

# *Jeanette Winsor, NCTM*

## *Pianist, Winsor Piano Studio*

6317 Brynmawr Lane, Virginia Beach, VA 23464

<https://www.jeanettewinsor.com/>

(757) 424-4277

jeanettewinsor@cox.net

Cell: (614) 725-6746 (for last minute texting & if the power is out)

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### *FALL NEWSLETTER 2025*

Listed below are the various events available to my students. Students are encouraged to participate in as many of these events as they are comfortable doing. In the next month or so, we will plan which events each student wants to do. Check out the studio web site at <http://www.jeanettewinsor.com/> for calendar information and practice tips throughout the year.

**STUDIO RECITALS:** recitals will be 5:00, 6:00, 7:00 (adults only), and 8:00 (if needed). For the October recital, students may wear a costume. The fall semester dates are: Saturday, 9/27, Saturday, 10/25, Saturday, 11/22, and Saturday, 12/20.

**SOLO RECITALS:** Adult and high school students have the option of performing a solo recital at the studio and may invite their own audience (25 maximum). Printed programs and a reception after the recital will be provided.

**HYMN PLAYING FESTIVAL:** Students prepare 2 hymns (memory is not required) for a judge. This will occur on Sat. November 15<sup>th</sup> at Thalia Lynn Baptist Church in VB. The deadline for entry is Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> and the fee is \$12.

**HAROLD PROTSMAN PIANO COMPETITION:** Saturday, 11/22 at ODU.

**JUNIOR FESTIVAL:** This occurs February 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Marsh School of Music, Virginia Beach. Students accumulate points toward gold cups and receive a certificate and judging sheet. Entry and Gold Cup fees total \$8. The deadline is Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>.

**CITY-WIDE RECITALS:** Each participating teacher may enter 6 students. Each student is allowed to play one memorized piece. Families are invited and printed programs are provided. This year's fall recital is Sunday, 11/23, 2:30 at Coastal Virginia Unitarian/Universalist Church, Virginia Beach, and the spring one is

scheduled for Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 at Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norfolk.

**LEVELS OF PROGRESS:** This event will be held on Sat. & Sun., March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> at Jordan Kitt's (Sat.) & Marsh School of Music (Sun.), Virginia Beach. (If we get bumped from these locations, I will request ODU as our 2<sup>nd</sup> choice.) Students play 2 memorized pieces for a judge and receive a written comment sheet and certificate. The fee for this event is \$15.

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS RECITAL:** This will take place at ODU on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Each participant plays one piece. The deadline is 5/1.

**HONORS RECITAL AUDITIONS:** This is a competition for placement in the *Honors Recital* held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at ODU. The auditions will be held at the Marsh School of Music, Virginia Beach, Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Students competing must play *Levels of Progress* at a minimum of Level 4 and need my recommendation.

**GUILD AUDITIONS:** Students prepare from 2 - 20 memorized pieces to play for a judge. This is held in late June (after school is out – I will request a Sat.) at The Marsh School of Music, Virginia Beach. We also can request the ODU Center – those dates are June 5-8, 2026. Students receive a written commentary, grade, certificate and pin. They may also work for special awards such as the 5 year pin, 10 year pin, High School Diploma, Sonatina Medal, and Bach Medal. Fees vary based on what level and how many pieces the student plays.

**GUILD COMPOSITION COMPETITION:** Students may enter an original composition to be judged. Fees vary based on the length of the piece (\$30-60). The submission deadline is Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**VMTA THEORY, SIGHT READING AND KEYBOARD TESTS:** Theory tests are held at ODU on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Sight reading and Keyboard Skills will be held at ODU, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. These require long preparation, so a decision needs to be made by early November. The fee for each test is \$15.

**EASTERN DISTRICT AUDITIONS:** This is a competition held at CNU on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Participants must have passed the required Theory and Sight Reading Tests. Winners at this district go on to the VMTA State Convention the following Oct./Nov. to compete at the state level. The fee for this event is \$18.

Dates, deadlines, registration chart and entry fees for these events will be in the *Winter Newsletter* and the studio web site. Feel free to discuss any of these events with me if you are interested in more information.

**LESSON FEES:** Starting 9/1, lesson fees for this school year are:

30 minutes - \$29	75 minutes - \$70
45 minutes - \$43	90 minutes - \$87
60 minutes - \$57	

Fees are normally due the first lesson of the month for the month, though other arrangements may be made. If I have been given a 24-hour notice, lessons may be missed without financial responsibility. Make-ups will be scheduled at the convenience of both of us. The 24-hour notice is necessary so I can have time to utilize your time for a make-up time for someone else or to schedule a rehearsal. (Special consideration is given for sudden illness.) There is a PayPal button on the studio website homepage for those who prefer that method.

The 60 minute (and longer) lessons are designed for the serious adult or high school student. 45 minute lessons are for the serious middle school student and 30-minute lessons are for the beginning student. If you have a question concerning the length of your lesson, feel free to ask. I expect students taking longer lessons to practice longer (next paragraph). These students will make more progress.

A common question is *"How often and how much should a piano student practice?"* My favorite answer is ***"only the days you plan to eat and preferably for the length of your lesson"***. (If you prefer, only the days which end in "y" also works for me!) I am aware that it is not always feasible to achieve this goal: try for a minimum of 5 days a week with your eye on all 7. I am also more interested in achieving results than clock watching. If you practice smarter, you will be able to accomplish more in less time! Check your notebook for practicing tips.

***PRACTICE CHART:*** My ultimate practicing goal is for the intrinsic satisfaction in producing music to drive the student to practice. This often takes several years to become apparent to the student. In the interim, I have an extrinsic incentive for those who are interested. The students participating will be required to fill out a weekly practice chart. 5 days minimum are required each week in order to count (5 days = 5 points, 6 days = 6 points, 7 days = 7 points). 16 weeks of the 18 week-semester will be counted. (This allows for illness, out-of-town trips, crazy school schedule, etc.) A chart of all participants is kept on the studio bulletin board. At the end of the first semester, students who have earned at least 5 points every week will receive a small trophy. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophies will be awarded to those with the top points. Students have a choice of a trophy, studio shirt, or a composer statuette. A form will be sent home at the end of the semester so each student may make his/her choice. The Fall Practice Chart will start the Tuesday after Labor Day.

***Post-Pandemic COVID-19 PRACTICES:*** students have the option for face-to-face lessons at the studio or continue online for as long as you wish.

1. For face-to-face lessons, I will ask students to do the following:
  - a. Do not come for your lesson if you have a cough, fever, or have tested positive for COVID. You may have an online lesson if you wish.
  - b. On entering the studio, use the hand sanitizer provided.

- c. The sitting room is open for family members to come in and wait on their student.
2. What I will continue before & after each lesson:
  - a. Wipe down the keys with Clorox wipes.
  - b. Use hand sanitizer.
  - c. Run air purifier in the studio.
  - d. If either I or Mr. Winsor have a cough, fever, or have tested positive for COVID, I will cancel your face-to-face lesson . If I cancel, I will let you know if an online lesson is feasible that day.
  - e. I will be touching the student for tension and position checks again. Let me know if you do NOT want me touching you or your student.
3. Online lessons will still be available for those who prefer it, or if either of us has a cold, or if you are uneasy with the weather.
4. **COMPUTER TABLET PROGRAMS:** I have investigated some music theory and ear training programs for computer tablets in the AppStore. If you are waiting on your sibling and want something to do, this would be great! You may use your tablet.

**Flashnote Derby:** \$4.99

**Blue Note Music Flash Cards:** \$3.99

**Piano Notes:** Learn to Read Music: \$2.99

**Music Tutor (Sight Reading):** free – Music Tutor Plus Upgrade: \$2.99

**Nota** – Music Tool for Piano – Chords & Scales Browser: Free – in app purchases

**Piano Game** – Music Flash Cards: free

**Piano Ear Training:** free

**Download a metronome app to your device** – there are several free options.

**There are several music reading apps, including ForScore and IMSLP.** These store your pdf's and can be organized by category or performance. You can play from your iPad.

Please let me know if you run into a music education app that is useful. Android users, I am sure there are similar options in the Google Store app.

**MUSIC:** I usually purchase any music needed by a student and then the student reimburses me. I will give you a warning if a large amount needs to be spent. Please let me know if you do not care for this arrangement.

**REACHING ME:** I do not answer the telephone during lessons or rehearsals. I am at TCC or GSA during the morning/early afternoon hours. You may contact me via e-mail: [jeanettewinsor@cox.net](mailto:jeanettewinsor@cox.net) or text to 614-725-6746. E-mail is regularly checked early every morning and late at night. My cell is checked often. You may also try to contact me on the house phone: 757-424-4277, but you are likely to reach Mr. Winsor or the answering machine. (Please, no phone calls on the house phone before 8:00 AM or after 10:00 PM. E-mail & text 24/7.)

**PARKING:** Please park in our driveway. If you are staying for the lesson, try to park on the left (my side + closest to the door). Mr. Winsor parks on the right side of the garage. If the left side is blocked when you come in, go ahead and park on the right. (Mr. Winsor has keys to both cars!) During recitals, just park up the whole driveway, not worrying about blocking both sides. Please try to limit street parking to in front of our house.

**PLEASE WALK IN:** When it is your lesson time (or whenever you have a child in my house), you may just walk in without ringing or knocking. That way, I do not interrupt the lesson I am just finishing.

**SITTING ROOM LIGHTS & RESTROOM:** If you come in to wait on your student, feel free to turn on sitting room lights to serve your needs (you already have permission). You also have permission to use the restroom without asking.

**WEATHER:** If school is out due to snow or hurricane, use your own judgement on whether to come to your lesson. Since there is a such wide range of what people consider safe driving conditions and varying distances for people to come, each needs to make that decision. I will be here for those who wish to come. Make-up times will be found for those who opt to not come, or you may opt for an online lesson. (I learned to drive in northern Ohio and am not going to make safe winter driving condition decisions for others!)

**GLOVES:** When the weather turns cold (45 F and below), please wear gloves to your lesson. Even young muscles become stiff when cold and it can take half of your lesson to warm up. (Expect to be given a hard time if you come in without them!)

**PEDAL RUG:** Students who are in their second year and higher of study will use the damper and soft pedals frequently. Consider putting a throw-rug under the pedals if the piano is on carpeting as over time, the heel will leave a worn spot on your carpet if left unprotected.

**SHOES FOR PEDALING:** The ideal shoe for successful pedaling is one with a thin sole. Please keep this in mind when purchasing dress shoes. The thick soles do not allow you to feel what is going on with the pedal and results in blurred sloppy pedaling.

**CANCELLED DATES:** I will not be teaching on the following dates this semester: Monday, Sept. 1 (Labor Day), Saturday Sept. 13 (playing a NACUSA concert at CVUU in Va. Beach), Saturday, 11/1 (playing a NACUSA concert at CVUU in Va. Beach at 1:00, Thurs., Nov. 6 – Sat., Nov.5 (VMTA Conference at GMU – performing in the Teacher Recital and presenting), Wed., Nov. 26 - Sat., Nov. 29 (Happy Thanksgiving!!), 12/13 – VBC dress rehearsal & concert, and over the Christmas holidays Dec. 24 – 26 and Dec. 30-Jan 1. I will keep you posted as other dates come up for Hardwick Chamber Ensemble concerts.

**PRACTICING FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS** by Harvey Snitkin is geared for students age 9 and up. Students may borrow it for one week or read it here while waiting for siblings. Students who read it will receive a certificate as well as several practice tips. (It is available at *Barnes & Noble*.)

**THE YOUNG MUSICIAN'S SURVIVAL GUIDE** by Amy Nathan is geared for the high school musician and may be borrowed for a week or read here. Several top artists and high school music students give their tips on how they practice. (It is also available at *Barnes & Noble* - Oxford University Press - \$9.95.)

**THE MAGIC TRIANGLE:** Successful music study consists of three parts - the student, the parents, and the teacher. It takes all three parts working together to achieve a successful musical experience.

*The student needs to practice daily. Most find it is best to set aside a regular time each day and make that sacred. Take a hard look at your schedule and see when you can get to the piano. It does not have to be the same time everyday. If you start school later in the morning, before school practice might be a good solution for you. The student should be responsible for bringing all music and the assignment notebook to the lesson as well as completing all the assignments.*

*The parents can help by showing interest and enthusiasm for their student's musical accomplishments. Please make sure your student has a good instrument which is kept in good repair and see that there is good lighting, a comfortable stool, and uninterrupted practice time. Remind your student to practice and if asked, please sit with the younger student during practice sessions early in the week. Even if you do not read music, you can be very helpful by reading the assignment notebook. Please get your student to lessons on time, to make the most of lesson time and try to be prompt with pick-up times. (Sometimes I need to leave immediately for a rehearsal/concert.)*

*The teacher should be available to discuss lessons with the parents. Parents are always welcome to stay for a lesson or to set a time to discuss the student's progress. I strive to set long and short term goals for each student. It is my job to recognize effort and to try to motivate and inspire each student. It is also my job to stay informed of new music and ideas. I accomplish this through attending conferences, workshops, reading periodicals and books, and by practicing and performing myself. I am the pianist for the Hardwick Chamber Ensemble and the Virginia Beach Chorale. I am active in several music teacher organizations:*

Tidewater Music Teachers Forum (past president), Scherzo Music Club (past president), Virginia Music Teachers Assoc. (past president), MTNA Southern Division Competitions Chair (past), and am certified through VMTA, MTNA and the National Piano Guild. I also give lectures and workshops on piano pedagogy topics and adjudicate competitions.

Hopefully all three of us working together will produce a musically successful year.

## *Music Quotes*

*It's easy to play any musical instrument: all you have to do is touch the right key at the right time, and the instrument will play by itself. – Johann Sebastian Bach*

*Take it for granted from the beginning that everything is possible on the piano, even when it seems impossible to you, or really is so. – Ferruccio Busoni*

*If I don't practice for one day, I know it; if I don't practice for two days, the critics know it; if I don't practice for three days, the audience knows it. – Ignacy Jan Paderewski*

*Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. – Thomas Alva Edison*

*Amateurs practice until they get it right! Professionals practice until they can NEVER get it wrong! – Joe Madden*

*Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new. – Albert Einstein*

*Only practice the days you eat! Jeanette Winsor*

*Fast practice = slow progress. Slow practice = fast progress. No practice = no practice. Jeanette Winsor*

## WINSOR PIANO STUDIO

### Fall 2025 Calendar

#### *August*

Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> - lessons resume

#### *September*

Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> - Labor Day - no lessons

Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> - NACUSA Mid-Atlantic concert at CVUU, VB, 1:00 - playing music by Mr. Winsor

Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> - in studio recitals at 5:00, 6:00, 7:00 (adults only) or 8:00 if needed.

#### *October*

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> - Hallowe'en recital - in studio recitals at 5:00, 6:00, 7:00 (adults only) or 8:00 if needed - you may wear your costume if it does not impede your playing

#### *November*

Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> - Hardwick Chamber Ensemble will participate in the NACUSA Mid-Atlantic Concert at CVUU in VB - 1:00 pm.

Thursday, November 6 - Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> - VMTA Conference at GMU

Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> - Hymn Playing Festival - Thalia Lynn Baptist Church, VB

Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> - in studio recitals at 5:00, 6:00, 7:00 (adults only) or 8:00 if needed.

Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> - TMTF Student Recital at CVUU in VB - 2:30

Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Harold Protsman Piano Competition at ODU

Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> - Thanksgiving break

#### *December*

Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> - Virginia Beach Chorale Concert - 7:00 pm - Sandler Center, VB

Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> - Christmas recitals - in studio recitals at 5:00, 6:00, 7:00 (adults only) or 8:00 if needed.

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> - Christmas break

Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup> - 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary - no lessons

Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> - Wednesday, January 1 - no lessons