

Sight-Reading Piano A Syllabus

Fall 2015

Thursdays 12pm, 1 hour 1 credit

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The purpose of this course is to:

1. Improve the ability of the students to read piano music accurately. Note recognition and the interpretation of rhythmic values correctly are thought with practical application, by slowly and accurately reading written piano music, starting with the materials listed below. In addition the students are taught how to analyze the harmony of what they are reading so they can take in more information faster, and improve the understanding of what they are reading on the page. This portion of the course is called ACCURACY which is one of the two main objectives of the course.

2. To improve the ability of the students to read non stop regardless of the student's level of actual note reading. While the accuracy part of the program requires stopping, verifying pitches and correct rhythmic values before playing, this part teaches the real skill of sight reading which is keeping up with the music, and playing it with a sufficient level of competence that live situations may present.

This portion of the course is called FLUIDITY and is the 2nd of the two main objectives of this course.

The concept for both these important objectives will be taught in class from a theoretical and practical point of view so they can be applied successfully while practicing. The skill of sight-reading does require consistent daily practice. Therefore students are expected to spend a minimum of 15 minutes a day at the keyboard. The thorough practice method that the students are taught will be fine tuned and custom tailored to their strengths and weaknesses throughout the course. **Students are required to fill a daily practice chart that shows their practice program, on a weekly basis.** The quality of practice documented in the chart will also be assessed in determining the final grade

The 2 methods of reading will be tested both in the midterm and the final tests that will be given each semester, and will be based on the materials listed below. Also please note that sight reading is also a part of the second year student juries. The 2 jury requirements are: 1. Fluid written piano accompaniment music. 2. Jazz chart reading of melody and chord accompaniment with rootless voicing such as those found in the Jazz LTD and Colorado books. This goal is to be attained at the end of the first semester for intermediate level students, and end of the second semester for beginner level students.

Materials

Students are required to get the following materials based on the teacher's evaluation of their level, at the beginning of the course.

For beginners with minimal note reading:

Bach – Selections from Anna Magdalena Note Book, (Alfred Masterwork Edition recommended)

Bartok - Mikrokosmos Book I and II.

Easy Classics to Moderns: Piano Solos, Hal Leonard (red cover)

For students with good basic note reading skills:
Bach – Two Part Inventions, (Alfred Masterwork Edition recommended)
Bach – Well Tempered Clavier
Classics To Moderns - In The Intermediate Grades - Piano Solo Book
Hal Leonard (red cover)
Chopin – Mazurkas

All students are required to put together a hard cover binder for the purpose of assembling sight-reading materials from various online resources and from various jazz standards books that the teacher will specify.
The materials from the jazz standards books will be used for the purpose of improving chord chart and rhythm sight-reading. The most important site for downloading music that will become an integral part of all student's fluid sight-reading program is:
Specific directions will be given by teacher regarding which music to download
In order to improve the ability to read non stop.

The timeline for the completion of the above materials will be set by the teacher as the semester progresses, and sufficient evaluation of students skills and is gained.

Attendance Policy

Two absences would lower a student's grade unless:

1. Student has a valid excuse and notifies the teacher.
2. Student contacts one of the other students in the class to catch up with the materials and methods taught and come ready to the class.

Three absences without notice (email or phone call) to the teacher could lead to failure in the course.

HAVE A FUN AND PRODUCTIVE SEMESTER!