

Welcome to Hanford's Piano Studio

Handbook

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Components of Hanford's Teaching



Background

As a child, I worked through my graded exams until one day, I decided that piano playing was what I wanted to become great at. 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. Attaining successes like the Joan Earle Classical Prize (Monash) and USCI International Gold Award (Malaysia) helped fuel my desire to continue improving while performing with orchestras like the Monash Academy Orchestra (2018) and Australian International Opera Company (2016) grew my performance confidence. After more than a decade of teaching experience, I can understand 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.

Connection

Developing honest, friendly, and respectful relationships with my students and their families is important. These kinds of relationships allow me to have candid 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. Becoming a part of my studio means growing and achieving together.

Why Learn?

Learning to play the piano greatly supports brain development and offers a multitude of benefits including building proprioceptive and abstract thinking ability, developing discipline for goal attainment, and gaining insight into a longstanding culture of sound, movement, and art. Moreover, it is very enjoyable to be able to play the piano!

How We Improve

One-to-one coaching is the core component of learning to play the piano at my studio where a rubric is used to measure and guide improvement. During these weekly sessions, we focus on acquiring playing technique and repertoire. Additionally, there are optional weekly sessions to advance theory knowledge, monthly digital concerts with social games for fostering community and musical appreciation, occasional excursions to live classical concerts, and a termly studio recital. A points-based system rewards progress and is my way of reinvesting into my students and their families.

Fees

Piano Lessons

\$1200 per term (60 min, Grade 6 and above)

\$1100 per term (45 min, Grade 5 and below)

Weekly Coaching

Discover musical perspectives and learn to play the piano

Online Portal

Access feedback, recordings, missions, and rewards

AMEB Exam Preparation

Achieve formal milestones and target progress

Optional Extras

\$150 per term

Studio Recital: 3pm-4pm, final Sunday each term

Perform for others and grow your confidence

Theory Time: 9am-10am, every Saturday

Dedicated time for completing theory work

Digital Concerts: 2pm-3.30pm, first Sunday each month

Casual listening with in-studio social games

Live Concerts: invitations by email

20% off classical music concert student tickets

Agreements

Practice

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

Student Absences

- Makeups offered at discretion.
- Please inform as soon as possible so that a makeup is feasible.
- No credit or refund for no-shows.

Teacher Absences

- Makeup, credit, or refund options will be provided.

Book and Exam Fees

- Students pay.
- Points may be used to offset costs.

Fee Schedule

- Fees paid upfront per term.
- Books and exams paid for prior to purchase.
- Points may be used to offset costs.

***Fees and other Handbook details may be modified each term.*