

Teaching Scenarios: Handling the Realities of Life

Friday, July 26, 2013

NCKP Panel: Gail Berenson, Linda Cockey, Vanessa Cornett-Murtada, Brenda Wristen, and special guests John Chong M.D. and William Dawson M.D.

Scenario 1:

A 17-year old senior in high school has decided to major in piano performance as a college undergraduate. In preparation for her audition, she has dramatically increased the level of her repertoire as well as her amount of daily practice. In addition, she has continued her part-time job scooping ice cream at a local dessert shop. When her arms became sore, a doctor diagnosed tendinitis.

Scenario 2:

A 10-year old male student, who studies piano and also plays hockey, fell and broke his left wrist (a fracture of the ulna, involving the growth center). It is now in a cast, which he will need to wear for six weeks.

Scenario 3:

A 13-year old middle school student has studied piano for several years and has always performed well in lessons and in each studio recital. This year she was well-prepared for the Spring recital and performed well in the dress rehearsal. During the performance, however, she fell apart and left the stage in tears.

Scenario 4:

A middle-aged adult student has studied piano consistently since he completed graduate school. Because of his motivation and continued practice, he has been tackling more demanding literature. Recently he has noticed stiffness in his hands, and medical tests indicated the beginnings of arthritis.

Scenario 5:

A 15-year old student has been complaining of pain or soreness in his forearms, wrists, and thumbs. He has been practicing the Chopin G minor Prelude, particularly the left hand octaves, and he admits to spending many hours a day texting and playing games on his iPhone.

Scenario 6:

A 12-year old transfer student seems very tense and stressed when she comes to her lesson each week. She often plays with an excessive amount of tension in her arms and shoulders, and she is highly self-critical of her own progress. Sometimes she bursts into tears during her lessons.