

May 6, 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

I hope that everyone is staying healthy and safe! Thank you to all our students, parents, and teachers for making the unexpected transition to online lessons this semester. I cannot tell you how much I miss seeing all of you and look forward to the time when we can be together again!

Although the future remains uncertain, we hope that we will be back to in-person lessons by late summer or next fall. In anticipation that things may not be completely back to normal this next year, we will make some adjustments to our regular calendar of Prep Program lessons and activities:

- 1) For the 2020-21 school year, we have slightly reduced the number of lessons each semester (14 for fall and 16 for spring). This will give families and teachers flexibility in case we have to move in and out of online lessons or if illness hits those in our music community.

Please see the calendar for *tentative* lesson weeks, which may shift if the university changes its weeks of instruction (e.g., if the university decides to begin the fall semester earlier in August).

Enclosed in this mailing you will find the registration information for the next school year, including the Enrollment Form, 2020-21 Calendar, Fee Schedule, and Availability Sheet. Please mail in forms by **August 3**; you will receive a call about your lesson time in mid-August.

- 2) We will not be holding our Fall Chamber Music Program. In lieu of Saturday chamber music coachings in the fall and the Illinois Chamber Music Festival this summer, we hope to offer mini Chamber Music Camps Dec. 30-Jan. 3 and possibly the end of July (depending on COVID-19 developments in the community).
- 3) Summer lessons will be held online until the university opens back up for on-campus activities. Please be in touch with your teacher about your summer lesson schedule. Lesson times and payment are coordinated directly with teachers in the summer. (Let me know if your teacher cannot work with you the weeks you would like lessons, and I will connect you with an available teacher.)
- 4) Assuming that we can hold live recitals during the school year, students will be encouraged to perform in **at least two** of the many recitals, tentatively planned for:
Saturday, September 26; Sunday, October 18; Sunday, December 6;
Sunday, February 8; Saturday, February 28;
**Sunday, April 25 at 2:00, 3:15, & 4:30 pm; Saturday, May 1 at 12:30 & 2:00 pm*

*Everyone should perform on one of the two final concert dates of the year. If you know that you will have conflicts with any recital dates, please plan ahead and communicate this with your teacher.

Please note that in-person lessons and performances are never required when it is not safe for you or your family! We also ask for your flexibility in accommodating the health and safety of our faculty throughout this next year.

If you have any questions, e-mail is the best way to reach me: **lnelson@iwu.edu**. Thank you!

Lisa Nelson, IWU Preparatory Dept. Director