



East Valley School of Music Newsletter



APRIL 2020

A Message from the Staff:

Hello Parents and Students,

The last month has been insane hasn't it? When we released our last newsletter, we had no idea that things were going to get as crazy as they've gotten! We hope that you are all taking the proper precautions and that everyone has remained safe so far!

We rolled out online lessons almost flawlessly, and we are SO excited to see so many students spending their time stuck at home to work on their craft. For the kids, I'm sure it's nice to have something to focus on.

All around us it seems, the world is going virtual, and we're having to grab on and figure it out or be left out of the progress. Originally, we weren't intending to release a newsletter this month, but just because the world has gone crazy, doesn't mean that we can't take a few minutes to focus on something else.

This newsletter is going to have some music content, including a challenge for your aspiring musicians, informational stuff, and some details about what's in store for EVSM soon. Additionally, we wanted to provide some local resources for families who may be in need during this time.

It's surely been quiet around here without all of the action! We are blessed to be able to continue to offer services, but we obviously prefer personal interaction over virtual.

We wish you all the very best during this time, and we look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces back in our school soon.

Musically yours,
EVSM Office

Announcements:

As you know, EVSM is currently closed to the public, but that doesn't mean we aren't hard at work!

We are still prepping for our Easter/Mother's Day Boutique, which has been moved to May 9th. We're hopeful that we will be back to business as usual by then. The office remains open to help with any scheduling needs, and to take care of any curriculum purchases to keep your students progressing in their studies.

FREE ONLINE TRIAL LESSONS

We're offering FREE trial lessons through the entire month of April! Now is the perfect time for you or someone you know to pick up a new instrument. Our instructors are having a lot of success with online lessons, and the kids are having a great time learning in a different way. With the restrictions on physical contact and venturing outside of our homes becoming stricter, it's the perfect time to pick up a hobby. Contact the office M-F from 2pm – 8pm and Sat from 10am – 4pm for more information on scheduling and availability to set up your trial lesson today!

APRIL'S MUSICAL MENTORSHIP

PIANO PRO TIP

BE FLEXIBLE!

Have you taken any amount of time to look at HOW you play the piano? Most beginning piano students apply too much pressure when practicing. This produces a loud sound, that isn't always pleasing to the ears, but more than that, it's physically difficult. It can cause cramping and soreness in your fingers and wrists, which will make it difficult to maintain a productive practice schedule.

To solve this problem, be flexible! Use a lighter touch. Instead of hitting the keys, which might be your instinct, let your hands glide over the keys softly and smoothly. Relaxing your hand makes it easier to control, so you can reach the far away keys a little faster.



VIOLINS

CARE AND KEEPING

As a beginner, you may be too worried about trying to learn your new instrument than you are about taking care of it, but have you thought about how one can effect the other? Here are a few tips for keeping your violin in good shape!

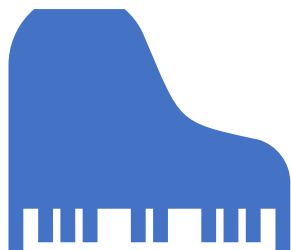


- Clean and wipe rosin off the strings and violin after every use. (This prevents the dust from sticking to your instrument and causing a sticky surface.)
- Avoid putting too much rosin on the bow hair. Putting too much can cause a harsher and more scratchy sound from the added friction.
- Clean the rosin off of the wood part of your bow after playing.
- NEVER use alcohol or solvents while cleaning your violin. They'll strip down the varnish. With consistent care, a soft dry cloth will get the job done.

EVSM M.U.S.I.C THEORY QUIZ

1. "M" is for "Mediant".

In a diatonic scale, each note is given a name. For instance, the first note of the scale is "tonic". Which position is the mediant?



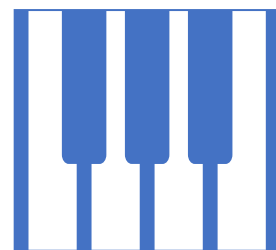
Second



Third



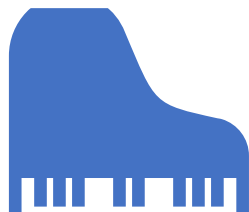
Fourth



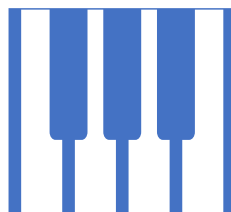
Fifth

2. "U" is for "Unison".

"Unison" is when EXACTLY two parts are playing notes at EXACTLY the same pitch and rhythm at the same time.



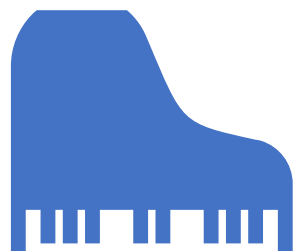
TRUE



FALSE

3. "S" is for "Stave" or "Staff".

Both terms describe a key part of sheet music. What is it?



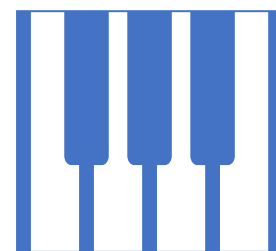
The symbol to indicate pitch (e.g. treble, bass)



The sharps or flats, if there are any



The two numbers, one on top of another

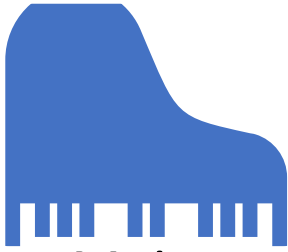


The five horizontal lines and four spaces

EVSM M.U.S.I.C THEORY QUIZ

4. "I" is for "Interval".

An interval is the distance between two notes. Which of the following does NOT describe a type of interval?



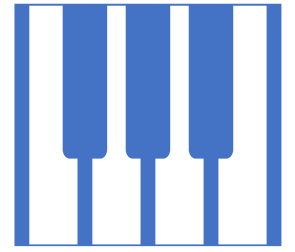
Major



Unequal



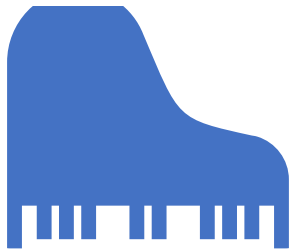
Fourth



Diminished

5. "C" is for "Cadence".

A cadence, fittingly, occurs at the end of a phrase, section, or piece of music. The chord progression "V-I" describes what type of cadence?



Imperfect



Perfect



Interrupted



Plagal

EVSM SOCIAL MEDIA

CHALLENGE!

CALLING ALL EVSM STUDENTS (AND STAFF!)

If we were attending lessons in person right now, you would all be busy traveling from room to room getting your performance practice in, playing for this person or that person, making sure your selected pieces are recital ready. It's one of the most exciting times of year around EVSM, because we get to see what the last year of lessons has taught you, and "Oooo" and "Ahhh" over how amazing you all are. While no official decisions have been made about whether or not graduation recitals are going to take place, many of you are still busy prepping and tirelessly practicing those recital pieces. Although we can't see you in person, we want to see what you're up to!

With the permission of an adult, take a video of practicing what you're working on right now, and post it to our Facebook page. Each student who takes the time to do this will receive a "limited edition" EVSM t-shirt. If you're tech savvy, drop our hashtags: #learnmusiclovemusic #EVSM #RecitalFromADistance

Take some time to step out of your comfort zone and share your talent with the world! Be sure to scroll through and give a "like" or words of encouragement to anyone else you see participating.

Social Distancing doesn't have to be boring or lonely!

We look forward to seeing what everyone is working on!

COVID - 19 RESOURCES

General Resources:

If you feel like you or someone you know could use assistance, but don't want to go hunting for the right link, visit <https://arizonatogether.org/>. This website has compiled all of the resources related to COVID – 19, that can benefit you whether you're an individual, or you're running a business.

Dialing 211 from your phone will give you the most up to date information regarding what's going on in Arizona, and where you can find other help and resources.

Food:

There are a number of school that are offering free meals to students while they are out of school. Please visit <https://www.azhealthzone.org/summerfood/> and enter your zip code for a list of schools and centers near you that are providing these sack lunches for students.

If you're in need of food, or a place to eat that is free/affordable, please visit <http://www.azfoodbanks.org/index.php/foodbank/>. Enter your zip code, check the box that best describes your need, and you'll be provided a list of places that can help.

If money is tight, and you're looking for a way to supplement your grocery budget, visit <https://des.az.gov/services/basic-needs/food-assistance/applying-nutrition-assistance/contact-des-regarding-nutrition> to apply for nutrition assistance during this difficult time.

Shelter:

A number of us have been laid off or had our hours reduced as a result of our workplace closing. If you are someone who has a significant reduction in income and are struggling to make your house payment, visit <https://housing.az.gov/save-our-home> to see if you're eligible for assistance with your mortgage.

If you rent instead of own, you've probably found that your fate lies in hands of your landlord. Some people in the valley have been lucky enough to have landlords that have chosen to forgive rent for April, but for those who haven't, you could be facing eviction. Even though the governor has mandated that no evictions can occur, it can be just as scary to fall behind on such a large bill. For help to prevent eviction and get your rent paid, reach out to <https://housing.az.gov/general-public/eviction-prevention-assistance>, where you can find frequently asked questions and instructions to apply.

How can you help?

If you're in the unique position to be able to help others, please do so! There are many elderly citizens who can't make it to grocery stores, or single moms who can't take all their kids to Walmart. If you know someone in this situation, reach out and offer to take them food or supplies.

Schools in the area are all providing meals for children up to the age of 18 right now on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at various locations. Donating food items to these causes will mean that more children can be fed each day. There are also a number of local area small business who are offering free lunch pickups for kids. Check in with them to see how you can help them keep more local children fed!

If you happen to be able to help monetarily, our city is taking donations to contribute to the local non-profits. You can do that at <https://forourcitychandler.org/i-want-to-help-1>.