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January 8, 2020

For your convenience... this week I am giving a hard copy of this newsletter to each family.

SAVE OUR ANNUAL PAGEANT FROM ELIMINATION

First of all... I AM SO PROUD AND APPRECIATIVE OF ALL OF THE DECEMBER 2019 ANNUAL PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS. YOU ARE WONDERFUL AND YOUR PERFORMANCES WERE MARVELOUS!

Over the past five years, participation in the Annual Pageant has steadily dropped. The participation for the December 2019 pageant was at an all-time low of 36 performances. This is very disappointing and disheartening for me.

I spent 186.85 hours preparing for the December 2019 Annual Pageant. I am willing to continue to do so... provided that you are willing to participate. We need 50 participants to meet pageant costs.

About twenty years ago participation was at an all-time high of 70 performers. (I admit that it was much too long.) For the following decade it was continually 50-55 participants, many of whom were high school seniors. Over the past five years the lack of interest has become greater. I have made concessions by:

**1. Allowing you to choose whether or not you want to wear a costume
(I might add that I supply you with costume making materials.)**

**2. Conducting a survey to determine the best time of year for the Pageant and changing it to the fall so as to avoid other activities
It was unfortunate that the only date the MCL GRAND THEATER would give me for the 2019 pageant was December 1st. However, I did inform everyone in February of 2019 about this date and how it would affect the Thanksgiving Holiday. I had suggested that instead of going out of town... invite your guests to your home and then bring them to the pageant.**

3. Changing theaters because many of you expressed that Garland was too far away

My reason for doing pageants for all these years is to give my students the opportunity to perform for an audience on a stage with all the excitement that comes with it. I always try to make it as fun and interesting as possible. Performing on a



theatrical stage for an audience builds confidence and self-discipline through preparation. It's an experience that will give the students sweet memories that will last a lifetime.

I have booked the next pageant for November 14, 2020 at the Plaza Arts Center in Carrollton. The Plaza Arts Center requires that our rental fee of \$1,000.00 be paid by May 14, 2020. Therefore, the \$60.00 *non-refundable* pageant fee per participant will be due by April 1, 2020. We will also need to rent a piano which is \$920.13 for a baby grand. (\$350.00 rental, \$250.00 delivery, \$250.00 pick-up, free tuning, tax \$70.13) **Otherwise we will use a keyboard.** Just for basic pageant expenses the needed funds are \$2,776.13. (Workforce \$856.00, Theater \$1,000.00, Piano Rental \$920.13,) We need 50 people to commit and pay the \$60.00 *non-refundable* pageant fee by April 1, 2020. **You may select your pageant piece from May through August.**

THE PAGEANT REGISTRATION FORM is at the end of this Newsletter.

FREE CLASS – KEYBOARD ENSEMBLE – PARENTS WELCOME

For this year's pageant we will have a keyboard ensemble. (keyboards provided) I am accepting up to six people for this group. To be eligible... on or before August 1, 2020 you must be a Level D or above student and *be very good at counting.* Rehearsals will be on Sunday afternoons at 2:30 PM for thirty minutes on these dates: October 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, November 1st, & 8th. Also there will be a pre-show rehearsal on November 14th at the theater. We will work on the piece in your weekly class as well. You will receive your music the week of August 16th. **PLEASE DO NOT SIGN-UP IF YOU CAN NOT ATTEND ALL REHEARSALS.**

FREE CLASS – OTHER INSTRUMENTS - PARENTS WELCOME

Do you play an instrument other than piano? If so, I will write a part for you to play along with the KEYBOARD ENSEMBLE. I will also write some *easy* percussion parts for tambourine, wood block, cymbal, cabasa, chimes, triangle, tone block, & maracas depending on the number of participants. *For the percussion parts... the only requirement is that you be able to count and keep a steady beat.* Rehearsals with the keyboard ensemble will be on Sunday afternoons at 2:30 PM for thirty minutes on these dates: October 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, November 1st, & 8th. Also there will be a pre-show rehearsal on November 14th at the theater. We will work on the piece in your weekly class as well. You will receive your music the week of August 16th. **PLEASE DO NOT SIGN-UP IF YOU CAN NOT ATTEND ALL REHEARSALS.**



PIANO BENCHER'S OPEN

We are in the process of selecting Piano Bencher's Open pieces.

Anyone age 6 – 18 at any level may participate in this event.

The Piano Bencher's Open is held at my studio (my house) and this year it is on Saturday, April 25, 2020. The performances will begin at 1:00 PM. You will be required to play one memorized piece in detail for the judge. Each participant will receive an immediate 100 points plus a rating and a comment sheet signed by the judge. You will also receive a Piano Bencher's Open trophy at the Annual Pageant on November 14, 2020. This is also when the King and Queen of the 2020 Piano Bencher's Open will receive their crystal awards.



Superior Plus is the highest rating. The judge will select the best male performance and best female performance of the day from the Superior Plus ratings. They will be declared King and Queen of the 2020 Piano Bencher's Open. In addition to their participation trophy they will receive an engraved crystal award. The 2020 King and Queen names will also be permanently displayed on a plaque on the wall in my piano studio. Each year the new King and Queen will added to the plaque.

There is a required list. All of the pieces are my original compositions.

The non-refundable entry fee of \$20.00 and the ENTRY FORM at the end of this letter are due on or before April 1, 2020.

You will receive the performance schedule for the Piano Bencher's Open by April 11, 2020. If you have special needs for your performance time, please check mark it on your entry form. (Performances begin at 1:00 PM.)

AMENDMENT TO POLICIES

Policies have been amended in this area: **TROPHIES**

We live in a world where everyone gets an award.

I have decided to go back to AWARDS MUST BE EARNED.

Therefore, only PIANO BENCHER'S OPEN PARTICIPANTS and ANNUAL PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS will receive a trophy for each event.

All others will receive an annual certificate and in some cases, a ribbon as well.

AS A REFRESHER... YOU MIGHT WANT TO REVIEW ALL POLICIES.

<http://www.tishyourweaverofdreams.com/policies.htm>

COMMUNITY SERVICE PERFORMANCES

MARCH, MAY, and SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY SERVICE

Tentative dates are: Sunday, March 22, 2020
Sunday, May 24, 2020
Sunday, September 6, 2020.

Because these are private performances and this is a public newsletter on my web site, the details of the performances will be posted on the table in my studio. I am accepting twenty participants for each of these performances. Participants receive 100 points and a ribbon. You may do one or two pieces of your choice. Please select songs that you already know how to play or sing. (Vocalists refer to VOCAL STIPULATIONS for performance materials.)

USED BOOKS

If you are planning on discarding your completed books, I would like to have them. There are many occasions when students forget to bring their books to class. It is very helpful for me to have an extra copy of their skill level. Thanks so much!

CALENDAR OF CLASSES:

http://www.tishyourweaverofdreams.com/student_sch.htm

GOING TO BE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEXT FALL?

If you are going to be in middle school next fall and you have a time slot that is at 4:00 PM or before... you are going to need a later time slot for the next school year. Please inform me of this now so that I can be making arrangements for you.



PIANO BENCHER'S OPEN & ANNUAL PAGEANT

REGISTRATION FORMS

(Fees for both events are non-refundable and are due along with
the forms on or before April 1, 2020.)

2020 PIANO BENCHER'S OPEN REGISTRATION FORM

Saturday, April 25, 2020

STUDENT NAME _____

STUDENT NAME _____

STUDENT NAME _____

PERFORMANCES FOR THE JUDGE BEGIN AT 1:00 PM ON SATURDAY,
APRIL 25, 2020

Request for placement in the performance line-up:

(If absolutely necessary to request a time... Check one)

BEGINNING _____ END _____ ANYTIME IS FINE _____

Please return this form along with the non-refundable \$20.00 entry fee per participant
on or before April 1, 2020.

ANNUAL PAGEANT REGISTRATION FORM

Saturday, November 14, 2020

PERFORMER NAME _____

(Check one)

ARE YOU WEARING A COSTUME?

YES _____ NO _____

PERFORMER NAME _____

(Check one)

ARE YOU WEARING A COSTUME?

YES _____ NO _____

PERFORMER NAME _____

(Check one)

ARE YOU WEARING A COSTUME?

YES _____ NO _____

Request for the show performance line-up:

(If absolutely necessary to request a time... Check
one)

BEGINNING _____ END _____ ANYTIME IS FINE _____



YOU MUST HAVE A LEGITIMATE REASON FOR REQUESTING A CERTAIN PLACEMENT IN THE SHOW.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT REQUESTING TO BE AT THE END OF THE SHOW COULD RESULT IN THE PAGEANT ENDING BEFORE YOU ARRIVE.

Please return this form along with the non-refundable \$60.00 entry fee per participant on or before April 1, 2020. (No more than \$120.00 per household.)