

practice

THE GAME
OF
HAVING FUN

Let the games begin!

Yungling Piano Studio will host the 2010 Winter Piano Olympics beginning in February, 2010.



The Winter Games Are Here! Are You Ready to Have Fun?

Why Going For the Gold is So Much Fun

Studies show that when learning is fun, it usually is met with great enthusiasm, inspires creativity and spontaneity, and is lasting. Of course, when something is fun, it's just plain fun! And that's really why I host Piano Olympics at the Yungling Piano Studio.

I started Piano Olympics in the Summer of 2008 during the Summer Olympic Games in Beijing. I decorated my piano studio boards with the Olympic circles and a grid of 48 tasks required to be completed before receiving a prize! It was a success....and fun!

This year, I'm bringing more fun to the games than ever before. I've learned to remove the "boxes" from my presentations

and activities. I don't use grids with straight lines. Instead, I have a mountain with a ski-lodge and ski-lift as well as flag poles cascading down the mountain. I even have an adaptation of a Curling ice field for some special Music Theory Fun!

In order to get on the ski-lift, students complete musical tasks to a high standard. Each successfully completed task earns them access to the ski-lift to try a "Big Challenge". Successful students move on to the next event, those who still need more work must enter the ski-lift again and re-try the event. As well, students are required to take the ski-lift card home and may only participate if they remember to bring it to each lesson. (What a fun way to teach responsibility)

To keep an official air to our fun, I make Piano Olympics badges for students to wear

during the events. Everyone colors their name and decorates the badge to make it personal. Each student chooses an avatar (All Winter sports themed, of course) to move along the ski-slopes and Curling field as they progress from one challenge to the next.

At the end of the games, students will have learned and/or strengthened many new skills and they will have had fun doing it.

To sum up, every music teacher knows students need to learn scales, chords, key signatures, how to play level-appropriate rhythms, how to sight read.....and the list goes on. These tasks don't have to be tedious. In fact, they should be stimulating and engaging. And being playful is the way to make any subject accessible, fun and enjoyable. So let the games begin.

Mom & Dad: Do you know how to make practice fun?

🎵 2010

I like to help parents show their little ones how to have fun while practicing. The key to fun is making a GAME! Inspire a young child by playing the game of "how even and smooth can you play your song in 10 minutes?" or "how fast can you play this scale without mistakes in just 15 minutes of practice?" My favorite is to share some task you have and create a fun race. For example, "I'm going to try to read x amount of pages in my book in 15 minutes, how far can you get in your new song? Let them declare a goal and then set off to accomplish it. The best part: After each game, your child gets to practice performing by demonstrating their results. And just think of the fun you'll have showing your child how to practice with purpose and joy.