

THE PROGRAM

My goal is to help people play the piano beautifully at whatever level of performance they work to attain. Students can learn:

- Sight reading and theory
- The historical context of the music they are playing, to help them understand the style
- The skills to tackle technical and interpretive challenges in a piece of music

Even the most advanced students like the motivation private lessons provide.

Everyone learns to read music in my studio. I work especially hard to find just the right music for each student., depending on their tastes and interests, because people practice pieces that they like! By exposing all of my students to a wide variety of composers and styles, they become discerning listeners with open ears to discover new “likes”.

Though private lessons form the foundation for this musical education, I also offer:

- Regular performance classes & workshops
- Studio recitals and seasonal parties for school age children
- Field trips to concerts (families welcome)
- Ensemble work with studio friends, family members or other musicians

Public performances can be another building block in student development. All students are encouraged to take their musical talent outside the studio! School-age students regularly play at:

- Retirement communities
- Recitals
- Music festivals and adjudications

EXPECTATIONS

Learning to play the piano can be one of life’s greatest pleasures, but it can also be frustrating and challenging. All students, regardless of age, need the support and encouragement of their families. Students should:

- Set aside quiet time every day for uninterrupted practice.
- Work through pieces *slowly* to be sure they incorporate everything we worked on and discussed at the lesson during home practice.
- Check the assignment book to review my ideas for how to improve each piece.
- Look carefully at the musical score for any changes we made during the lesson.
- Maintain a few pieces at performance level. Even if they do not intend to play for anyone, ***it is important for students to hear themselves play beautifully on a regular basis.*** It’s also helpful to be reminded of how well they can play when struggling to learn a new piece.

Students need to stay fit, mentally and physically. Playing the piano requires a special kind of choreography. A pianist needs to stretch, warm-up and think about posture, hand-position, form and gesture at some point during each practice session. Exercises and scales are a given part of a weekly assignment. They combine theory with the technical skills needed to perform the literature that I assign. Even a minimal understanding of how the music is made will help students learn it more easily.

Performance Evaluation

I attend master classes to get new ideas about pedagogy. In an effort to hone my teaching skills, I encourage all of my school-age students to take part in the Washington State Music Teachers adjudications when they are ready. This event provides them the opportunity to work with another teacher. They get feedback and so do I. I consider this an extremely valuable review of my own teaching.

HOLIDAYS/VACATION SUMMER SCHEDULE

My studio operates year-round in four calendar quarters. I generally follow the Public School Calendar. However, we break for the entire week of Thanksgiving, and for the week in March dedicated to the Seattle Young Artists Music Festival.

Summer quarter runs from Memorial Day to Labor day. Naturally family vacations and special summer camps can take a big chunk out of these months, but “in-town” days can be taken advantage of so that student motivation is not lost and regression does not occur. Students can:

- Continue to prepare new repertoire for personal enjoyment or upcoming performances.
- Work on special projects to explore new kinds of music or to develop and strengthen specific skills.
- Take more of a break if they need one. We can create programs that involve listening to music and reading about composers’ lives and times.

The goal is for students to feel good about continuing their musical education during the summer months. Those weeks when students don’t have much time to practice, we can always enjoy quality lesson time studying a new piece together, playing duets, sight reading, or building technique.

Tuition payment schedule remains the same during the summer months.

TUITION

Tuition includes:

- Weekly private lessons
- Group performance classes
- Special events coaching
- My research into finding materials and repertoire to enhance and enrich the educational experience of each individual
- The use of my music library
- Monthly newsletter
- Recordings of the music students will hear in concerts we attend

Also included for school-aged children:

- Parties and recitals
- My attendance at all student performances
- Parent conferences
- Letters of recommendation.

Tuition is based on a year-round commitment to music study. It does not represent an hourly fee and does not vary due to cancellations or holidays. Families can choose to make four quarterly payments or 12 monthly installments. Monthly payments should be made during the last week of each month. (Jan 31 is the due date for Feb tuition.)

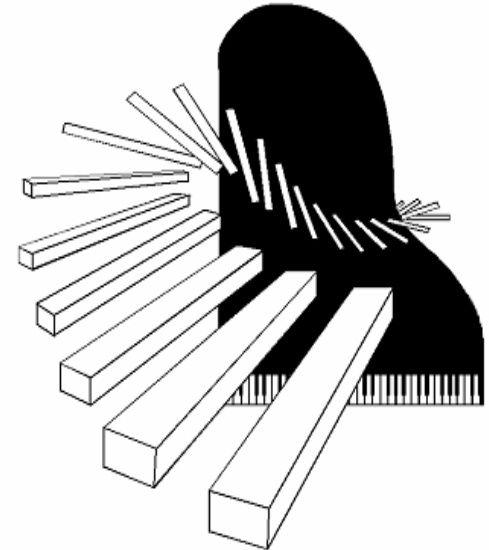
Per lesson payment option available to students who cannot commit to a weekly lesson.

Cost of materials is separate from the program fees. A music account is set up for each student to cover the cost of xeroxing, piano literature, study guides and late fees.

Credit/make-up is offered for prolonged illnesses only. Students may call each other to exchange lessons times with my approval.

One month's notice is requested if your family will be leaving the program. Without adequate notice, there will be no refund of tuition and the next month's tuition will be due.

STUDIO POLICIES



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