



Dear Parent(s),

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you as an important part of your child's musical experience. I want to encourage you to feel free to ask questions regarding your child's progress, visit a lesson whenever possible and/or offer a suggestion that might enhance your child's appreciation and love for the piano. We are about to embark on what, hopefully, will be many years together. The following points, I feel, are important for parents to realize and understand so their child will develop the facility to play with musicianship, competence and enjoyment throughout his/her life.

- 1) It will take many years to play the piano well. Encouragement on your part, as well as mine, is of utmost importance.
- 2) Practice is work! Set up a time of day that is compatible to you and your child -- one that can be kept on a regular basis and will have the least amount of interruptions. Schedule practice at a time when your child is not tired. Should he/she become tired, take a break. Most students benefit more from several short practice sessions rather than one longer one.
- 3) Practicing is very lonely for the young child. I would like to encourage you to be in the room while he/she practices: if not to help, just to listen. This lessens the loneliness.
- 4) The practice sessions will be short or divided into several sections for most beginning and intermediate students. This makes longer practice requirements seem shorter and much more enjoyable.
- 5) Expect both times of excitement and times of tedium in the student's development. Realize there will be plateaus of learning. Because it does take many years to reach maturity in playing the piano and the refinement of some pieces takes many weeks of study, there will be obvious signs of letdown in their practice and in their enthusiasm. This is when encouragement is especially needed. As long as parents are supportive, these slow times will pass.
- 6) Both parents and siblings should show a positive interest in the child's progress and in the music he/she is playing. Join in, if possible, by adding harmony to the simple melodies or playing duets together after the practice session is over.
- 7) Provide a good instrument on which to learn. Keep it tuned and in good repair. This is of utmost importance in developing a "good ear" and fine touch for good tone quality. Ask me for the names of tuner/technicians in this area.
- 8) I teach children with many different life-styles, personalities and abilities, and try to be aware of the needs of each child. I cannot read minds, however, so that I am aware of everything. I appreciate you making me aware of important issues.
- 9) **KEEP THE COMMUNICATION OPEN! ASK QUESTIONS!!!**  
**Remember, this is a three-way endeavor: PARENT / TEACHER / CHILD.**

I am constantly aware of the tremendous responsibility I have as your child's music instructor and of the trust you, as parents, have placed in me. I want to do everything possible to insure that your child will find in the piano joy, creativity, comfort and a lifetime companion. Thank You!

Musically Yours,

*Fahnia Lund*