



Recital Etiquette

In preparing for the Spring Recital there are a few universal rules of etiquette we should all consider...

Performers

Please...

- **Have your pieces well prepared.** It is a privilege to play in the recital. Students are expected to work hard and do their best at polishing their music in the days leading up to the performance. All repertoire should be in performance shape at least two weeks before the recital.
- **Perform the pieces prior as much as possible for friends and family.** You can't get enough experience playing in front of people. Your body and mind react differently than it does in your private practice or lesson.
- **Dress your best.**
Suggested attire for girls: dress in a nice dress or skirt and avoid flip flops if you can. Be careful of your shoes girls; thick heeled and soled shoes may cause difficulties with pedaling. It is important to practice your recital pieces in the shoes you intend to wear prior to the recital. As the audience often watches your hands, refrain from extravagant nail polish or other distracting items like bracelets and rings. Please no strapless dresses; attire should be fully covering and modest. If wearing a dress, the bottom of the dress should come no higher than the top of the knee. Long dresses or below the knee are preferred. If you do not own a dress or skirt that follows these guidelines you may wear nice dress pants/khaki and a dressy top.
Suggested attire for boys: dress pants with a nice button-down shirt, sweater, or jacket, and dress shoes. Ties are optional. Khaki pants and knit shirts should not be the first choice but are acceptable if that is all you have. Jeans, t-shirts and tennis shoes are not acceptable.
- **Take a shower and come clean ☺** but try to avoid strong colognes and perfumes.
- **Remember to bring all your books,** even if the pieces are memorized – just in case!
- **Arrive early.** Please come 30 minutes before the recital begins so we can get everyone situated and run through the motions. The doors will open 10-15 minutes before the recital begins for families to enter.
- **Do your best and keep going!** If you make a mistake during a performance, keep going and finish your piece; normally, no one even notices!
- **Bow or curtsey at the end of your performance.** You do not need to get up and bow after each piece but simply look at the audience, smile, nod, acknowledging their applause. Once you finish all your pieces you should stand at the front of the piano and take a final bow.

Audience

Please...

- **Dress as if you are attending something important.**
- **Invite family and friends.** There is plenty of seating for anyone who wishes to attend.
- **Use good judgment** when allowing younger children to attend the recital.
- **Be on time.** Plan on arriving 10-15 minutes prior to get yourself situated.
- **Turn off all electronic devices.** Even phones set on vibrate can be a distraction.
- **Refrain from taking pictures during the performance.** You will have the opportunity to take pictures of your student at the piano after the recital has concluded. Pictures taken during a recital are very distracting to both the performers and the audience. The click or beep of a camera shutter or the flash of a light can have a devastating impact so please be considerate.
- **Consider others when videotaping.** If you would like to videotape your student's performance,* please do so from the rear of the recital hall, behind the audience, so as to not distract those trying to watch and enjoy the performance.

**Please note that under copyright laws of the US, videotaping of other students without the permission of the parent/guardian is forbidden.*

- **Refrain from creating distractions** such as gum chewing, whispering, and program shuffling. Food and drinks in the room is prohibited.
- **Stay for the duration of the recital** even if your student is the first one up. If it is absolutely necessary to enter or leave the room during the performance, only do so during applause, moving quickly and quietly. It is expected that those who need to leave for any reason will give notice of such prior to the day of the recital.
- **Give enthusiastic and encouraging applause for all students after each piece**, they have worked hard all year! If the piece is a group of pieces then do not clap in between. Sometimes it can be confusing to know when to applaud. Here are some tips:

Applause after every individual piece **except** when it is made of several smaller pieces put together such as in a "Suite" or "Sonata", where there are multiple movements. If the pieces have the same composer and/or if the pieces are numbered, that generally indicates you do not applaud between each one. When in doubt, wait for someone else to start the applause. If someone begins to applaud where they normally shouldn't, it is better to join in and give enthusiastic applause than timid and half-hearted applause. 😊 The performer will still acknowledge.

You would NOT applaud between each of these pieces:

Sonata in C
I. Allegro
II. Largo
III. Presto