

**Piano Studio of  
GILYA HODOS, D.M.A., N.C.T.M.**

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Dear Students and Parents:

August 2011

I hope you have all had a restful and relaxing summer and are feeling rejuvenated for the fall music semester. I have been working hard all summer to create a stimulating and motivating curriculum this fall.

Our recorded CD's were a terrific hit! I have gotten wonderful feedback from both parents and students and as a result, we will be continuing with this dynamic program. I am happy to reuse the memory cards that many of you sent in last year. If you are a new student or did not send one in last year, then you **must** bring in a 2GB SD memory card (the type that goes in your camera) for us to use. Please do **NOT** send in a smaller amount of memory (i.e. 1 GB), as these do not contain sufficient space for our purposes.

Our **Winter Recital** will be held on **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at Jacobs Music**: 1718 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia. Please be sure to mark your calendars accordingly; I know that December is a busy month!

The Philadelphia Orchestra's program "Beyond The Score" will be present Edward Elgar's *Enigma Variations* on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. This multimedia presentation will put this magnificent piece into historical context by exploring details of the composer's life that influenced this work's creation. **Group Ticket prices are: \$26 and must be purchased by September 16<sup>th</sup>**. Please email me immediately if you are interested in attending this superb performance. Be sure to let me know how many tickets you will need.

We have an amazing theme this fall; one that I cannot take credit for, as it was suggested to me by one of my students. We will be looking at the "Music of Women Composers". For the past few months, I have been collecting all sorts of **fantastic** and innovative music by women composers – both from the past as well as currently composing. I cannot wait to share this repertoire with all of you!!!

In keeping with our musical theme, we will be devoting some of our Musicianship Classes to looking at the role of women composers throughout history. In addition, the students will prepare some posters with short biographies of inspiring women composers that they will present at the October group lesson for each other. We will also have the posters on display for the December recital when we will get to hear

the music of these composers. Perhaps we will be able to add the names of some students from our studio to the list of composers!

I am excited to announce that our studio will participate in the **National Achievement Program** sponsored by the MTNA (Music Teachers National Organization) this year. This goal-oriented program will be custom designed for each student. The culmination of this program will include a press release, group photo, and an MTNA award. Many of the studio activities already planned for this semester can be included in the criteria for this stimulating program! This is terrific opportunity to continue motivating and inspiring my students in their musical pursuits; I am excited to be a part of this program. There is a \$20 annual fee for participation in this program.

The studio will continue to participate in the outstanding and extremely cool theory website: [MusicLearningCommunity.com](http://MusicLearningCommunity.com). There have been several new “games” added to the website over the summer. Each student will have their own user ID and the studio password. This is truly an incredible online resource that is both fun and a terrific learning tool.

Our Musicianship Classes will cover a variety of topics this fall. The lesson dates are as follows: Sept. 18, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11. The Sept. and Oct. classes will be split into two groups and will meet from 12-1 and 1-2pm. The November 13<sup>th</sup> class will meet at the Bala Library from 1:45pm-3:30pm and the Dec. 11 class will run from 12-1:30 with everyone present simultaneously.

The September class will serve as an introduction to our semester theme and encompass “ The Role of Women Composers”. In preparation for the “Beyond The Score” concert, our October 9<sup>th</sup> class will include a discussion of the Theme and Variation form as well as an introduction to Elgar’s *Enigma Variations*. The November class will attend a fantastic, hands-on concert at the Bala Library by the outstanding Brazilian duo – *Minas*. They will be performing and teaching the audience Brazilian rhythms using a wide variety of drums that people will be able to use! This should be a **very** exciting hands-on concert! The December class will serve as our dress rehearsal for the Winter Recital.

We have an action-packed fall semester! So get your fingers limber and your ears on alert to the myriad of exciting and diverse musical sounds that we will be creating together!

All the best,  
Gilya

Dr. Gilya Hodos, NCTM  
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