



THE ALLEGRETTO™

The Newsletter of the International Piano Academy of China™

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CALENDAR



IPAC at Shunyi™ Midterm Concert

Friday, April 20, 2012, 7:30 pm

IPAC at Shunyi™ Final Concert

Friday, January 22, 2012, 7:30 pm

At Beijing International Bilingual Academy, Shunyi

IPAC™ Summer Session registration begins

Monday, June 11, 2012

Amati Music Festival 2012

July 15-19 in New York | August 5-19 in Beijing

IPAC™ Intensive Piano Training for Kaoji At Jiang Jie Piano School (Yayuncun)

Qing Ming Session: April 2 – 6, 2012

Labor Day Session: April 27 – May 1, 2012

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ARTICLE

Early Childhood Music Education

By Tara Hofmeister, IPAC™ Artistic Director

The beginning of a child's music education can change his or her life. It is ideal to start at the earliest possible age. To give children an edge in their traditional lessons and even in their careers as professional musicians (if that's the path they choose), they can start with group classes geared toward younger children as early as two years of age. Eurhythmics classes teach the fundamentals of music through listening, reacting through movement, and singing.

Every student is different, so when a child is ready to sit and absorb information for at least thirty minutes, it is time for them to start individual traditional instrumental lessons. They also need to be ready for daily practice. The exact age varies from student to student. Some students will be ready at about four years old and others won't be ready until around seven years old. For parents who are unsure, schedule a trial lesson and see how the child handles the lesson. To a point, it is true to say that "it's never too late to learn," but with each passing year, the later a student begins lessons, they will have to work much harder throughout their development and even into their professional career if they choose to pursue music.

Finding a good teacher is crucial, even from the very first lesson. One of the most difficult things to do is to break bad habits and relearn new ways to do things, and many bad habits can develop while studying with the wrong teacher. First of all, do research: How much experience does the teacher have? Which age groups and levels does the teacher teach? What have the teacher's students accomplished? Chemistry is also essential. Students and teachers must get along well and be comfortable with each other in order for the best learning to occur. Students need to feel comfortable enough to be completely honest with their teacher in order for the teacher to know exactly how to help the student. Chemistry between teacher and parent is also important. Parents and teachers also need to be comfortable enough with each other to discuss any relevant aspect that may help the student learn.

It is essential for children to learn correctly from the very beginning. When they start with eurhythmics classes, they are at an advantage and will excel more when they are older. They will enjoy learning and practicing since music is a natural part of their lives and has been a natural way for them to express themselves for so many years.



Jaime Lee Yu, age 6, taking a piano lessons from Tara Hofmeister.

CONCERT RECOMMENDATIONS

[Ai Fulan Bavi Plays Debussy Piano Music](#) – April 18, 2012, 19:00 – Forbidden City Concert Hall

[Jacques Depres, Piano](#) – April 27, 2012, 19:30 – Forbidden City Concert Hall

[Russell Sherman, piano](#) – April 28, 2012 – National Center for the Performing Arts



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



Artur Schnabel is an Austrian pianist who was considered a “musician” more than a “pianist.” He studied with one of the greatest teachers, Theodor Leschetizky. He was the first to record the complete Beethoven piano sonatas. His interpretations are wonderfully original! As with many pianists of his time, Schnabel also composed.

Beethoven Rage over a Lost Penny, Op. 129: <http://www.tudou.com/programs/view/Oa0YfrD-KLM/>

Beethoven Sonata Op. 109: <http://www.tudou.com/programs/view/M2ivKfKc0ks/>

Beethoven Sonata Op. 111: <http://www.tudou.com/programs/view/6aYBGR4N5FI/>

The Allegretto™

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