



# SPRING PIANNO

NEWSLETTER 2020

BIRMINGHAM KEYBOARD ARTS CENTER  
Heather Byars, Director

## SPRING QUARTER SCHEDULE

March 2 - 6: Spring Lessons Begin. Tuition Installment #1 + Recital Fee Due.

March 23 - 27: **Spring Break. No Lessons.**

April 1 - 7: Tuition Installment #2 Due.

April 11: AMTA District Auditions. Birmingham-Southern College.

May 1 - 7: Tuition Installment #3 Due.

May 3: **Spring Recital.** 2 pm. Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

May 8: [Letter of Intent Due.](#)

May 9: AMTA State Auditions. University of Alabama.

May 11 - 15: Last Week of Spring Lessons.

May 18 - 22: Spring Makeup Week.

## SPRING RECITAL - May 3

Our Spring Recital will be held on Sunday, May 3, at 2 pm, at Episcopal Church of the Ascension. 1912 Canyon Rd, Vestavia Hills, AL 35216.

Students should dress for a special occasion. Performers may wear a costume the coordinates with their recital piece, if desired.

The church will be opened up for practicing at least thirty minutes before the performance begins. Plan to be in your assigned seat fifteen minutes before show-time. Please use the restroom *before* being seated. Students will not be permitted to leave during the performance. Recitals usually last about an hour.

Performers will sit in a reserved seat in the choir area behind the piano, in the order of their appearance in the program. After performing, my youngest students (4K, 5K, and 1st grade) will go to their parents in the audience for the duration of the recital because I'm unable to

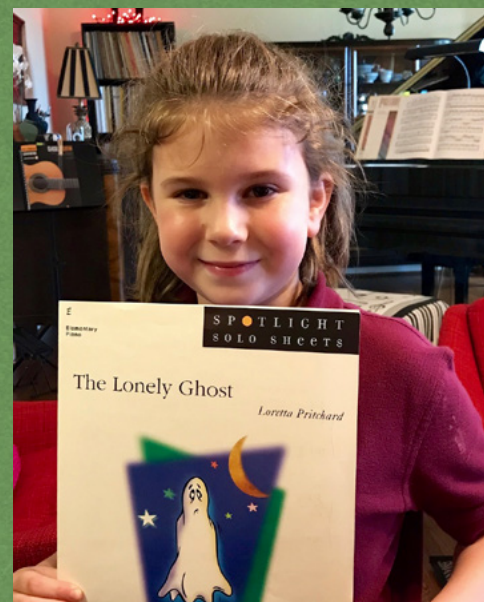
monitor wiggles and giggles while directing the program. Please remind all other performers that they are in full view of the audience and therefore need to be quiet and attentive for the duration.

There will be an award ceremony following the recital during which participation awards, AMTA certificates, and practice trophies will be presented.

At the beginning of the Spring Quarter, an \$8 per student recital fee is applied to tuition. This helps cover the facility expense, printing programs, awards, and purchasing trophies.

## COMPOSER SHOWCASE: Loretta Pritchard

On April 23, Ellis Piano will be presenting a showcase of Loretta Pritchard's piano compositions for our local music teacher's association. Loretta is a longtime friend of mine. She is one of the first people I met in the United States, 30 years ago. Caterina Botta will be performing her charming Halloween piece, *The Lonely Ghost*, and will help lead the singing of two praise songs. Mina Hu will be performing a lovely intermediate solo that Loretta composed especially for our studio, *Sunset Rose*.



## AMTA DISTRICT AUDITIONS

The Alabama Music Teacher's Association District Auditions are for piano students, age six through eighteen, and are held in April of each year. They are comprised of a Performance component of three pieces in contrasting style and a Theory component (scales, arpeggios, cadences, etc.) Students who receive an Outstanding rating in both Performance and Theory can progress on to the State level of this competition in May.

District Auditions will be held at Birmingham Southern University on April 11. Our district participants this year are Shambeau Das, Roshni Datta, Naomi Druxman, Mina Hu, Avery Kononchek, Maliha Mukherjee, Ishan Shah, Theo Simonton, and Veronica Zhang.

The State Auditions will take place at the University of Alabama on May 9. A handful of winners will be selected from State Auditions to participate in a Winner's Recital.

## SUMMER QUARTER SCHEDULE

June 22 - 26: Summer Lessons Begin. Tuition Installment #1 Due.

July 6 - 10: Tuition Installment #2 Due.

July 27 - 31: Last Week of Lessons.

August 3 - 7: Summer Makeup Week.

*The full calendar for the 2020-2021 school year is available on our web site [calendar page](#).*

## SUMMER QUARTER POLICY

The Summer Quarter will consist of six weeks of lessons plus the bonus week for make-up lessons. If absolutely necessary, during the Summer Quarter only, students may have the option of arranging their six lessons individually with me rather than having a

regular weekly lesson time. This flexibility will allow students to get fit their lessons around travel and summer camp schedules. Lessons will still need to be arranged with me during my regular working hours and within the dates specified for the Summer Quarter.

Please understand that, without payment, it isn't possible for me to reserve spaces in the studio. The studio maintains a waiting list of interested students. Some students remain on the list for a long time before they are able to begin study. Lesson times will be offered to these students immediately when they become available. Some families actually prefer to start in the summer. Students who have terminated their lessons are always welcome to return, but please know in advance that availability could not be guaranteed after an absence.

Written notification is required one month in advance of ending lessons. Students who fail to give the one month notice will be billed for the month or will forfeit their deposit. No refund will be given for tuition paid in advance. Please complete the [google form Letter of Intent](#) or print and return the final page of this newsletter to me by May 8.

# Letter of Intent 2020

**Due: May 8, 2020**

Summer Quarter: June 22 - August 7

You may sign this form digitally by clicking this link.

I will be continuing my piano lessons and will see you in the Summer Quarter.

I want to continue my lessons but I have a challenging scheduling problem to work around and need your help making a plan.

I would like to terminate my lessons. Please add me to the waiting list for a future opening in the studio. I understand that an opening can't be guaranteed after an absence.

I would like to terminate my lessons and have no plans to return in the future.

I can't attend any lessons during the Summer Quarter, but I plan to pay the Summer Quarter tuition before June 22, 2020, to reserve my space in the studio.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Birmingham Keyboard Arts Center**

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