

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
Introduction to Piano

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required Text(s):

Faber, Nancy and Randall. *Piano Adventures: Sightreading Book, Level 1*. ISBN 978-1-61677-637-4

Faber, Nancy and Randall. *Adult Piano Adventures: All-In-One Piano Course, Level 1*. ISBN 978-1-61677-302-1.

Required Materials:

Ability to record and upload videos to Blackboard

Acoustic piano or keyboard

(Minimum requirements for keyboards: 88 keys (full-size); weighted keys, sometimes called “hammer action;” on a keyboard stand or table at the appropriate height.

Recommended models: Yamaha P71, Roland RP501R, Yamaha P-125, Korg D1. If you need advice on acquiring a piano or keyboard, please reach out to the instructor prior to the start of the summer term.)

Course Description:

This 8-week course will introduce beginning piano students to the foundational concepts of playing piano. You do not need to have any prior knowledge of music or experience with piano in order to participate in this course. Students will be introduced to basic piano technique and they will also learn the basics of music theory over the eight-week term. Introduction to Piano is an excellent way for students to explore their interest in further piano study.

Assignments

- **Weekly Assignments:** Each week, students will submit 2-4 short video assignments on Blackboard. All assignments are due by Sunday of the following week. These videos can be recorded as part of their daily practice sessions. There are some written music theory assignments in the workbook that students will be asked to complete and upload on Blackboard.
- **Practice Logs:** Each student is expected to practice at least five days each week for a minimum of 15 minutes each practice session. Each practice session will include one sightreading exercise. At the end of each week, parents will sign off on a practice log that students will upload on Blackboard.
- **Class Performances:** At least once a week, students will perform a short selection for their classmates. This is not graded on perfection, but rather being well-prepared and willing to participate.
- **Participation:** Learning to play the piano is a skill. Students are expected to attend all class meetings, actively participate on video and audio when appropriate, and offer constructive criticism and encouragement to their classmates.
- **Final Performance:** All students will perform a repertoire piece in the last class of the term. This piece will be longer than the weekly class performance pieces, and will likely pose a bit of a challenge for each student.

Grading Breakdown

Participation: 50%

Practice Logs: 10%

Weekly Assignments: 20%

Class Performances: 10%

Final Performance: 10%

Policies:

Late Work

Students submitting any work assigned by the instructor will incur a 10% reduction in grade for each day the work is late. For example, if an essay is due on a Friday but is not submitted until Sunday, the highest possible grade will be an 80%. Extenuating circumstances requiring an extension **MUST** be discussed with the instructor at least 1 week in advance of the assignment's due date.

Email Communication with Instructor

Please email me with any questions or concerns you have regarding the course. I will respond to any email within 24 hours during the week. Weekend emails will be answered on Monday. Please make a habit of checking your email once a day to stay updated on any changes in schedule or assignments.

Attendance Policy

Being present and participating in class is necessary to learn the skills needed to complete homework assignments, so every student is expected to attend class regularly and ask and answer questions in class. If a student is not able to attend class, it is their job to watch the recording of class before the next class meeting and reach out to the instructor with any questions.

*Please review the Attendance Policy, Mixing Live and Delayed Sessions Policy, Archiving Policy, Statement for Students Needing Accommodations, Religious Observances, and the Well-Trained Mind Academy Honor Code found on our Blackboard page under "Academy Policies."

Schedule: Subject to change! Monitor Blackboard and your email for updates

Week 1

- Unit 1, pgs. 8-27
- Video assignments: C Pentascale Warm-up (pg. 22), Ode to Joy (pg. 24) OR Camptown Races (pg. 15)
- "Music Theory" on pg. 27
- Class Performance: Ode to Joy OR Camptown Races

Week 2

- Unit 2, pgs. 28-41; Whole and Half Steps, Major pentascales
- "Music Theory" on pg. 49

- Video Assignments: Row, Row, Row Your Boat (pg. 33), Warm-up with 2nds (pg. 34), RH and LH Fingerwork (pg. 40), C and G Pentascales
- Class Performance: Russian Folk Song (pgs. 36-37) OR Midnight Ride (pgs. 38-39)
- Sightreading: pgs. 6-9

Week 3

- Units 3 and 4, pgs. 42-55; Major Pentascales; introduction to sharps
- Class Performance: Shining Stars OR Roman Trumpets
- Video Assignments: Chant of the Monks (pg. 43), Study in 2nds for each hand (pg. 48), Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (pg. 52), C G D A Major pentascales
- Sightreading: pgs. 10-13

Week 4

- Units 4 and 5, pgs. 56-67; Continuing with Pentascales; Chords
- “Music Theory” on pg. 61
- Video Assignments: C G D A E Major pentascales and triads, Theme from “Surprise Symphony,” (pg. 64), C Chord Warm-up (pg. 56), Jingle Bells (pg. 57)
- Class Performance: Hungarian Dance (pg. 65) OR Shepherd’s Song (pgs. 66-67)
- Sightreading: pgs. 14-17

Week 5

- Units 5 and 6, pgs. 68-75
- “Music Theory” on pg. 69
- Video Assignments: Parallel Promenade (pg. 68), French Minuet (pg. 71), Morning (pgs. 72-73)
- Class Performance: Taps (pg. 74) OR Happy Birthday (pg. 75)
- Sightreading: pgs. 18-21

Week 6

- Units 6 and 7, pgs. 76-83; Flats and the F Major Pentascale
- Video Assignments: F Major Pentascale, Rhythm Drills (pg. 80) with counting out loud, Moon on the Water (pg.s 82-83)
- Class Performance: Gavotte (pg. 77) OR Simple Gifts (pg. 79)
- “Music Theory” on pg. 81
- Sightreading: pgs. 22-25

Week 7

- Units 7 and 8, pgs. 84-93
- Class Performance: 500-Year-Old Melody (pgs. 84-85) OR African Celebration (pgs. 92-93)
- Video Assignments: C G D A E F Major pentascales and triads; C Major cross-hand arpeggio (pg. 88), May Dance (pg. 90)
- “Music Theory” on pg. 90
- Sightreading: pgs. 26-29

Week 8

- Units 8 and 9, pgs. 94-99
- “Music Theory” on pg. 95
- Video Assignments: Musette (pg. 98) OR American Fiddle Tune (pg. 99); Cross-hand arpeggios for C G D A E F (see pg. 88)
- Class Performance: Final Repertoire Piece
- Sightreading: pgs. 30-33