

Dear

Many famous musicians play concerts and sell CDs to help raise money for their favorite charities. Why not put your piano studies to work helping one of your favorite charities? I am starting the “Keyboard Kids for Kindness Practice Challenge”. Use these step-by-step instructions to make piano practicing count even more toward making the world a better place!

1. With a parent’s assistance, choose a charity that you would like to help.
2. With a parent’s help, decide on a unit of practice time and a suggested unit of sponsorship. Tell your sponsors your goals for daily or weekly practice, and ask what they would like to pledge for each unit achieved.

Examples:

- Each 20 minutes of practicing = \$.25 donation pledge or
 - Each 60 minutes of practicing = \$.50 donation pledge or
 - Meeting my daily practice goal = \$.50 donation pledge
3. Learn as much as you can about how your favorite charity works so that you can answer your sponsors’ questions.
 4. Make copies of and use the Sponsor Introduction Letter to help you talk to your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and parents’ friends... anyone you and your parents think might want to help with this project!
 5. Use Chart A to keep track of your sponsors’ names and pledges.
 6. Use Chart B to log your practice hours for six weeks.
 7. At the end of six weeks, add up the results and print enough copies of Chart B for each of your sponsors, your teacher, and one to keep.
 8. Collect from each of your sponsors and personally make your donation, showing your charity what you have done.

To the Parents:

I hope that you and your child will find this “Keyboard Kids for Kindness Practice Challenge” helpful in reinforcing good practice habits. At the same time, we all hope to encourage students to become more civic-minded by learning about charitable organizations, how they can help out by being creative with their time and hard work, and how they can help encourage others to be more civic-minded.

Please note that in these troubled economic times, we are especially mindful of emphasizing effort on the student’s part. Because my students represent a variety of economic climates, I will not report dollars pledged or donated. I am interested in emphasizing the value of participation and celebrating the amount of piano practice achieved by each student.