
Joyful Piano Studio

Piano Recital Etiquette

Ms. Elaine, Piano Instructor

Recitals can be tremendously fun and valuable experiences for young pianists. Unfortunately, they can also be a source of some stress and anxiety if preparations are not complete and certain guidelines and rules are not followed.

The studio is providing the following guidelines and rules for all performers and audience members to follow. Your cooperation is needed and appreciated to help ensure recitals run smoothly and are successful.

PERFORMERS

- Appropriate recital attire is required for all recital/performance events. Females need to wear knee length or longer dresses/skirts, or dress pants with a nice blouse or dressy top. Males need to wear dress pants/slacks and button-down dress shirts (ties optional). All students need to wear dress shoes. The hair/bangs of all students should be out of the eyes and face.

No jeans, thin spaghetti straps, low-cut or sheer blouses/tops or dresses, platform shoes, flip-flops, or athletic footwear. No clothing or accessories that promote witchcraft (also called magic). No bracelets of any type, or dangling, jingling jewelry.

- Remember to practice in your outfit (shoes included) in front of your family before the recital.
- Once it is your turn, rise quickly and walk up to the piano. Adjust the bench, pause and collect your thoughts, and begin when you are ready.
- Performers must bow at the beginning and end of their performance. The instructor will ensure each student is taught to bow correctly before the recital.

AUDIENCE & PERFORMERS

- Recitals are a special occasion and it is customary for the audience to also dress nicely.
- Please plan accordingly (allow extra time for traffic and parking) to ensure everyone is in the building 10 minutes prior to the recital start time.
- Make sure each student's invited guests understand the importance of arriving early and being in the building 10 minutes prior to the recital start time. If they arrive late, it makes it difficult for those performing.
- If anyone arrives late, please wait to enter until applause is heard and the performer is exiting from the piano.

- The instructor will provide additional information on the total number of guests families can invite for each recital (each venue has different space limitations).
- Please ensure all performers and audience members utilize the restroom prior to the start of the recital. Each performer is responsible for having clean washed hands prior to the start of the recital.
- Turn off or silence all cell phones and any electrical devices that may produce sound.
- Once the recital begins, please listen and be quiet. Any unnecessary noise (loud whispering, talking, candy wrappers, etc.) during the recital can be very distracting for the performer. Parents with young children should sit near the door so that they can usher out a noisy or crying child immediately.
- As the performer is walking up to the piano to begin their performance, please applaud.
- If a performer is playing two songs, feel free to applaud between songs.
- No whistling, yelling, or other loud methods of congratulations. If a performer is focused and ready to play, but becomes distracted with the “whistling” and “whooping” it can really throw off their performance. While boisterous congratulations are meant to show support for the performer, it may actually cause unintended problems instead. The best way to show appreciation for the performance is with thunderous applause.
- Families are welcome to photograph or videotape their child performing as long as they are not distracting the performer or blocking the view of others. Please ask permission before taking any photographs or video of anyone else at the recital out of respect for their privacy.
- Please stay until the recital is completely over. Attending a recital so that other families will serve as an audience to your student, and then leaving before the other performers have finished is inconsiderate and unacceptable. If you have other obligations or matters to attend to before the recital is over, please do not attend.