

Hello there,

Welcome to Hanford's Piano Studio

Handbook

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Components of Hanford's Teaching



Hanford's Story

As a child, I worked through my graded exams until one day, it was apparent that piano playing was what I wanted to become great at. So, I continued my studies and obtained a Bachelor of Music with Honours at the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, as well as a Master of Teaching from the Melbourne Graduate School of Education. Prizes and scholarships like the Joan Earle Classical Prize (Monash) and USCI International (Malaysia) helped fuel my desire to improve while performing with orchestras like the Monash Academy Orchestra (2018) and Australian International Opera Company (2016) gave me performance confidence. After more than a decade of teaching experience, I can appreciate and work with a diverse range of students and parents. Currently, I am the Treasurer for the Victorian Music Teachers Association and the 2024 Australasian Piano Pedagogy Conference.

Pedagogy

Developing honest, friendly, and respectful relationships with my students and their families is important. These kinds of relationships allow me to have ongoing conversations with you and your child so that we can work together as a team to set and achieve goals, discuss and share concerns, and motivate each other to do our best work. My Piano Program is designed to offer piano learning through various activities that combine to form a holistic and engaging piano learning experience for my students.

Piano Program

One-on-one coaching is the core component of learning the piano at my studio. During these weekly 60 minute sessions, we focus on exploring the practical side of piano playing. Beyond this, Piano Program also includes fortnightly sessions to focus on theory work and performance practice, regular performance opportunities and digital concerts to foster performance confidence, social hangouts to unwind and reset, as well as a rewards system to help parents engage with their child's progress.

Why Learn?

Learning to play the piano greatly stimulates brain development which offers a multitude of benefits including building proprioceptive and abstract thinking ability, developing discipline for goal attainment, and becoming a part of a longstanding culture of sound appreciation and manipulation. Also, it is very enjoyable to be able to play the piano!

Prices

Piano Program

\$1400 per term

View the schedule at www.hanfordlam.com/schedule

Weekly 60-min Mentoring and Coaching

Discover musical perspectives and learn to play the piano

Online Portal

Access feedback, recordings, missions, and rewards

Exam Preparation

Achieve milestones with experienced guidance

Fortnightly Theory Help

Build and expand musical knowledge (Mon/Sun)

Fortnightly Performance Practice

Exchange performances and practice techniques (Mon/Sun)

Performance Opportunities

Showcase your improvements

Digital Concerts

Listen to superb professional musicians (Sun)

Social Hangouts

Nurture relationships with fellow pianists (Holidays)

Excursions Add-On

\$250 per term

View the schedule at www.hanfordlam.com/schedule

Develop independence in your child with group excursions to various performance venues in Melbourne to see and hear some of the city's best musical and cultural offerings. Two or three excursions each term.

Music Mentoring

- Develop a musical worldview
- Apply musical concepts to problem solving
- Broaden perspectives

Piano Coaching

- Evaluate progress
- Live demonstrations
- Boston PE 178 grand piano
- Yamaha S5X grand piano

Online Portal

- www.hanfordlam.com/reports
- Video recordings
- Weekly feedback
- Extra learning tasks
- Daily check-in with Hanford
- Points system

Exam Preparation

- Achieve formal milestones
- Available for AMEB and VCE
- Available for practical and theory
- Check list overview provided

Theory Help

- Understand musical structures and elements
- Receive individual feedback
- Sight reading
- Improvisation
- Composition

Performance Practice

- Develop self-regulation skills
- Gain performance experience
- Observe practice techniques
- Reinforce musical general knowledge

Performance Opportunities

- Studio recital
- VMTA student concerts
- Competitions

Digital Concerts

- Hear different music varieties
- Learn from international artists

Social Hangouts

- Student designed
- Creative activities
- Wellbeing oriented

Excursions Add -On

- Grow understanding of modern arts culture
 - Explore diverse perspectives
 - Develop creativity and sensitivity
 - Awareness of self and others

Policies

Practice

- Daily, frequent, short, focused, goal-oriented practice is recommended.
- Update/check-in with Hanford during the week via the portal.

Student Attendance

- Requested reschedules are offered at Hanford's discretion.
- No credit or refund will be provided for any student no-shows.

Teacher Attendance

- Makeup, credit, or refund options will be provided for teacher absences.

Book and Exam Fees

- Students pay for their own books and exam enrolments.

Fee Schedule

- Term fees and excursion fees are paid upfront per term.
- Books and exams are paid for prior to purchase.

*Policies may change at any time without notice.