Weber State University’s Department of Performing Arts Announces 2013-2014 Piano Preparatory Program Schedule

Enrolled students will have opportunity to develop well-rounded musicianship in piano study

Ogden, Utah - Aug. 5, 2013 – The Weber State University Department of Performing Arts (WSUDP) (http://weber.edu/PerformingArts/music.html), combines world-class instruction with opportunities for students to excel in live theater, music and dance. Today, the department announced the details for the 2013-2014 Piano Preparatory Program for pre-college piano students, ages 6 to 18, (www.weber.edu/pianopreparatory.com). Auditions will be held August 21-22 with classes beginning on August 26.

“Our program is truly unique as we believe strongly that music is one of the best ways to integrate the physical, mental and emotional development of human beings,” said Dr. Yu-Jane Yang, program director and Presidential Distinguished Professor at Weber State University. “The goal of our program is to provide children with instruction designed to develop well-balanced musicianship.”

Children who register in the program will have an opportunity to participate in studies that are designed to investigate the effects of various music learning activities and teaching strategies on the achievement of piano students. The various learning activities in the piano program include: sight reading, singing, aural training, piano repertoire, transposition, harmonization, rhythmic movement, improvisation, composition, ensemble, and basic music theory. In addition to weekly group classes and private lessons, students will receive computer-assisted instruction and will be able to experiment with music technology designed to develop improvisational skills, composition skills, and theoretical understanding. Unlike other area programs, there will also be weekly performance opportunities in each class and semester student recitals for parents and friends.

Piano students in the program will further enjoy the opportunity to interact with the program’s outstanding piano faculty. Enrollees also have the privilege of access to one of the state of Utah’s premiere music venues, Weber State University’s state-of-the-art Digital Piano Laboratory and a 7 foot Yamaha Disklavier Pro Grand Piano for performance and recording.

“We want to establish a foundation through children’s piano study to enable them to become more musically independent and able to continue lifelong learning and involvement in music,” said Yang. “Our mission is to offer children in our community the opportunity for high quality but affordable piano study.”

The Director of the Weber State University Preparatory Program is Dr. Yu-Jane Yang who has produced national and international piano competition winners for WSU, as well as taught the recent (WSUDP) piano graduates who have been accepted into the master’s programs of
and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Laurisa Cope is the Assistant Director and holds a Masters in Music in Piano Performance/Pedagogy from Brigham Young University.

For more information please visit: (http://www.weber.edu/pianopreparatory).

**About Weber State University’s Department of Performing Arts**

The Weber State University Department of Performing Arts is located in the Lindquist College of Arts and Humanities at Weber State University (www.weber.edu/performingarts). The Department of Performing Arts combines world-class instruction with opportunities for students to excel in live theater, music and dance performances. For more information on the Weber State University Department of Performing Arts, call 801-626-6437 or visit the website at (www.weber.edu/performingarts)

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