

Piano Prodigies

88 Keys, 10 Fingers, No Problem!

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The Healing Power of... Practice?

This summer, I reconnected with a friend I haven't seen since high school. We reminisced on our childhood while picking grapes on my parents' farm in Gettysburg. Angie reminded me that every time she had come over to my family's home after school, my parents would insist that I practice first. *And* at my birthday parties, a concert by the Borowsky siblings was a guaranteed part of the experience. I laughed remembering this... and apologized for my parents' policies, which certainly couldn't have been fun for my friends.

Angie grew serious: "Liz, I LOVED hearing you practice. As you played, I would lay down on the couch in the next room, and just let the sound wash over me. It was so healing. I had so much going on in my life - my parents had serious issues that I never disclosed to you - and coming to your home was like stepping into a different world. Listening to you practice was amazing and I loved it!"

Although that statement did make me question my practice techniques (quality practicing isn't usually what I would consider enjoyable listening) I was incredibly moved by her words. And it got me thinking: how often do we teachers, parents, and students communicate piano as a chore ("something that needs to be done before the fun stuff") and forget that the process of learning, exploring, and sharing what we do (and who we are) is the fun stuff?

As we start the school year, I encourage you to recommit: not only to your practicing, but how you view it as part of the bigger picture. When friends are over or family is in town, when you're on a school break and want to take a break from *everything*, or maybe even when you have *so much* homework ahead of you, embrace the opportunity to play, explore, and practice. Take pride in your work and the beauty of the process. You never know just how much that might be just what your at-home audience (or you) needed!

Musically yours,
Elizabeth

First Annual Chamber Music Program!



Congratulations to five Piano Prodigies piano students who participated in chamber music groups this summer! **Fred Cheng, Nate Holt, Nora Williams, Nicole Suckow, and Liana Lansigan** took the opportunity to commit to learning music to play in a small group setting together with string players. They met for several rehearsals and recorded their works (videos are on www.PianoProdigies.com/blog). We also welcomed several guest teachers as coaches. As one student said, "This was THE most fun I ever had in music - I loved every moment of it!"

Classicopia Partnership



Piano Prodigies will be working with Classicopia to bring educational and performance opportunities to our students. Piano Prodigies Founder and Director Elizabeth Borowsky recently became Vice President of Classicopia's Board of Directors. Classicopia seeks to break down barriers between performers and audience through brief discussions of each composer on their programs and by promoting a relaxed and informal atmosphere at concerts in order to encourage new concert-goers to enjoy the energy of the performances and the spirit of community and camaraderie. Founder and President Dr. Daniel Weiser has been bringing outstanding musicians to perform as part of chamber music concerts in the Upper Valley for over 15 years. Dr. Weiser leads the concerts as the "guide" to the music - enhancing the musical experience for new concert-goers and pros alike.

On August 12, Dr. Weiser and guest violinist Dr. Timothy Schwarz led a masterclass for several Piano Prodigies students in Hanover. Congratulations to **Gala Shea, Rei Huston, Yumi Drescher, Nicole Suckow, and Riley Chin** (violin/UVMC).

Featured Student: Gala Shea



What is it about piano/music that you love? I love telling a story through the music.

What is the hardest challenge you face in practicing? Figuring out a new piece!

How do you overcome it? I work on it by doing it little by little.

What is your favorite practice tip? Practice slowly and take it a bit at a time. Try practicing one hand at a time.

What is your favorite piece you have played so far (and why)? The Legend of Madrid (Faber). It's makes you move to the music!

What is your dream piece? I want to learn Fur Elise by Beethoven!

What is your proudest accomplishment in piano? I'm proud of learning to read music and being in level 3B (I started lessons in January 2020).

What are your career goals? Horse rider and pianist!

Featured Student: Dash Wooten



What is it about piano/music that you love? I love hearing cool harmonic combinations, and mastering difficult songs. Piano brings me joy, and also to those I share music with.

What is the hardest challenge you face in practicing? I believe that the hardest challenge about the piano is patience. Patience is key in everything, but in piano, I think patience can really impact your practicing and, consequently, how you play.

What is your favorite practice tip? PATIENCE. With a lot of patience you can try and play challenging pieces... and even if you never learn them perfectly, you can still feel good about it. Without patience none of that would be possible.

What is your favorite piece you have played so far (and why)? My favorite piece currently is a piece called "Ode to Orcas", it is a piece that has the beginning of Ode to Joy but with a weird twist and then the up and down dipping of an orca in water. That is part of why I like it.

What is your dream piece? I don't really have a dream piece, I just try and pick pieces I enjoy and then stick to the process until I see it through. *(continued on next page)*

What is your proudest accomplishment in piano? I think my greatest accomplishments in piano are when I hit the point of when a piece becomes really and truly fun, as well as when I go back to a piece I had played months ago, and I can still remember it!

What are your career goals? As a kid I always thought being an architect would be really awesome, and I'm still interested in that pathway. Maybe also being a jazz artist on the side.

Upcoming Events

I hope to offer several small group and performance opportunities for students this Fall. These will be announced by email!

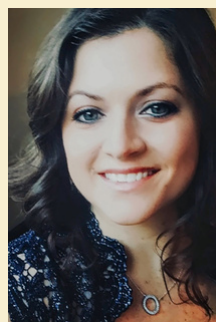
I invite you to attend concerts that I will be performing locally. As of now, we are planning for these to take place with a physical audience - we are also looking into the possibility of streaming the concertS.

Saturday, September 18 at 4:00pm: Cecylia Barczyk (cello) and Elizabeth Borowsky (piano)

First Congregational Church - Lebanon

Weekend of October 1-3: Jessica Deskin (voice) and Elizabeth Borowsky (piano)

Locations and times TBA. Check www.Classicopia.org



COVID 2.0

It has been so exciting to be able to resume work together in person for those who choose this option! The option for us work together in person is based on mutual trust and respect - I ask that you take this to heart.

- Do not come to the studio if you are sick or have been exposed to someone who has been exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (including common cold symptoms).
- Wash your hands (the sink is down the hallway) or use the hand sanitizer (provided in the studio) prior to the start of the lesson. It is recommended that you use hand sanitizer after the lesson as well.
- Students (and any other visitors to the studio) who have not been vaccinated must wear a face mask during the entirety of the lesson. Students who have been vaccinated may remove their face mask so long as the CDC designates regional community transmission as Low or Moderate.

Piano Prodigies is committed to a safe and comfortable environment for all students. I will be exercising caution and adjusting as needed according to public health guidelines. Thank you for your help in keeping our community healthy!

Violin, Viola, Cello, & Piano Lessons

Do you know someone (child or adult) looking for violin, viola, cello, or piano lessons? Although I currently have a waitlist Piano Prodigies, as many of you know, I come from a family of accomplished professional musicians and my siblings and mom have openings in their private studios! Online lessons, with the possibility of occasional in-person lessons when they are in the area!



Prof. Cecylia Barczyk - CELLO and BEGINNER PIANO*

Specializes in advanced cello (great for teens seeking performance and competition preparation, and professionals seeking continuing education). Also available for elementary piano lessons - piano students will be invited to transfer to Piano Prodigies when they have reached the intermediate level.

- 50+ years of professional experience in cello and piano
- 38 years of teaching undergraduate and graduate cello students at Towson University
- Artistic Director: Intermuse International Music Institute
- Website: www.CecyliaBarczyk.com / Email: cbarczyk@towson.edu



Dr. Emmanuel Borowsky - VIOLIN & VIOLA

Dedicated and detail-oriented teacher, very patient and encouraging. Equally comfortable with young kids, teens and adult students.

- 20 years of professional experience as soloist, chamber musician, and teacher (doctorate from University of Maryland College Park)
- Violin/Viola Faculty at Dickinson College and Towson University.
- Founder: Grace Albert Strings (<http://www.gracealbertstrings.com/>)
- Website: www.EmmanuelBorowsky.com / Email: violineb@gmail.com



Dr. Frances Borowsky - CELLO

Passionate teacher, great for beginning adult students and early intermediate through early advanced teens!

- 15 years of professional experience as soloist, chamber musician, and teacher (doctorate from University of Maryland College Park)
- Cello Faculty at Lebanon Valley College
- Website: www.FrancesBorowsky.com / Email: fgborowsky@gmail.com

Help Wanted!

Students and Parents - are you interested in helping me run this newsletter? Please contact me - I would LOVE to have you be part of this.

Email me at:

info@pianoprodigies.com

