:15pm

September 26-28—Performance  
Classes\*

October 3—Honors PMTNM  
Competition

October 17-19—Performance Classes\*

November 1—Fall Recital; 7pm

November 22—Performance Classes\*\*\*

November 25-30—Thanksgiving  
Holiday; No lessons

December 11—Last Day of Semester

December 15-18—Make-up Lessons

\*Times and groups to be announced

\*\*Note: This is an extra performance class,  
required for all Honors participants.

\*\*\*Special Performance classes with a guest  
clinician. All groups will be Saturday afternoon.  
Times tba.

## *Make-up Policies*

I am teaching a heavier load than ever this fall. I tell you this not to evoke your pity, but to help explain my strict make-up policy. (If you have ways of magically creating more than 24 hours in every day, let's talk!) You are allowed one free, no questions asked, make-up lesson, which will take place during the **make-up week** at the end of the semester: **December 15-18**. If you know ahead of time that you will miss a lesson, you are welcome to ask if I have any openings at any other time that week—if I do, I'll be happy to have you take that spot. But chances are great that my schedule will be full and overflowing, and then your missed lesson will need to be taken during make-up week. Only **ONE** make-up lesson is given every semester during make-up week. Any other lessons you missed will be not be made up. Of course, any lessons I miss will always be made up. There are **NO** make-up lessons for missed performance classes.

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