

Yiyi Ku Piano Studio Student Opportunities

Students in my studio have a wide selection of opportunities to participate in various music performance, assessment, and competitive events. These can generally be divided into three categories: non-competitive, semi-competitive, and competitive. Each month in the studio newsletters, I will remind students to register for upcoming events, with more details on date, cost, who should participate, and required work.

The following is a list of events that are available to our students:

Non-Competitive Events

These include the studio recitals, which are held twice yearly, as well as the recitals organized by the local music teachers associations throughout the year. All students are encouraged to participate in these. Students gain valuable performance experience, as well as learn from observing other students.

Semi-Competitive Events

These include assessment/audition type opportunities, where students are evaluated by a professional adjudicator. They are judged against a standard of excellence, and are not being compared to other students. Students may usually enter these events at their current level, regardless of age. Therefore, an older beginner student may choose to perform an easy piece, while a younger student may choose to perform a more difficult piece, and both may receive high ratings, according to standards expected of the piece they choose to perform, not the average level of accomplishment expected of their age. Some of these events are "encouraging" in nature, while others have state/nationwide standards. It is beneficial for students to try different events by different organizations, so they get a balanced feedback of their abilities.

MTAC - Music Teachers Association of California
MTAC-TV Music Teachers Association of California Temecula Valley Branch
CAPMT - California Association of Professional Music Teachers
TVMTA - Temecula Valley Music Teachers Association
NGPT - National Guild Of Piano Teachers

| Event | When (approximate) | What to prepare | Award | Studio Requirement |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| MTAC-TV Sonata/ Sonatina Festival | November | one memorized movement of a sonata/sonatina | Trophy | recital experience |
| CAPMT Piano Solo and Ensemble Auditions | November | two memorized solos and one duet | Trophy, invited to perform at state festival | Level 5 & above: minimum 45 min private lessons |
| TVMTA Music Festival | May | one memorized solo | Gold Medal, invited to perform at Honors Redital | recital experience |
| NGPT Piano Auditions | June - Temecula July - San Marcos | 1-20 memorized solos | Guild Certificate, Pin | Intermediate A level & above: minimum 45 min private lessons |
| Carnegie Hall Royal Conservatory The Achievement Program | December June | Technique, 3-4 memorized solos, Ear Training, Sight Reading, Theory | Exam transcript, Certificate | Minimum 45 min private lessons |
| MTAC Certificate of Merit | Late February - early March | Technique, 2-4 memorized solos, Ear Training, Sight Reading, Theory | CM certificate, 100% Theory Trophy, advanced students have opportunity to compete at state level | Level 3 - Level 5: 45 min private lessons, Level 6 & above: 60 min private lessons |
| CAPMT Student Evaluations | Late February - early March | Technique, 2-4 memorized solos, Ear Training, Sight Reading, Theory | Trophy | Level 3 - Level 5: 45 min private lessons, Level 6 & above: 60 min private lessons |

Competitive Events

These include local, statewide, national, and even international competitions. Students interested in competitions should have plenty recital and audition experience. Competitions outside of Temecula Valley are extremely competitive, and are recommended for highly dedicated students.

| Event | When (approximate) | What to prepare | Award | Studio Requirement |
|--|---------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| TVMTA Young Artist Piano Competitions | June | one memorized solo | Prize money | minimum 45 min private lessons |
| Inland Empire Piano Festival | February | memorized solo(s) | Certificate, trophy | minimum 45 min private lessons |
| Southern California Junior Bach Festival | February-May-September | one memorized piece by Bach | Students perform at Branch festival. Winners move on to Regional Festival. Regional winners move on to State Final. | minimum 45 min private lessons |
| Steinway Festival & Competition | March | Three memorized solos of advanced repertoire | \$500 | 60 min private lessons |
| LA Young Pianist Competition | September | one test piece, one own selection solo | Certificate, Prize Money | 60 min private lessons |
| Glendale Piano Competition | April | one memorized solo of advanced repertoire | Prize money | 60 min private lessons |
| American Protege International Competition | January | Three memorized solos of advanced repertoire | Performance at Carnegie Hall | 60 min private lessons |