



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

TYLER ANNE O.

"Tyler's cheery disposition is contagious!", says Tyler Anne's piano instructor Brooke Balbuena. Tyler always comes to lessons prepared. She makes an effort to ensure she has her: music, pencil, folder, and practice chart at every lesson. Tyler is quick to identify the areas where she requires more focus (ie. reading notes in the bass clef), and approaches the challenge "head on." This type of positive approach will help her work through specific challenges and contribute to her growth as a young musician. Brooke says, "While Tyler is a beginner student, she is successfully playing repertoire that is increasingly difficult. She is a joy to teach and an inspiration as she improves steadily." Great job, Tyler Anne!



Instructor Corner

(Just Slightly) Beyond the Basics: Music Happens... in a Context!

Composers and songwriters do not create music in a vacuum, and, it is up to you, the performer, to play it as intended while adding your own personal style. Understanding the parameters in which the composer created music can help you learn how to (appropriately) perform it. Sound tricky? It's really not! Try asking some basic questions as it applies to the music you're studying. The answers may help you define your interpretation and help you understand why certain music sounds a particular way.

Here are a few questions you can ask about any piece of music to help get you started:

- Who was the composer?
- Was he/she famous or relatively unknown?
- What motivated the composer to write music in the first place?
- When and where was it written?
- What culture is represented by the music?

Let's go a bit further... perhaps you are a voice student working on a song from a musical. Are you familiar with the musical's plot? Do

you know what situation the character is in when singing a particular song or why they might feel a certain way during a song?

Or maybe you're a beginner piano student working through a lesson book. Are the pieces you're learning folksongs or are they excerpts from famous masterworks?

There are limitless questions you can ask, and I encourage each of you, regardless of your (or your child's) experience level, to strive to understand the composer's influences and intent. After all, music happens... in a context! Best wishes in your discoveries!

-Brooke Balbuena
Piano Instructor

2014
SPRING RECITAL

SAMA Spring Recital - LOL Comedy Club
Sunday, May 4th. Sign up available in studio or
online at samusicacademy.com/recital-sign-up/

