

Hello there,

# Welcome to Hanford's Piano Studio

Handbook

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# Components of Hanford's Teaching



# Introduction

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. 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 studio offers piano learning through various activities that combine to form a holistic and engaging growth experience for my students.

## Piano Learning

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, my studio offers optional weekly sessions to focus on theory tuition and performance practice. Also, 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 and students engage with the learning menu.

## 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!

# Fees

## Piano Lessons

**\$1100 per term**

### Weekly 60-min 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*

### Performance Opportunities

*Showcase your improvements, gain performance experience*

## Extension Sessions

**\$550 per term**

Check the current schedule at [www.hanfordlam.com/schedule](http://www.hanfordlam.com/schedule)

### Theory Tuition (10am-10.30am Sundays)

*Learn about structures in music*

### Performance Practice (10.30am-11am Sundays)

*Overcome shyness and share your works-in-progress with fellow pianists*

### Digital Concerts (once or twice a term)

*Listen to and learn from local and international artists*

### Excursions (a few times a term)

*A variety of enriching experiences beyond the studio setting*

# Agreements

## Practice

- Daily, frequent, short, focused, goal-oriented practice if possible.
- Update/check-in with Hanford during the week via the portal as desired.

## Student Absences

- Makeups offered at Hanford's 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.