

PianoExpress

STUDENT INFORMATION 09-10

The StartUp Course

To get you up and running, PianoExpress offers a special 10-week StartUp Course. This course is available to both beginners and those who can already play. Students attend a one-hour weekly lesson over 10 weeks.

For complete beginners

If you're a beginner, PianoExpress offers a special 10-week StartUp Course. From the first lesson of the StartUp Course you'll be playing hands together and will be taught to read music and interpret musically. There is no frustrating backtracking later on to learn these skills and, with our streamlined approach, most students find they can sail through. On average, students learn to play 14 pieces in popular, classical and jazz styles in this course.

For those who can already play

If you can already play, we'll start you from where you're at now with a special 10-week StartUp Course designed to get you back into the swing. Don't worry if you've forgotten a few things or a lot – we'll help fill in the gaps as you go along. Also, if you've never played popular or jazz before, then you're going to really enjoy the freedom and creativity that these styles offer. If you prefer to concentrate on just one style, then we have some really fantastic courses to offer you that will see you progressing at every step. Students find these very fulfilling and enjoyable, so please enquire about these.

Lessons

For superior results, rapid achievement and to help guarantee your success, PianoExpress is taught on a private lesson basis. You will be given a one-hour individual lesson each week. Also, the full course allows for regular breaks and accommodates holiday absences.

PianoExpress lessons are taught at our Sydney studio or by private Licensed Teachers at their own studio. All licensed teachers have advanced qualifications and undergo a comprehensive training program.

What Happens After the StartUp Course?

Following the StartUp Course there is a continuation program built around classical, jazz and popular styles. Subject to attendance, the whole PianoExpress course can be comfortably achieved within one and a half years.

Progress Factors

The PianoExpress system has been designed for the specific advantage of learning to play within a short period of time. If the course lesson structure is impaired in anyway, this can take considerable impetus from the flow and continuity of the system. It's important to consider:-

- * creating a 'special' time each day for your music practise
- * creating a 'special' practise environment
- * creating a 'great' practise attitude
- * being a consistent lesson attendee
- * staying focused on your goal throughout the course

Staying Focused on Your Goal

When students begin PianoExpress, they are always asked why they want to learn to play the piano. The most usual reply is 'for enjoyment'. Enjoyment should be the basis of learning any musical instrument and a whole new world can open up to any student who allows themselves to go along with the system and see it through to the end. PianoExpress is set up to see you succeed in a very short time. If you don't see it through to the end you'll never know how successful you could've been!

The Three Steps That Will Guarantee Your Success

Remember that PianoExpress has been designed for you to succeed – you just have to go with the flow!

1. Show up for your regular lesson;
2. Give yourself pleasurable and ample practise time during the course;
3. Go to the end of the full course.

How Much Practise is Sufficient?

Allow yourself at least 20 to 30 minutes practise each weekday – Monday to Friday. Of course, the more you practise the better you become. Use the weekends to give yourself more practise time when you are not so rushed.

During the week your practise time should be enjoyable, but also structured. Your teacher will tell you how to structure your practise for each level. Also why not give yourself time just to *experiment* on the piano and try composing a song – you never know, one day you could have a hit under your hands! *(A Sydney PianoExpress student, who is a signed composer in her own right, has written a song that was recently a hit in Canada!)*

Your Lesson is Important

The PianoExpress system was designed for adults to succeed, so please consider carefully when choosing a lesson time. Missing lessons can hinder the flow of the PianoExpress system. If you have to miss a lesson or reschedule, please understand that this can cause inconvenience, so find a way to commit to your lesson each week, regardless, and allow yourself plenty of time to get to your lesson comfortably. Let people know that you have a scheduled appointment and that this is important for you so they can work around you. If you have to miss a lesson try to let the teacher know well in advance.

- * Work commitments - let your employer/colleagues know in advance that you have a 'scheduled appointment' on a particular day to which you are committed.
- * Trips and Travel – if you can, try to plan your trips for outside the course weeks. If unavoidable, please let your teacher know well in advance. Your teacher will be able to give you a few options, for example, extending the length of a few lessons in order to complete a level before you leave.
- * Over-Scheduling – Before making the decision to take up lessons, you may need to assess your situation, especially if you already attend 3 or 4 other activities during the week. Learning the piano requires your commitment, time and energy. Music is an art form that requires contemplation and playing the piano is a skill that requires regular practise – in other words, you need time. Make sure you allow yourself the best chance to succeed.
- * Insufficient practise – students may have been too busy to practise and feel they should miss the lesson. A good excuse but not practical! The whole concept of the PianoExpress system is based on continuity. Lessons represent another chance to practise and most students find they leap ahead having had a good 'practise' at the lesson!

Fingernails

Playing the piano involves playing on your fingertips. To give yourself the best opportunity of developing a good technique and to avoid scratching the keys, please ensure that your fingernails are short for the course.

Terms of Enrolment

1. As successful completion of a PianoExpress course depends on many factors, no guarantee is given that a student will reach proficiency. Even though the course has a step-by-step approach, ample regular practise and consistent lesson attendance in the express program are the two most important factors in succeeding.
2. Students are requested to complete any PianoExpress course within the timeframe of that course regardless of whether lessons have been missed.
3. No refunds are given for course discontinuance or missed lessons. However, 2 missed lessons can be made up within the timeframe of any one course (see 4).
4. Students are kindly requested to phone the teacher more than 24 hours in advance to advise of cancellation. Please do not email. A lesson cancellation without notice or within 24 hours of an appointment time incurs the lesson fee and the lesson cannot be made up.
5. If a student cannot attend at their normal weekly time, they should aim to book for another time during that same week in order to maintain lesson continuity.

"I love all the music. It's what I know and can relate to. The fact that I can actually play them now gives me so much energy!" R. Yeo, Project Director

"Like it? I love it!" S.Perla, Medical Practitioner

"I've learned so much in such a short period of time. It's been a wonderful experience. I'm very motivated to continue on". D. Bershefsky, Registered Nurse

"I'm just loving it so much! I can't wait to get home to practise." L. Williams, retired Teacher and Professional Guitarist

"I want to keep this going. It works so well for me." N. Dinh, Pharmacologist

"I've been raving about PianoExpress to all my friends. It's just so enjoyable!" E. Sherlock, Signed Composer

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