

Teaching Philosophy

Every student deserves a thorough instructional framework that addresses their distinct strengths, weaknesses, and learning style(s). It is the instructor's responsibility to facilitate a holistic learning environment through encouraging, critiquing, and guiding students to reach their fullest potential. Well-rounded music instruction consists of engagement, experimentation, application, and gradual pursuit of student independence.

An initial interview process with the student and/or student's family provides precursory information regarding physical and mental development, learning styles, and personality traits. I believe that the optimal time to begin piano study is approximately six years of age but warmly welcome adults of various musical backgrounds into my studio. After the interview with the student/student's family, I recommend a learning structure that I feel will best suit the student and their goals for music study. In addition to lessons, pre-college students are required to participate in regularly offered studio classes. In addition to these studio classes, students play in a minimum of two recitals each year.

The interview process informs my decisions in choosing appropriate curricula and repertoire for students. While previous music experience, learning styles, and musical goals all play a role in selecting appropriate materials, the core elements that I incorporate in traditional music study include repertoire, technique training, theory instruction and application, sight-reading, and aural skills. In addition to taking each student's stylistic interests into consideration, I require students to play classical repertoire, as it provides a solid music foundation for various other styles.

As the instructor, I am committed to providing a rich learning environment. For students to retain and build concepts and skills in an efficient manner, weekly lesson attendance is imperative. Without such commitment to music study, students will fail to progress adequately. Committed attendance and preparation from both the teacher and student create a healthy structure for students to progress well.