

# Academy Newsletter

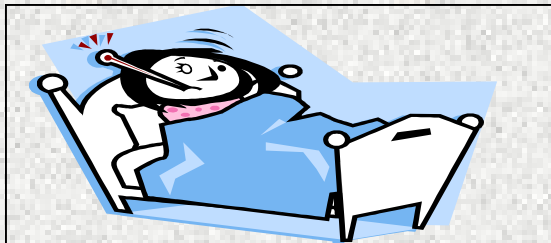
January/February 2007



*Happy New Year!*



*The staff and faculty at Irene Besse Keyboards wishes you and your family health and happiness the new year. We are looking forward to a busy year. Our 20th anniversary as a Steinway dealer is in March and with that comes many events. In the March newsletter we will let you know what activities will be taking place and how you can become a part of them. Stay Tuned!*



**GET WELL SOON RUTH ANNE!  
YOUR STUDENTS AND  
FELLOW FACULTY MISS  
YOU!!!**

**Need to Practice??**  
Use our private and quiet studios as much as you like for as long as you like! A studio is only \$10/Hour. Call Bruce or Heidi to book your time.  
252-7770 or 247-8470

## Welcome Peter!

Peter Suen is our newest teacher on staff. With his caring personality and obvious competence he brings a musical sensitivity to his new position. Ruth Anne Munnings is currently on sick leave and Peter has graciously agreed to fill in for her until the end of April.

Peter has been taking lessons in piano since he was seven. During that time he has completed all of the RCM requirements including practical and theory exams. He is an expert accompanist and has accompanied both vocal and string programs. He has worked extensively for singing instructors. He is currently pursuing the requirements for the new teaching program at RCM called the Elementary Pedagogy Certificate. This program demands both a very high level of performance including Grade Nine Piano plus a Written Examination and Oral Exam on Teaching Principles including structure of lessons, goal setting, learning styles, and nurturing creativity. Specific teaching methods for the Fundamentals of Musicianship including ear training, sight-reading, and pedaling are also included.

Peter's teaching philosophy emphasizes working towards a goal but enjoying the process along the way. When he is not teaching, Peter is very busy as he is currently enrolled at the University of Calgary in the Biological Sciences. His Career Goal is Pharmacy.

Thanks so much for helping us Peter. It is a pleasure to have your energy, competence, and new ideas creating musical experiences for our students here at Irene Besse Academy of Music.

-Heidi Jury, Education Coordinator

# Supporting Evidence That Music Makes You Smarter

A comprehensive series of skill tests were run on 5,154 fifth-graders in all of the 75 Albuquerque, NM elementary schools. *In every single test area*, kids who were learning to play a musical instrument received higher marks than their classmates. Not only that, the longer the student had been playing the instrument, the higher they scored.

From a USA Today report: "Musical training can be a big help in getting to the top of business and politics, according to most congressmen and CEO's Fortune 500 companies. Ninety percent (90%!!) of more than 1000 CEO's and congressmen interviewed by McDonald's fast food chain said playing a musical instrument as a child helped them develop "character and leadership skills."

The American Music Conference reports that music makers are more likely to go onto college and other higher education than students that do not play a musical instrument. In fact they are 52% more likely to attend college.

Another American Music conference reports that income levels are higher in homes where people are playing musical instruments. Of the families surveyed that earn \$40,000 or more, music making families outnumbered non-music making families by 33%! In the \$25,000-\$40,000 range, music makers outnumbered non-music makers by 14.3%.

A recent Rockefeller Foundation Study discovered that Music Majors have the highest rate of admittance o medical schools, followed by biochemistry and the humanities. A recent Texas Music Educator's Association report states that music majors in in Texas have the highest rate of admittance to medical school, a whopping 66.7%. Biochemistry, the subject area closest to medicine, has a rate of 59.2%.

According to a recent statewide survey, secondary students who participated in band or orchestra reported the lowest lifetime use of all drug substances.