

Sharing the Music: Performing for others

Mention the word “recital” and many students, and parents alike, shudder at the thought! Many parents have memories of sleepless nights, uncomfortable clothes, and austere faces. All too often students feel they are being plunged into a great unknown. However, one of the great advantages of being part of the Brookline Music School is the range of performance opportunities open to students. Students should start with the less formal group settings as a first public performance experience. After gaining a level of comfort in this setting, they may then move on to the more formal school-wide recitals. Students should consult with their teachers to decide which performance opportunities are right for them.

Private Performances

Play for your family and friends! They will be appreciative of whatever you do and will give you a feeling of playing straight through a piece without stopping. It’s always great to have one or two pieces that you can pull out anytime and play when Grandma comes to visit!

Performance Workshop or Group Class

These are slightly more formal since you will be playing for a mix of people including some that you know and some that you don’t. Still, there’s no need to pull out the coat and tails at this point—jeans and a T-shirt are just fine! Students usually play for each other and then have a chance to get some immediate feedback from their peers and teachers.

School-wide Recitals

These are “real” recitals which are open to the public, but the atmosphere is very friendly and supportive! Recitals are open to all instruments, so it’s a great chance to hear a variety of styles. These pieces should be polished performances. Students should be aware of stage manners (bowing before and after playing). Dress nicely (no jeans or tennis shoes) but you don’t need to go all out (parents, think “business casual”). We’ll have juice and cookies afterwards!

Studio Recitals

Many teachers bring their studios together for a recital. It’s a great way to hear your teacher’s other students and get a sense of what pieces you might like to play next from the more advanced players. Teachers will let you know dress and stage manner guidelines for each studio recital.

Competitions and Auditions:

While these are a little different from recitals, it’s often a fun and exciting part of learning an instrument! Just as we practice our pieces, students should practice performing their pieces in order to prepare for competitions and auditions. We encourage students to play the same pieces in several recitals and workshops in order to polish them for competition level. If you win something, let us know and we’ll sing your praises in our next newsletter!