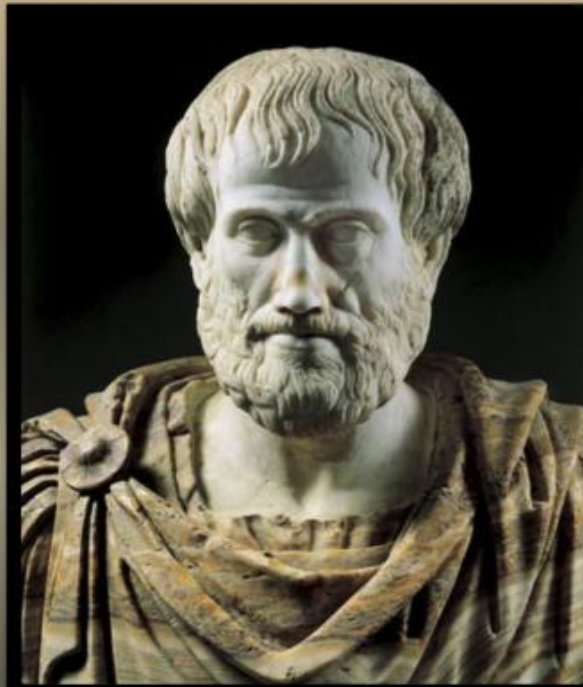


CHILDREN ARE A HERITAGE FROM THE LORD, OFFSPRING A REWARD FROM HIM

Psalm 127: 3



PIANO RECITAL



“MUSIC has the POWER of producing a certain effect on the moral character of the SOUL, and if it has the power to do this, it is clear that the YOUNG must be directed to music and must be EDUCATED in it.”

Aristotle

INTRODUCTION:

The quote from Aristotle above paints an extremely vivid picture in the mind as to the importance of music on character development, doesn't it? Certainly, it only takes a moment to observe the impact music has on even the elderly simply by observing their facial expressions when listening to a familiar arrangement. It is a common happening to witness these old folks with emotions of joy, peace, and adoration sweeping all over their wrinkled faces when notes from their favorite hymns fill the air. Even older people that have mental acuity issues will come to life when hearing music. They may be unable to communicate any longer, but be proficient in singing all the words to an old time favorite hymn; a song that was committed to memory during the younger years of their lives.

Then, when you combine these feelings with their love for little children, a music recital is just what the doctor ordered once a month on Saturday in the nursing home. When a young person sits down at the keyboard, even though just a beginner, the residents will remain absolutely spell bound, wearing enormous smiles, along with encouraging expressions throughout the performance.

Certainly, this writer can empathize with these little ones as they sit uncomfortably on the piano bench trying to recall from memory all the memorized notes that make up the assigned piece of music. If you have never been in this position, it is almost impossible to imagine the shaking hands and shortness of breath that always erupt without control. Then, when the left hand has trouble keeping up with the right, even at this young age, you know it is a formula for disaster. Given these feelings in conjunction with the desire to make mom and dad proud causes the time your little bottom is on that piano bench to feel like an eternity. After all, hard earned money was even spent on a new dress and shiny black patent leather shoes that, at the moment, seem to be keeping perfect time with your trembling hands. Oh, bother! Whoever is sitting on the hands of that clock needs to get off sooner rather than later!

The piano studio conducting this recital is Keys by Degrees under the director of Lisa Pitts. Since Lisa's Grandfather was a resident in this facility many years ago, the connection served as a platform for launching the music program for residents. The "practice recital" benefits the students prior to performing in an "actual recital". While the students receive extra practice, the residents are given a gift of music from young people; a win-win situation for sure. Notice the piano is facing the wall? Although the activity director prefers the piano turned so the students face the audience, the music teacher desires just the opposite as a way of easing the nervousness of the students.

In addition, Activity Director Melody Childers fondly recalls listening to some of the older students when they were first learning to play the piano. Having been a part of the process so long, offers a feeling of accomplishment on her part, as well. After all, is it possible to even estimate the value that an "encourager" adds to the life of another? Supporting others is so important that it is mentioned in the Bible many times as something we all should do for our fellowman.

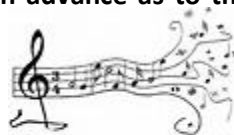
ACTIVITY: Piano Recital

SUPPLIES:

- Piano
- Piano teacher with pupils

As you enjoy these wonderful photographs of a music recital, please be aware that the relationship between this music teacher and nursing home staff has been established over a long period of time. The bottom line for creating this type of situation is that of creating a welcoming environment for all concerned. The activity director sets the stage and works diligently on keeping the residents involved in every aspect of the performance. After all, there is nothing more wonderful than spending time communicating with people that could be "Grandmother"!

After the students have completed the recital, they always mingle with the residents before leaving. It might be a great idea if you prepare the residents in advance as to the types of comments that would offer encouragement to the young people.



HALLOWEEN MUSIC RECITAL



**WE ARE
READY TO
BEGIN.**

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL



NEXT



APPLAUSE!



*“LET’S HEAR IT FOR A JOB WELL
DONE BY THESE YOUNG
MUSICIANS AND THEIR
TEACHER.”*