Rehearsal, Recitals & Concert Dates
Spring Semester 2014

Mark the following Dates on your Calendar. (Lessons only students need only be concerned with the recital dates on April 29 & 30th):

- Thurs. February 20: Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.
- Thurs. March 20: Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.
- Fri. April 11: Rehearsal, 4:00 p.m.
- Tues. April 29: Recital, 4:00 & Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.
- Wed. April 30: Recital, 4:00 & Concert, 6:00 p.m.

We will again be having 4 large orchestra rehearsals with all orchestra students. Rehearsals take place at Snow College in the music department and we rehearse in the large concert hall. There are no early-morning orchestra classes the week of a large orchestra rehearsal. This month that means there will be no early-morning classes the week of Feb. 16th. The Ephraim orchestra still needs to make-up one class, which will take place in March. All students will perform on ONE recital, either April 29th or 30th. At a future date we will need to know which one works best for you. Let me know if you have any major conflicts with any of the above dates. Thank you to all of you for your hard work, early mornings, and practice efforts.

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Why Music?

Playing an instrument enhances a child’s quality of life. It provides creative, emotional, and social opportunities and can also lead to improvements in academic performance in other areas beyond music. Below is listed a few recent studies that have shown different ways music can benefit your child.

The serious study of music has been demonstrated to complement other areas of academic study. In 2005 test-taking College-Bound Seniors, those with an average of 2 years of study in arts and music had significantly higher GPAs in each subject than those students who did not (“2005 College-Bound Seniors – Total Group Profile.” College Board. Generated August 5, 2005)

Music education programs enrich the whole student and are a critical component to a well-rounded academic curriculum. Studies show that students who participate in band or orchestra show the lowest lifetime use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs. Students that participate in music classes are less likely to be disruptive students in class. Among minority students, more identify their music teacher as role models than any other subject area. These students demonstrate higher self-esteem and thinking skills than their counterparts. (“Recognizing the Benefits and Importance of School-Based Music Education.” House of Representatives – April 4, 2006)

Playing a musical instrument has cognitive benefits. A Stanford study has found that musical training improves how the brain processes spoken word – this could lead to improving the reading ability of children who have dyslexia and other reading problems (“Playing Music can be Good for your Brain – Stanford Study Finds it Helps the Understanding of Language.” C. Sturrock. SFGate.com Nov. 17, 2005)

Music may help improve math skills. An increasing number of studies focusing on participation in musical activities and cognitive development in mathematics suggest that the two are closely related. Music at the basic level shows the obvious connection between music and mathematics (“Involvement in the Arts and Human Development: General Involvement and Intensive Involvement in Music and Theater Arts.” J.S. Catterall, R. Chapleau, J. Iwanaga. The Imagination Project at UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, UCLA, September 1999.)

Students from a low socio-economic status (SES) who are highly involved in music consistently have higher standardized testing scores than their low-SES peers who have no involvement in music. Studies show that the absolute performance gaps between low SES students involved in music versus low SES non-music youth grows considerably between grades 8 and 12. (“Involvement in the Arts and Human Development: General Involvement and Intensive Involvement in Music and Theater Arts.” J.S. Catterall, R. Chapleau, J. Iwanaga. The Imagination Project at UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, UCLA, September 1999.)