

STUDIO NEWS

The Woodwind Studio of Katherine Peters

September

- 5 - Carmel Sym: Beatles
Coxhall Gardens, 7pm
- 26 - Indiana Wind Symphony
@PAL, 6:30pm
- 30 - All-District Jazz
Application Deadline

October

- 3 - Carmel Sym.
Daniel's Vineyard, 4:30pm
- 9 - Carmel Sym. Saturday
@PAL 7:30pm
- 16 - Legacy Orch
@Legacy Bible Church, 7:30p

November

- 10 - All-State Jazz
Audition Deadline
- 12 - Jr All-State
Audition Deadline
- 13 - Carmel Sym. Saturday
@PAL 7:30pm
- 23-27 Thanksgiving Break
no lessons

December

- 18 - Carmel Sym. Saturday
@PAL 3:00pm & 7:00pm
- 20 - Christmas Break

January

- 3 - Lessons Resume
- 9 - Sr All-State Auditions
- 20,21,22 - Student Recitals
times and locations TBA
- 29 - ISSMA Solo & Ensemble



Students just before their performance at Majestic Care nursing home in Carmel.

Finishing Strong

Our students worked so hard last year. They had happy days and down days, but they consistently showed up and did their work, making excellent progress throughout the year. We finally got to see each other all together in May at our spring recital, and although it felt a little awkward playing with others after such a long time, the students performed well and shared what they had learned with their families and friends.

Then, in July, a smaller group of volunteers from the studio performed for the residents of a nursing home in Carmel. The residents were so happy to have visitors, and they were pleasantly surprised by the quality of performance the kids gave.

I'm so proud of all of you: kids, adults, and parents. You were willing to work in new ways, and you discovered that you were capable of more than you thought. We not only survived a really tough year, but you stepped up your game and gave a terrific performances both inside and outside of your homes.

The school year ahead might be a bit bumpy, too... we'll just have to see. Pray, stay calm, make good choices, and when you get down or frustrated, go play your instrument. It won't fix everything, but it does help. 🎵

Remote Lessons

Several of you have asked about continuing remote lessons or occasionally having lessons remotely. The answer is "yes!" Any time that you need a remote lesson, just send me a note earlier in the day. It's easy enough to adjust for remote lessons, and I'm happy to accommodate.



What to do if you come down with COVID

As we've learned from my experience this August, even if you are vaccinated, you can catch COVID. The vaccine will do its job at lessening the severity of the virus, but what steps should you take regarding your instrument?

- **Wash what you can.**

Bell covers, swabs, and face masks should go in the washer. Reed guards can go in the dishwasher. Mouthpieces can be washed with a washcloth or paper towel and cool, soapy water. (Try to avoid getting the cork wet.) Headjoints can be wiped with a damp cloth, then with rubbing alcohol.

- **Disinfect or throw out compromised reeds.**

If they were old reeds that you were ready to toss anyway, you can do that. If they were good reeds that you're sad to say good-bye to, soak them in a half-half solution of water and antiseptic mouthwash. (The antiseptic is important, so check the label.) Then, dry on a flat surface.

- **Air out your instrument case.**

It's a good bet that the virus cannot survive without water. Leave your case open for a day or so to make sure everything in it is nice and dry.

- **Take a break, then take it slow.**

It's ok to not get everything done in the day. Get some rest. Worried about missing a lesson? We'll make it up. Get some rest. This thing is unpredictable. Depending on how it hits you, you may need to take your time getting back into playing. Short practices and lots of breaks are a good idea. Oh, and get some rest.

Preparing for Chair Tests

In previous articles, I've written about preparing for important events, and now that school is back in session, we are met by one of the most common: chair tests. Not only are you playing for a grade, but also for placement. While I'm typically more concerned with the former, I totally get why students fret over the latter. When I was a student, I always wanted to be at the top of my section, too. So aside from my staple advice of "be prepared," what are some things you can do to land in one of those sought-after seats.

1. Accuracy first, speed second. For technical pieces, faster is better, but only if it's correct. Once you can play it correctly, start increasing the tempo a little bit each time you play. If it comes down to you and another student and both of you played accurately, that extra bit of speed might give you the upper hand.

2. Overdo dynamics a bit. Let your band director hear that you can play quietly, loudly, and everywhere in between. If it says, "forte," make it clear that you are intentionally playing loud.

3. Play the way you practiced.

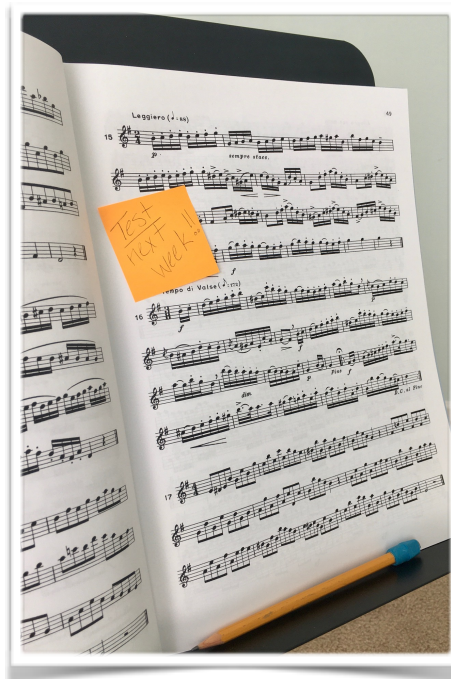
Unless you are correcting an error in your playing, (wrong note, miscounted rhythm, etc.) don't make changes at the last minute. This is especially important with tempo - just because you hear a classmate attempt to sprint through their test doesn't mean you should, too. Accuracy first.

4. Think, then play. Take a moment to mentally sing a measure or two of the piece before you start to play. This will offer you a chance to set tempo, remember rhythms, and hear expression in your head before playing them out loud. This is especially helpful if your playing test has taken place in class - you've heard several other people play, perhaps differently than you. Take a moment to remember what you did at home.

5. Count off. Once you've found your tempo, give yourself a "one, two, ready, go" in your head. It will make the first few measures (and probably the whole piece) feel and sound much more secure.

6. Breathe! Take deep breaths through the corners of the mouth at places that make good musical sense.

Don't try to adjust your playing based on what other students are doing. Pay attention to what *you* are doing and play your best. I hope you all land the grade and the chair you want. 🎵



I need pictures!

Do you have photos from recitals, lessons, or other studio events that you are willing to share? Email them to me! (Heads up: they may appear in newsletters, studio posts, or my website.)