

# The

# Note Worthy

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## Director's Message

Now that we have completed Semester I, with most of you performing on one of the two Winter Recitals, we can all take a deep breath or two during the second week of our Winter Break, before we dive back in to start Semester II the week of February 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, and finish out the school year. Those who performed on the Recitals all did very, very well, though not perfectly (ask me and I'll point out my mistakes, too!). This just means that, for many of you, you have time to make changes and improvements before your next performance at your school Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Quite a few of you really surprised me with the amount of work you put in between your rehearsal here with your accompanist earlier in the week and your performance on the Recital. For some, it was like an entirely new person arrived to perform!

In light of making improvements, for those of you who participated in the Recitals, we will be listening, watching, evaluating and discussing your performance(s) at your first Coaching Session of Semester II. You will not need to bring your instrument and play for me unless you have school or other music that needs immediate attention. But please bring your solo (and ensemble) music, all your method books, and your blue Member Book. We will be evaluating your progress to date, discussing your future plans and setting additional goals, and I will also be placing new Practice Record pages in your book for Semester II. Those of you who did not participate in the Recitals should have your usual material prepared to play for me, though we will still take some time to evaluate your progress, discuss future plans, set goals, and add pages to your book.

As mentioned above, Semester II will begin the week of February 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, and will finish the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, right before Memorial Day weekend. We will take Davis School District Spring Break week, April 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, off from regular Sessions, though I expect there will be a number of rescheduled Sessions that week as we attempt to catch back up. Our Spring Festival Recital, consisting entirely of small ensembles, is scheduled for Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> (with Monday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> as a rain date, and Monday Sessions subsequently rescheduled later in the week). Everyone should plan on participating as we need all the players we can get in order to form balanced groups. We will start looking at forming groups and selecting music in late March/early April, so there will be plenty of time to learn the music. If you have ideas, requests or suggestions, let me know at our next Session.

If you want or need a new time for Semester II call or email me (801-292-8707, [sdmusic@netzero.net](mailto:sdmusic@netzero.net), [mail@sdmusicstudio.com](mailto:mail@sdmusicstudio.com)), as soon as possible so we can get set up before new members arrive. I will be calling and rescheduling a few of you the first two weeks of the Semester due to my performances of "The Music Man" in Logan, then a few of you will be rescheduled again the first two weeks of March during Viewmont High School's performances of the musical "The Scarlet Pimpernel."

I wish for all of you who are participating much success as you perform in your School, District, Region and State Solo and Ensembles Festivals during the next few months, and look forward to seeing you again soon!

# Setting Up Your Practice Space

If you're serious about learning a musical instrument a good place to practice is essential. Some of the things that can help make a practice space work-friendly include: a music stand, a tuner and metronome, a good chair, and enough space for your instrument and you. Other, less obvious, but no less important, things include a comfortable temperature, no distractions, and perhaps a recording device to help gauge your progress. Keep in mind that no practice space will ever be perfect; and there is no one-size-fits-all solution to creating your practice room. But there are still ways to help make your space as workable as possible.

Your personal music practice space should have at least a music stand, a tuner and metronome, a pencil, your music, your member book, your well-maintained instrument, and you in an alert state of mind. An instrument stand is handy for taking short breaks, and a sturdy chair or bench is essential for good posture – even if you stand for part or even most of your practice time.

The key question to ask yourself is: will this item add to my comfort, encourage me to practice, and help eliminate distractions?

Ideally, once you set up your practice space, you should be able to leave it set up. But, if you can't, then at least have your items all together – perhaps in a small container – so you can move everything to where you will practice.

Make sure the temperature is comfortable – not so hot you become drowsy, but not so cold you're uncomfortable and can't stay in tune.

A sturdy music stand is big plus. Outfitted with a small mirror and perhaps a slide-on shelf for small items, your stand can become a large part of your portable practice kit.

Try to eliminate as many distractions as you can. Practice time is a perfect time to turn off your cell phone and put it in another room to charge. Locate your practice space where you won't be disturbed by other activities inside or outside your area. Don't face a window or out into a large

space, especially if others will be moving about. You may have to make sure others in your family know how important your practice time is to you and how much you appreciate them honoring your practice time by not interrupting.

Try to keep your space clean and uncluttered. Clutter is a major distraction and needs to be eliminated if possible.

Make sure your chair allows for good posture and for proper positioning of your instrument. Even a piano or other bench can be an excellent seating solution. Proper and comfortable seating will contribute to more effective practice.

Check the lighting in your practice space. The light should be bright enough to read the music clearly and easily, but not so bright that it causes eyestrain due to excessive glare. You may have to invest in an inexpensive light that clips to your stand, or a floor lamp that can be positioned next to your practice space.

Use a recorder – digital is ideal – to record your progress. Regularly record your playing and listen for wrong notes, improper rhythms, poor phrasing and dynamics, and other imperfections in your playing.

Keep a pencil and a good eraser with you to correctly mark your music. Write down your practice results and goals in your member book. Mark your daily tempos at the top of each exercise and improve on it.

Keep your practice space personalized, organized, and distraction-free, and use it for motivation to learn your music and increase the quality of the time you have to spend with your instrument.

## Accessories Order February 11<sup>th</sup>

I will be placing an accessories order in February in order to replenish my stock of reeds. Many other items are also available at a reduced cost, if you are interested in having me place your order with mine.

Below is a list of some of the items available and their approximate cost. Many other items are also available – just ask.

Payment for these orders will need to be received before the 11<sup>th</sup> or I will not be able to place your order. There will be a reminder announcement on the board.

Metronomes . . . . .	\$18.00 up
Tuners . . . . .	\$15.00 up
Combo Metro/Tuners . . . . .	\$25.00 up
Clarinet Mouthpiece . . . . .	\$31.00 (Fobes Debut)
Ligatures . . . . .	\$13.00 up
Clarinet Reeds . . . . .	\$10.60 up
(Vandoren Traditional(10)	\$18.50,
Rico Reserve(5)	\$10.60)
Alto Sax Reeds . . . . .	\$13.70 up
(Vandoren Traditional(10)	\$22.70,
Rico Reserve(5)	\$13.70)
Tenor Sax Reeds (5) . . . . .	\$15.90 up
(Vandoren Traditional	\$15.90,
Rico Reserve	\$16.80)
Reed Guards (assort. colors)	\$3.50 up
(Clar/Alto 2	\$3.50,
Clar/Alto 4	\$3.50)
Neck straps . . . . .	\$4.50 up
(Clarinet -	\$9.85/\$24.50,
Sax -	\$4.50 up)
Handkerchief Swabs . . . . .	\$7.00 up
(Silk pull through, assort. colors,	
Oboe	\$7.00 up, Clarinet \$7.50 up,
Sax	\$10.00 up, Bassoon \$9.50 up)
Music Stands . . . . .	\$10.00 up
(carrying bags also available)	

Also other reed cases, instrument cases & stands, other reeds, mouthpieces & ligatures, etc, etc.

## Parent's Column

*Reminders & Helps to  
Enhance Your Child's  
Musical Experience*

### How to Get the Most Out of Music Lessons

Now that you have your child set up with private music instruction, here are some tips to assist you in supporting your child's continuing music education.

- 1.) Sit with your child if needed. Often younger children need help in developing the discipline to practice regularly on their own. Have them show you what they've learned and have them play their favorite exercises for you.
- 2.) If possible, choose the same time of the day and length of practice time. Perhaps immediately after school before other activities take over would work best. Or maybe 15 minutes before school and 15 minutes after school gets in the time without feeling so long. Try for daily practice, but don't stress out if a day gets skipped now and then.
- 3.) Provide positive feedback. Be cheerful and encouraging, and help your child through the ups and downs of learning an instrument. Don't withhold music as a punishment – find an alternative (TV, video games, computer) if needed.
- 4.) Stick with it. It usually takes about three years to gain the foundation and appreciation for music to last a lifetime. The first year is usually fun, the second is more challenging, and by the third year, interesting music is ready to be mastered, and your child can be considered a "musician."
- 5.) Don't give up. Many children express the desire to quit, especially when the music gets more difficult and less fun. This is normal, and discontinuing study seems to be the obvious solution. But children who are allowed to quit rarely return. Adults often wish their parents had made them "stick with it." They never say, "I'm glad my parents let me quit."

If the subject of quitting comes up, you need to be the "decision maker." Children are not yet able to see ahead and realize the true value of a music education. It is just one of the many decisions you make that you know is best for your child.

From California Music Studios Website:  
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