

**Piano Studio of**  
**GILYA HODOS, D.M.A., N.C.T.M.**  
**Vice President, PA Music Teachers Assoc.**

26 Blancoyd Road  
Merion Station, Pennsylvania 19066  
(610) 667-4548  
ghodos@yahoo.com



Dear Parents and Students:

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Thank you for such a memorable and outstanding year! We have reached many musical milestones in the studio this year. I am very proud to see two graduating seniors- Aviva Gomberg and Stephen Moylan, complete their high school musical studies with me. It has been a joy to watch their growth and development. I wish them both much success and fulfillment in pursuing their dreams and hope that they will always keep music close to their hearts. Please come back and visit any time!!

A second milestone has been reached through our yearlong recording project. I am thrilled to be presenting you with a recorded narrative of your child's growth throughout the year. The number of recorded works varies greatly from student to student. Those students whose repertoire is shorter in length generally have more recorded pieces. The more advanced students may only have a few works recorded but they are significantly greater in duration and complexity. This has been a remarkable project that enabled the students to tangibly gauge their own progress and growth. In addition, these recordings provided us with instantaneous feedback during the lesson, enabling us to resolve many issues with greater clarity and immediacy. A special thanks to Stephan Crainic for the fantastic CD cover design. The disks playback on the computer and some CD players depending on the format.

In addition to our recording project, we also completed a collaborative venture that has been an unmitigated success! Bravi to all the collaborative pairs and their teachers. This has been a phenomenal learning experience for all those involved. Pianists had to learn how to accommodate their collaborative partners – whether it was watching a bow, listening to a breath, or following a visual cue. Everyone had a lot of fun and learned a tremendous amount about music.

Our other musical theme for the semester encompassed the American Musical genre. We began in January by comparing and contrasting the differences and similarities between Oratorios, Operas, and Musicals. We spent some fun time exploring a myriad of different musicals (thank you to everyone who loaned us music). We then chose from a variety of musicals to work on, both as solos and duets, which you will enjoy hearing at the recital. Bravi to all those students who participated in this fun project.

I am extremely excited to have joined the MusicLearningCommunity.com online resource this spring. This is a tremendous web-based musical instructional tool that can be customized to each individual student. I have introduced everyone to this site and given instructions on which activities are level appropriate. **I urge each of you to spend 10-15 minutes a day "playing" the games** at your assigned levels. Anyone who has forgotten his/her level can feel free to call or email me.

As I am planning for the fall, I wanted to make everyone aware that there will be a small price increase of \$5 per lesson. This is the first lesson fee increase in two years. As always, I will be doing my best to create a stimulating, dynamic and challenging musical environment for all the fantastic musical talent in my studio.

A final milestone will be occurring in June as I am officially named as the President for the Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association. I am sure this will entail all sorts of adventures, but in the end, I hope this will be an opportunity to meet many new music teachers, glean new ideas and techniques from the outstanding music professionals we have throughout the state so that I may continue to stimulate and enrich the musical lives of my students.

It has been a pleasure working with all of you. I learn so much from each one of you and I deeply appreciate your commitment and perseverance in the pursuit of art, as well as your continued confidence and trust in me to musically educate your wonderful children.

All the best,

Gilya

Dr. Gilya Hodos, NCTM  
President Elect  
Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association