

The Piano Place Studio Policies



Donna Gunn, NCTM, director

Enrollment

Students enroll and commit for an entire session. Much planning goes into student scheduling and lesson planning based on enrollment. Many students are turned away as the class schedule is filled. Committed enrollment facilitates a positive relationship, working together for the session.

An enrollment fee is charged each student to insure a place in the studio. This fee will be applied toward the purchase of music, materials, and fees through the session. Any remaining credit will be refunded at the end of the session.

Registration

Upon receiving the Enrollment & Activities Form, lessons will be scheduled, accommodating special needs as much as possible. Lesson configuration will be determined based on the best learning environment for the student. Each student is encouraged to spend one hour each month in independent study in the studio.

Registration in the studio offers many other opportunities as presented through both, the studio and as a result of my membership as a nationally certified teacher of piano in LMTA, NMTA, & MTNA. Students are encouraged to take full advantage, as they are part of the core and enriching curriculum.

Educational Goals

I firmly believe teaching one to play the piano involves a comprehensive approach to learning music. Music instruction at The Piano Place utilizes the piano as the vehicle, developing well rounded musicians through:

Private study of the piano

Experiences in:

Musicianship
Memorization
Improvisation
Sight-reading

Theory
Composition
Transposition

Developing these skills improves one's pianism, musicianship, and global awareness.

Practice Requirement

Each student is expected to practice six days each week based on the guideline determined at lesson. Lessons do not count as a practice day. Each student is provided a new practice CD at each lesson and is encouraged to listen to the CD the *day after lesson*. Reading the assignment sheet daily will facilitate thoughtful, smart practice. It is through consistent practice, following assignment guidelines, that students make the most productive progress. Be sure your schedule allows this kind of commitment, to ensure a positive experience in developing as a pianist. Recording practice time is extremely helpful in objectively evaluating progress and teaching strategy effectiveness.

Recitals

Practicing to perform is essential in being a better performing. Students are encouraged to share their favorite pieces frequently with friends and family.

Each student will be offered many performing opportunities throughout the year. Each month studio performance is held within the studio. There are performing parties in October, November, and December. A large recital in May is scheduled to highlight all students.

Tuition

Tuition is determined according to the session for which students register. Tuition may be paid in full in advance, or in installments. Tuition is due in advance, the first lesson of each month. No statement will be sent. Tuition received after the 15th of the month will be considered in arrears and a \$5.00 bookkeeping fee will be charged the account.

Neither enrollment fee nor tuition is refundable except in the event the student moves from the area.

Missed Lessons

Missed private lessons will not be rescheduled. Many extra opportunities for students are available to compensate for missed lesson time. The activities add to a rich, varied learning experience and are listed on the Yearly Calendar (www.focusonpiano.com).

Please do not attend lessons when ill. One cannot learn well when ill and as a courtesy to the other students, unless the student is fever-free for 24 hours, it is in everyone's best interests to avoid exposure of communicable illness. If your child does not go to school, he or she should not attend lessons that day.

LPS snow-day cancellation policy will be followed. The first snow day of the winter will not be made up. Any other missed lessons due to snow days or by the instructor will be made up in an appropriate manner.

Lesson changes can be made in advance by contacting other students on the Weekly Schedule.

Communication

Students are best afforded a positive, inspiring learning experience when student, parent, and teacher are in open communication. Please feel free to sit in on lessons at any time. Please bring up any questions or concerns *as they arise*. This is the best way to promote positive, progressive learning and a positive student/teacher/parent relationship.

Credentials

I have over thirty years' experience in private piano instruction and music instruction, serving students of all ages and educational levels. I hold a Bachelor of Music in Education K-12/Vocal & Instrumental, summa cum laude and Master in Piano Performance and Pedagogy, both from The University of NE-Lincoln.

Through Music Teachers National Association, I have earned the credential of Permanent Certified Professional Teacher of Piano.

Through experiences in Italy, the Netherlands, Westfield International Fortepiano Academy at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, and most recently in Hungary, I continue to develop cutting-edge expertise in performance practices in Classical Era playing on fortepiano and modern piano. My work culminated in the publication *Discoveries from the Fortepiano: A Manual for Beginning and Seasoned Performers* with Oxford University Press.