

# 88 Keys Piano Studio

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## *Statement of Studio Policies and Fee Structure 2011/2012 School Year*

### General Information

This Program coincides with the public school system calendar (10 months) and is designed for students age 6 and up. Monday through Friday lesson time slots are available. Students can start at any time during the school year. Students entering the program start work on fundamental skills based on their age and abilities. As they progress, their lessons become more comprehensive and include studies in the following areas: the classics, technique, body posture, ear training, sight reading, theory and history, ABRSM exam preparation and performance skills. Popular repertoire is offered as a supplement to the classical curriculum for students seeking exploration of other music styles.

### ABRSM Exams

Academic Certificates (scholastic grade specific tests) are earned by students participating in the Associated British Royal Schools of Music Examinations (ABRSM). Students are expected to prepare and participate in examinations when ready. The ABRSM Preparatory examination is a non-graded evaluation that all students complete at the end of their first year of piano lessons. Subsequent examinations are graded based on a point system.

### Program Tuition 2011/2012

Piano tuition is a fixed annual amount based on a 30 or 45 minute lesson and includes the elements listed below. Tuition can be prepaid on a semi-annual semester basis or every month over a span of 10 equal installments beginning in September with the last installment due and payable in June. Installment payments are due the first week of every month by mail or hand delivery.

\$1,100 per year - 30 minute lesson

\$1,400 per year - 45 minute lesson (recommended for ABRSM Grade 1 Exam students & higher)

### Annual Tuition Includes

- 30 Weekly Private Lessons (30 or 45 minutes in length)
- 4 (1 hour) Group Performance Classes
- Student Awards and Motivational Items
- Supplemental Learning Materials
- Two Recitals (February and June)
- Parent Conferences (scheduled on teacher administrative days)
- Semi Annual Written Progress Reports (mailed to parents)

### Music Books

Lesson books, exam books, theory books, note spellers, metronomes and technique books are purchased by the parent when needed. These items are not included in piano tuition.

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## Instrument and Equipment Needed

Students should have a quality instrument with 88 weighted keys, proper lighting for reading their music, a standard piano bench and metronome. Electronic keyboards are not quality instruments and should be considered for short term use. High quality digital pianos with hammers are acceptable alternatives to an acoustic piano. Please talk with your teacher BEFORE you purchase an instrument.

## Canceled or Missed Lessons

There are no credits or refunds for canceled/missed lessons. Two makeup lessons are allowed per school year regardless of the reason. This applies to private lessons only. There are no refunds or credits for missed group classes. Make-up lessons are scheduled on teacher administrative days, please refer to the school year calendar. Parents are responsible for scheduling makeup lessons with the instructor on a timely basis. Parents can also swap lessons with another parent as long as the teacher is notified of the arrangement AND the parents have agreed to have their first name, e-mail address, phone number and weekly timeslot(s) posted on the 88 Keys Piano Studio – “Parent Swap List” web page. **This web page is password protected** and will be updated whenever a change in scheduling occurs.

## Termination Policy

In the event the parent wishes to terminate lessons, 30 days notice is required. Any prepaid tuition will be refunded to the parent, provided 30 days notice of intent to leave the program is given. The teacher reserves the right to terminate a student if any of these circumstances occur.

1. Repeated failure to pay tuition on time.
2. Repeated failure to come to class prepared.
3. Failure to abide by studio policies and procedures.
4. Lack of reasonable progress.
5. Lack of parent participation or assistance (when needed).

## Required Practice Time

Daily practice is required for progress. Practice time depends on the age of the student and length of time studying the piano. Beginning students usually require 10 or 15 minutes each day. Add approximately 10 or 15 minutes additional daily practice for each year the student returns for further study. Practice requires concentration and focus. Careful thought should be given as to the best time of day for your child to practice. Sometimes breaking the practice session into two, separate sessions each day leads to better concentration and performance.

## Piano Performances

Numerous performances are offered during the school year. Separate fees are associated with some of these activities. **All students are expected to participate in ABRSM Examinations and Winter/Spring Recitals.**

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## *Parent Responsibilities*

Successful students have parents that are actively involved in their weekly piano assignments.

Learning a musical instrument is like a "self study" math course because it requires a high level of brain function. The teacher is exposed to the child for a very short period of time each week. Based on a quick, weekly assessment, the teacher assigns "self study" that is appropriate for the student's skills, age and maturity. The learning and development of those analytical and technical skills comes at home through quality, daily practice. **Parents need to ensure quality practice is happening at home.**

In order for a student to be successful in this program, parents need to agree to support their student by:

1. Providing a quiet practice environment to support your child's ability to concentrate and focus on their assignment.
2. Providing good equipment including a piano, bench, metronome and proper lighting so your child can develop good body posture, balance, rhythmic and reading skills.
3. Helping your child establish a consistent practice time each day so your child learns how to structure their time.
4. Avoiding too many extracurricular activities to eliminate obstacles that detract from consistent practice.
5. Establishing the proper tone for music lessons. Children should recognize that music lessons are an important, academic subject. Music lessons should be fun, but developing good skills requires long term commitment and hard work.
6. Reviewing weekly piano assignments and giving the teacher feedback regarding progress at home.
7. Periodically listening to your child's piano practice to demonstrate that you are committed and interested in their piano assignments.
8. Communicating timely with the teacher when questions or issues arise.
9. Sitting in on piano lessons to gain a better understanding of how the lessons are taught and what skills your student is learning.
10. Insisting the student perform in recitals and piano examinations. This sets the tone that piano lessons are important and tangible goals can be identified, worked on, and achieved. Children develop a sense of responsibility towards parents, the teacher and program activities.

Parent participation is "key" to children being successful with their music lessons. Each child's needs will vary depending upon their age, maturity and learning style. The teacher will discuss your child's specific needs with you and provide updates regarding their successful completion of program assignments.

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After reading the 88 Keys Piano Studio policies and procedures above – please sign and date this page and return to the studio. Thank you!

- I have read the 88 Keys Piano Studio Policy and Procedures and accept the terms and parent responsibilities as noted.
- I want to participate in the option to swap lessons with another parent in the event I need to reschedule my child's lesson. You have my permission to post my information on the password protected 88 Keys Piano Studio "Parent Swap List" web page.

Parent(s) Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Check this box if you do not want to have the option to swap lessons with another parent during the 2011/2012 school year – your information will not be posted on the "Parent Swap List" web page.