

Introduction to Music Theory - Winter 2018

Pre-requisites: Child must be able to use a writing utensil and form letters legibly on 2nd grade lined paper. This requirement is here so that the student is able to draw the required notes, rests, and staff components. Child must also be able to sit quietly and listen for 5 minute spans.

Materials: manuscript paper (notebook) or print out from my [website](#). Various worksheets online that I will announce prior to the class.

Donation: \$1-5 per child per course. This is simply to defray the costs of printing the copyrighted material that I am not allowed to distribute electronically, but allowed to use in a classroom nonprofit setting.

Time and Dates of classes: 2pm on the following dates: 1/12, 1/19, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16 (No Class 1/26)

Location: My house @ 2499 Channing Road.

Overview of Course:

- **Week 1: Getting Started: Introduction to Keyboard.** Students will be introduced to the piano and how it works. Students will identify pitch, the music alphabet, solfege and learn the geography of the keyboard. Students will learn about the staff and notes. They will compose an original work and have it played for them by their peers.
- **Week 2: Getting Started: Introduction to Keyboard II.** Students will identify skips and steps as well as repeats. Students will identify the repeating pattern of notes on the keyboard. Continue work with solfege. They will compose an original piece using skips, steps and repeats titled "Spider Monkey". Continue learning the names of the notes with activity "The Bear and the Bee"
- **Week 3: The Treble Staff: Intro to Treble Clef, middle C, intro to whole, quarter and eighth notes along with other musical terms.** Students will learn how to draw a treble clef, identify middle C on the keyboard and on the staff using a ledger line. Continue to reinforce the line notes and space notes of middle C using whiteboards. Listen to a live performance of "Caterpillar! Caterpillar!" on violin then analyze the song on paper.
- **Week 4: The Bass Staff: Learning the notes of the Bass Clef and Middle C, intro to half notes and signs.** Students will learn how to draw a bass clef, identify middle C on the keyboard and on the staff using a ledger line. Continue to reinforce the line notes and space notes of middle C using whiteboards. Listen to a live performance of "Saint Paul's Steeple Song" on cello and analyze the song on paper. Students will compose a piece with dynamics, titled "Something in my attic!"
- **Week 5: The Grand Staff: Learning how to draw notes above and below ledger lines of the grand staff, intro to harmonic octave intervals and quarter rests.** Students will relate the keyboard to the placement of notes on the grand staff. Exercises will include drawing a note higher or lower than a given note as they cross the middle of the staff. Then students will draw all 4 notes of the same note letter on the grand staff. Students will explore the "Lively Boy" with a live performance on piano and then looking at the song on paper.

After the class: The next 5 week course will focus on rhythms, scales and triads. This next course will continue to be free (except for the nominal fee of copying) but priority will be given to my piano students.

About me: I am a teacher of science and now music! Although I have played piano since the age of 6, in 2015, I made it a goal to become an elementary piano instructor through the Royal Conservatory of Music. RCM is one of the largest and most respected institutions in the world dedicated to music and arts-based education. Through dedicated study, the RCM curriculum works to teach the student the technical, ear, and sight reading skills necessary to play repertoire at the highest levels. Exams exist for each level, with the highest exams earning high school credit. A performance diploma and a pedagogical diploma, among others, also exist.

Over the past two years, I have studied the RCM piano curriculum from levels prep A to Level 8. I recently passed the Level 8 piano practical exam earning First Class Honours. I have also completed the RCM's teaching elementary piano course and I am currently working on passing the Level 8 theory exam through RCM. I have taught my older two children piano, each passing the Prep B exam through RCM. Caroline earned First Class Honours with Distinction – the highest honors. Isaac earned First Class Honours. Arthur is just beginning his studies and it's been great to use all my newly acquired skills in teaching him piano. I currently work with an incredible teacher at Oberlin Conservatory to continue learning piano. It truly is my passion!

If you are interested in piano lessons for your son or daughter, please ask me about my teaching philosophy!