

Susanna VallEau Piano Studio

Web Site Map and copy

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Susanna Valleau Piano Studio

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Photo of Suzy at piano with an older student, teen-20

LEARNING AND LOVING THE PIANO: Lessons for Children and Adults

We believe in structured teaching infused with fun. Learning to play the piano requires commitment, but it should never be tedious. With the right teacher, anyone can learn to play — and look forward to each lesson.

**Learn more** about Susanna Valleau Piano Studio, or **contact her** for a free introductory lesson.

*"Learn More" links to Piano Lessons section*

*“contact her” links to Suzy’s gmail account*

**Upcoming Concerts**

For Susanna’s performance schedule

and recordings of past concerts,

visit her [**performance web site**](http://susannavalleau.com/).

*Hotlink to susannavalleau.com*



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PIANO LESSONS

Photo of Suzy at piano with student

Experience has taught us that every student is different. Each one deserves piano lessons created around his or her skill level, learning style, future goals, and musical interests.

At Susanna Valleau’s studio, students begin with the basics and receive a well-rounded musical education – from how to sit and position their hands, to sight-reading, to a little music theory to put it all together. Within two to six months, students master enough of the fundamentals to help choose their musical repertoire for future lessons.

Through it all, we mix in some fun — relevant games and learning incentives, even occasional music outings — to keep our students engaged.

Rates and Schedule > *link to this subsection (see page 4)*

**Schedule a Free Introductory Lesson** **>** *link to Susanna’s email*

**Testimonials >** *link to About/Testimonials*

Lessons for Children, Ages 5 and Up

• **Schedule**: Lessons are available in 30-, 45-, or 60-minute sessions, typically once a week.

• **Curriculum**: Initial lessons follow a specific lesson plan centered on playing an actual song or piece of music, beginning with the first lesson. Once students have the fundamentals down, lessons become more customized and a student’s tastes influence music selections.

• **Incentives**: Whenever possible, we try to make time for a music game or learning challenge to help students hone a specific skill away from the piano. If a student needs additional motivation, we may develop a more systematic, goal-oriented incentive program, such as **Memory Club**, with rewards for successful completion. *Link Memory Club to a PDF with the copy you see on the next page. Ann will format the pdf when the time comes*

• **At-home Practice**: Before leaving each lesson, we discuss and write down what the student should work on that week, as well as the best way to practice it.

Lessons for Adults

• **Schedule**: Weekly lessons are available in 30-, 45-, or 60-minute sessions.

• **Curriculum**: Lesson plans are designed around the musical background and goals of each adult. They might, for example, want the discipline of lessons to re-ignite their piano playing; they may currently play piano but hope to improve their technique; or they may have no prior musical training.

• **Incentives**: As with younger students, we make a point of introducing interesting learning incentives to vary and enliven lessons.

*When users click the Memory Club link on the Piano Lessons landing page, s PDF opens to the copy below. Ann will format the PDF when we get to that point and the studio has its logo.*

Sample Incentive Program: Memory Club

Memory Club Goals

• Encourage memorization of pieces

• Work on performance skills when playing for memory

• Learn new pieces

How Memory Club Works

• Guided by the teacher, the student chooses a piece to learn (and ultimately memorize) and begins working on it during lessons and practice time.

• As the piece nears a performance-ready state, teacher and student pick a "performance” date (e.g., two lessons from now).

• On performance day, the teacher readies a recorder, then starts it up as the student walks to the piano. The student bows to an imaginary audience, performs the piece from memory, and stands and bows again at the end, simulating a recital.

• Following the performance, teacher and student debrief, discussing such things as rhythm and note accuracy, fluidity (steady tempo, no pausing), musicality (dynamics, articulations, phrasing, pedal), recovery from any memory slips, and so on.

• If the performance goes well, the student is awarded a memory sticker, earning points toward official Memory Club membership.

• If the performance goes poorly, a date is set for another performance opportunity.

Later, the teacher types up a formal adjudication sheet with specific feedback about the student's performance and emails it, along with an audio file of the recording, to the student or parent for at-home review and discussion.

Memory Club Rewards

When students earn five memory stickers, they become Bronze members of the Memory Club and get to pick something from the studio’s prize box. Ten stickers earn them Silver member status, 15 for Gold, and 20 for Platinum. Students receive a prize and certificate at each level.



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*When folks click "Schedule and Rates on the internal menu for the Piano Lessons section, they come here. Copy here cover:*

*Internal navigation*

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Schedule and Rates

Susanna offers lessons year-round, including summer.

**Holidays**: During the school year, there are no lessons during major Seattle public school breaks, unless other arrangements have been made. There are, however, lessons on individual holidays, such as Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Columbus Day, and so on. We hand out a detailed holiday schedule at the beginning of each school year.

**Summer Schedule**: We encourage students to take a minimum of five lessons over the summer to guarantee a spot on our fall roster. The schedule is flexible to accommodate summer vacations and other commitments.

Rates

Per-lesson rates vary depending on the length of the lesson. Payment for each month’s lessons is due at the beginning of the month. Please [contact Susanna Valleau](mailto:susannavalleau@gmail.com) to discuss the cost of lessons for you or a child.

Cancellation Policy

Students who cancel their lesson at least 24 hours in advance are put on a waiting list for a make-up lesson. Make-ups are scheduled in the order that cancellations come in.



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Practice tips

At-home practice is essential to success. We not only teach students how to play piano, we teach them how to practice. Students leave every lesson with a written outline of what and how to practice in the coming week.

As a general rule:

• Students should practice at least five days a week.

• It's more beneficial to practice in small increments on a daily basis, than to cram it all in at the last minute.

• For most students — adult and older children alike — practice sessions should run the length of their lesson time: 30 minutes if lessons are 30 minutes, 45 minutes for 45-minute lessons, and so on.

• For younger students (ages 5 and 6), 20 minutes is ideal, either all at once or in two 10-minute blocks depending on the child's interest and attention span.

• Many children benefit from a parent or adult mentor sitting nearby as they practice, helping with the assignment, as needed, or simply encouraging their effort. This is especially true for younger children and those just beginning lessons.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is the studio located?

In Susanna Valleau’s home in the Roosevelt neighborhood of Seattle, just south of Roosevelt High School.

How do I get started?

Contact us to arrange for a free trial lesson for you or your child. It’s a great opportunity for us to meet each other, work together, and decide if we're a good fit. Please call 206.486.2801 or email [susanna.valleau@gmail.com](mailto:susanna.valleau@gmail.com).

What if I have to miss a lesson?

Students who cancel their lesson at least 24 hours in advance are put on a waiting list for a make-up lesson. Make-ups are scheduled in the order that cancellations occur. Unfortunately, we can’t offer make-up lessons with less than 24 hours notice.

What’s the time commitment for practicing?

For most students — adult and older children alike — practice sessions should run the length of their lesson time: 30 minutes if the lessons are 30 minutes, 45 minutes for 45-minute lessons; shorter sessions are better for younger children For additional guidelines, see **Practice Tips**. *Link to Practice Tips in the Piano Lessons section (pg 5 above)*



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*When folks click "ORGAN LESSONS" on the top navigation bar, they come here.*

ORGAN LESSONS

Photo of Suzy at organ

Susanna Valleau is a classically trained and practicing organist. In addition to piano lessons, she teaches organ and has access to several organs in the Seattle area for lessons.

If you are interested in learning to play the organ, please contact her:

**Phone**: 206-486-2801

**Email**: [SusannaValleau@gmail.com](mailto:SusannaValleau@gmail.com)



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*When folks click "Accompaniment" on the top navigation bar, they come here.*

ACCOMPANIMENT

Photo of Suzy at piano with Girls Choir

Susanna Valleau is an accomplished accompanist and performer. She has worked with soloists and musicians in many different settings — from recitals, festivals, and competitions to performances by chamber ensembles and orchestras. She is also on the faculty of the Seattle Girls' Choir as the piano accompanist for their senior choir.

To contact Susanna about accompaniment opportunities, please call 206.486.2801 or email [susanna.valleau@gmail.com](mailto:susanna.valleau@gmail.com).

**Past and Future Performances >** *link to performance web site*

Awards

*Tom: can we put a little miniature icon that suggests an award before each of these — e.g one of those cups that you get in horse shows, or a round pin with a ribbon dangling from it.*

[ award-like icon ]Second Place, Annual West Chester University International Organ Competition, 2014

[ award-like icon ] First Place, American Guild of Organists, Regional Competition for Young Organists, Western Region, 2011

*Susanna has been my accompanist over the past three years. She is very professional and prepared for every practice session and performance. She also does a great job at listening and asking insightful questions as we work through each piece.*  ‑— Owen Cromwell, Violinist



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ABOUT SUSANNA

Photo of Suzy looking casual and a lot of fun

Susanna Valleau began playing piano at age 7 and remembers feeling the urge to sit down and play every time she saw a piano. She eventually shifted to the organ, but piano has always been part of her life.

Susanna began giving piano lessons in 2012 at Puget Sounds Piano Studio in Issaquah, and she has been teaching children and adults ever since. She believes that everyone can experience the joy — and confidence — that comes from focusing on a piece of music, measure by measure, until the accumulation of small successes builds to a mastery of the entire piece. As a teacher, she says:

*Everyone learns in a unique way, so I adapt my teaching style to accommodate each student’s needs, goals, and passions. I focus first on cultivating a love for making music and second on developing technique. I believe in the importance of a well-rounded musical education, and I try, as much as possible, to add elements of music theory and history to enhance my students’ understanding of each piece. I believe in the importance of efficient home practice, and I give students the tools they need to make the best use of their practice time. On a personal note, I’ve always loved collaborating with other musicians, so I encourage children and adult students, alike, to team up with another pianist, instrumentalist, or vocalist to discover the thrill of creating music together.*

*Maybe a little* ***inset photo*** *of Suzy at our piano playing with Howard and guitar, or some other casual collaboration. Or of her playing with a student??*

Susanna earned a Bachelor’s of Music in Organ Performance from Lawrence University and her Masters in Music from the University of Washington. As an organist, she has won top prizes in several nationwide organ competitions, including Second Place in the West Chester University International Competition (2014) and First Place in the American Guild of Organists’ Regional Competition for Young Organists (2011).

In addition to giving piano and organ lessons, she serves as music director for St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church and faculty accompanist for the Seattle Girls’ Choir senior choir. She is also an accomplished performer, regularly giving organ recitals across the country and accompanying soloists, chamber ensembles, and orchestras on piano, harpsichord, and organ.



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Photo of Suzy with adult student

For teaching references, please contact Susanna Valleau at 206.486.2801 or [susanna.valleau@gmail.com](mailto:susanna.valleau@gmail.com) . Here iwhat students and parents have said about her:

*Ava has been taking piano lessons with Susanna for three years, continually progressing in piano technique and theory and gaining confidence in playing publicly. Susanna makes it fun and definitely keeps her interested. Ava absolutely loves her lessons and looks forward to every week*. — Aeli, Parent of 8-year-old student

*She’s really nice. She has fun games to help you learn. She laughs a lo*t. — Theo, 8-year old student

*Susanna is a fantastic teacher! She has been able to keep my son motivated to learn piano, which is sometimes difficult with younger children. She has high expectations and focuses on technique; yet she never loses sight of his individual needs and personality*. — Christi, Parent of 8-year-old student

*I'm a self-taught pianist, finally taking lessons. I had reached a level where I was comfortable but not very good. With Susanna as my teacher, I now play more and enjoy it more, and I'm improving much faster than I could without her*.

— Mary, Adult student

*She's a great teacher! She knows how to motivate me to keep improving my skills*. — Mikayla, 12-year-old student

*Susanna is an excellent teacher with the perfect balance of patience, humor, and inspiration*.

— Nikki, Parent of 12-year-old student



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CONTACT SUSANNA

Photo of teaching room and piano

Susanna Valleau teaches piano out of her home in the Roosevelt area of Seattle. *link to portion of map that shows location (see below)*. She welcomes questions, so feel free to contact her to discuss lessons for you or a child, or to set up a free introductory lesson.

**Email**: [susanna.valleau@gmail.com](mailto:susanna.valleau@gmail.com) .

**Phone**: 206.486.2801

