

PIANO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE STUDIO OF DR. JOVANNI-REY DE PEDRO
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO'S LIONEL HAMPTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC

www.jdepedro.com | jdepedro@uidaho.edu

UI MTNA Collegiate Chapter Project

As the advisor for the MTNA Collegiate Chapter at UI, I get the opportunity to watch our next generation of piano teachers in action! It's an inspiring sight for me because not all that long ago, I was in their shoes with the same enthusiasm and passion.

For the past few months, they have been working on a project of interviewing pedagogical composers in order to bridge students and composers closer together. (Imagine being able to talk to Beethoven!) So far, they have interviewed Catherine Rollin, Kevin Olson, and Christopher Norton, and hope to add Melody Bober and Elissa Milne by the end of the year.

The group will present this project in a plenary session at the 2017 MTNA Piano Pedagogy Symposium, which will be held MLK weekend at the University of North Florida. Go Vandals!

The Third-Year Review

Just a few days ago, I finally submitted the materials needed for my third-year review. I couldn't believe it! It was just like yesterday that I stepped on campus for the first time to fulfill my dream to teach piano at the tertiary level.

But the road to get here was not easy. Between musical institutions graduating high numbers of "music doctors," and the barren landscape of job openings in higher education, the chances of someone even landing a tenure-track job in this day in age is rare. By the time I received the offer from the University of Idaho, I had submitted 99 applications worldwide, been through nine on-campus interviews, and a number of other phone interviews. Just to give some context, let me briefly explain the process of landing a tenure-track job:

Institutions announce vacancies through a job posting which state their required and desired qualifications. Candidates then submit their materials, which a search committee hashes through (one job I applied for had 120 applicants!). After reviewing cover letters, CVs, and even recordings, the committee selects a few candidates with whom to conduct a preliminary interview. This list is then further reduced to three-*ish* candidates, who are invited for an all-expense paid ~~vacation~~ trip to visit campus. After months of "talking," the first date takes place! (I actually gave a presentation at the 2013 MTNA National Conference called "The First Date: Strategies for Your Job Interview")

Pack Your Bags!

Exciting news: I've been invited to join the faculty at the **2017 Encintro Internacional de Pianists de Piracicaba** in Brazil. This week-long course will feature recitals, master classes, and workshops given by faculty members from the United States, Brazil, and the United Kingdom. All events will take place at the Escolas de Musica de Piracicaba "Maestro Ernst Mahle" from July 2-9, 2017. Scholarships available! For more information, please contact me or visit www.eipianopira.com

Upcoming Events

10/28 (Fri), 1-5pm: Masterclass and teacher open forum. Dunkley Music, Meridian, ID.

11/5-6 (Fri-Sat): Adjudication, Tri-Cities Sonata Festival.

11/10 (Thu), 7:30pm: Hammers & Reeds Recital. Works by Mendelssohn, Rota, Goepfardt, and Teresa Martin. Haddock Performance Hall, UI.

11/11 (Fri), 10am: Master class and teacher workshop. Steinway Gallery of Spokane.

11/12 (Sat): Master class. Bella Note Studios, Sandpoint, ID. (*to be confirmed)

11/13 (Sun), 7:30pm: Senior Recital of Jessi Nutt. Works by Daquin, Mozart, and Ginastera. Haddock Performance Hall, UI.

The interview is one of the most challenging experiences you can have in your life! A typical interview day consists of a recital, master class, lecture, campus tour, meetings with the director and dean, and the much-anticipated search committee meeting (all while being extremely jet-lagged, heavily caffeinated, and/or ! The whole day is a balance between "being yourself" and "selling yourself."

What made rejections so hard was the fact that I could honestly say that I left a part of me with every one of those interviews. I opened myself up to the possibility of a long-term relationship with someone I hardly knew, and was forced to dream about our future together. The University of Idaho gave me that chance, and that's why there is not one day that goes by that I don't thank God for the opportunity (and blessing) that has been given to me.

The third-year review is conducted to assess a faculty member's progress towards tenure. With tenure usually happening in the sixth year, it's a chance for me to reflect on what I've done in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and creative activities, outreach, and service. It's also a time for both my students and colleagues to give me helpful, constructive, and developmental feedback in order for me to identify areas that need strengthening and bring focus to my activity. What the past two years has also allowed me to do was to reflect and think deeply about what kind of teacher I want to be. I know I am still a work in-progress (this is probably true for the rest of my life!), but I leave you with a few mantras which, I believe, capture who I am now:

- **Demand a lot from students, but help them succeed.**
- **Care about what, who, and how you teach.**
- **Give your all, and expect nothing in return.**
- **It's ok not to know, but seek answers.**
- **Be relentless.**
- **Give yourself a break.**
- **Be yourself.**

#ThirdYearReview