



## PERFORMANCE POLICY

- Two performances per semester (for winter and spring semesters) are required for children under the age of 16.
- Particular sensitivity is given to those students with performance anxiety. Both the gritting-your-teeth and avoidant approaches can leave anxiety unresolved, if not worse. Attention is focused on finding successful ways to make nerves an ally, not an oppressive enemy.
- Performance settings and audiences are informal for beginners. Suggested settings become progressively more formal as one approaches the advanced proficiency level.
- After two semesters without performing, a student will be placed on “hold” with no punitive consequences, but lessons will then focus on performance desensitization rather than on repertoire and new technique.

### **Suggested Audience and Settings**

Beginning level, focus on family members and friends:

- Extended family members and friends in one's home
- Invited sleep-over guests
- Play for pets, with a recording device

Intermediate level, focus on small public gatherings:

- A nursing home
- If attending church, a children's service performance
- School music concerts
- Informal events for area businesses (i.e., an open-mic performance at a coffee house)

Advanced level, focus on juried and public performances:

- All-State music competitions
- Concerto competitions
- Weddings
- Birthday/Anniversary Serenades, other paid services “gigs”