

SAMA MONTHLY

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— INSTRUCTOR CORNER — TRACKING PROGRESS IN MUSIC LESSONS

As teacher, I sometimes get asked by curious parents, "*How can I make sure my child is making consistent progress in lessons?*" My solution for this is simple - make sure your student tracks their progress at home! If a student tracks their progress, they, as well as their parents, will always have idea of how they are improving from week to week.

Music students, to get a good idea of how well you're doing in lessons, as well ensure consistent progress, try this:



ADD A "START DATE" TO YOUR MUSIC



Always keep track of when you started a new piece by adding a "start date" at the top of your sheet music. This will keep you from accidentally spending 6 months on a piece that could easily be mastered in a few weeks.

KEEP A METRONOME LOG



If your daily practice includes technique exercises (I call them "warm-ups"), make sure to keep track of your tempos using a metronome, and strive to execute them easily at a faster tempo each week. This will ensure your finger dexterity improves from week to week, and your ability to play music at faster tempos will be less of a challenge as you continue lessons from week to week.

RECORD YOURSELF PERFORMING REGULARLY



In addition to the recordings that are made at SAMA recitals, be sure to keep a collection of video clips of yourself performing your current piece at least once a month. Thanks to smartphones, making a high quality recording of yourself has never been easier, so be sure to set practice time aside monthly (or weekly) to record a performance video. These work great for motivation, since you can usually notice improvements in your musicianship as the weeks and months go by.

Incorporate these three easy tasks into your practice routine, and you'll be amazed at the progress you will make in just a few short weeks.

-Jake Ramirez
SAMA Guitar Instructor
President & Founder of Guitar San Antonio Inc.

REMINDERS:

- RBC Piano Recital 8/15
- Back-to-School Recital 8/16

RECITAL CHECKLIST

- ☐ Practice
- ☐ Performance Attire
- ☐ Bring Sheet Music
- ☐ Introduce Yourself
- ☐ Introduce Your Piece
- ☐ Take a bow

*Performers: Please arrive 20 mins before your scheduled recital time.

IT'S A BOY!

Congratulations to piano instructor Mark Campbell and his wife on the birth of Christian William Docerus Campbell!



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