

## Guide to a Successful Recital Experience at Potomac Arts Academy

As a private music student at Potomac Arts Academy, you will have the opportunity to perform twice a year – in December and June – with the approval of your teacher. Please read through the following tips to ensure that you have a wonderful experience for your recital.

1. **Be Prepared** – Talk to your teacher at least one month before the recital to make sure you are ready to perform. Select music that you already know and will be comfortable performing.
2. **Secure your spot** – We have over 200 private music students each semester, so watching your inbox for the recital registration form is crucial. Talk to your teacher about their availability and fill out the form ASAP to make sure you get your first choice recital time.
3. **Sign Up For An Accompanist Rehearsal** – for most singers and instrumentalists, your music is written to be performed with piano accompaniment. Watch for a second email from us with your official recital time and your assigned accompanist along with directions for scheduling a rehearsal. Reserve a rehearsal time and mark it on your calendar!
4. **Make Sure The Accompanist Has Music** – Speak with your teacher to make sure that they have turned in a copy of the **piano accompaniment** to your piece. **DO NOT SIMPLY BRING THE MUSIC TO YOUR REHEARSAL.** To have the best experience, your pianist will need the music at least one week in advance.
5. **Have a Rehearsal** – At your rehearsal, greet the pianist and tell them your name, your piece, and the name of your teacher. Play or sing the beginning of the piece the way you've been practicing it so they know how fast to go. Run through the piece together, and feel free to speak up and politely ask them to go faster, slower, or let you have more time in certain areas.
6. **Practice Performing at Home** – Set up an audience of stuffed animals, dolls, and/or real people. Practice walking up in front of them and bowing, saying your name and your piece, and then performing. Do as many practice performances as you can, as this will help you feel more comfortable on the day of your recital.
7. **Allow Extra Time to Arrive on Recital Day** – If you're not familiar with Mason's Fairfax campus, navigation can be a little tricky! Make sure you give yourself lots of extra time to find parking (either free in Lot K or \$8 in the Mason Pond parking deck) and find your performance space so you can be calm, centered, and ready to perform when the recital begins.
8. **Relax and Enjoy!** – Recital weekend is one of our favorite weekends, even though it's one of our busiest! We love to hear the results of all your hard work and enjoy hearing all the performers.
9. **Pick Up Your Certificate** – While enjoying cookies and punch after the recital, make sure to check in with our wonderful admin staff to pick up a certificate that will commemorate your performance.