

## The Piano School



“There is music in every child, it is the teacher’s job to find it”  
- Frances Clark

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### **Music Tree Series for Beginners, ages 6-8 years**

Frances Clark, a well respected pioneer in piano pedagogy, designed the Music Tree program in the 1960s. It has been regularly updated over the years to combine Clark’s dynamic group teaching philosophy with the latest pedagogical techniques. The program is divided into 4 books each containing 9 or 10 units of study which provide a comprehensive experience at the piano that prepares a child for rapid advancement in piano skills.

- Primer Class
- Class 1
- Class 2A
- Class 2B



The Piano School will offer these classes in a group format with the option of individualized instruction on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Group piano classes are best for young children as the teacher can hold the child’s attention for a longer length of time and create a more lively and engaging atmosphere than in traditional one-on-one lessons. There will be no more than 4 children in a class so that each child will receive individualized instruction within the group setting. However, the Piano School encourages parents to enroll their children in private lessons as well in order to maximize the student’s growth and minimize the burden of practice at home for the parent.

#### Tuition and Fees:

Twelve 50-minute Group Piano Classes	\$ 355
Materials Fee (includes all books and supplies needed for the group lessons)	\$ 35
Six Additional 30-minute Private Lessons	\$ 105
Twelve Additional 30-minute Private Lessons	\$ 210

This course requires a student to have a practice instrument at home and to commit to practicing 20- to 30-minutes a day throughout the course of study. Students at this age must have a parent willing to sit with the student and facilitate each practice session at home. We encourage parents to sit in on the group classes and learn as much as possible to make the practice sessions more profitable. A parent is required to attend all private lessons with the student.



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### Studio Policies

#### *Students’ Required Equipment*

All students are required to have:

- a *suitable instrument at home* for regular practice  
The piano must be an acoustic instrument with at least 2 working pedals and a bench of the correct height. Acoustic pianos should be tuned at least once a year. (Beginners may start lessons on a touch-sensitive digital piano as long as it has all 88 keys, damper pedal attachments, a piano height stand, and a suitable bench.)

Intermediate and Advanced Students are required to have:

- a *metronome* for practicing at home
- a special piano lesson *tote bag* for carrying music and supplies
- *two sharpened pencils* for marking music and taking notes.
- an *8 ½ x 11 spiral notebook*  
This notebook will serve as the record-keeping place for repertoire, weekly assignments, and communication notes between teacher, student, and parent.
- cost for *music books* is an addition to the lesson payments

#### *Students age 10 and younger*

A parent is required to attend private lessons with beginners under 10 years of age and encouraged to attend group lessons as well. The parent who attends the lesson is also expected to assist the student at home on a daily basis and must assume the primary responsibility for supervising practice sessions.

#### *Practice*

Students are expected to practice a minimum of 5-6 days a week. Suggestions for practice times:

- Beginning students should practice between 20 and 45 minutes daily. Short sessions of 10 or 15 minutes two or three times a day usually work better than longer practice sessions.
- Intermediate students should practice between 30 and 60 minutes daily.
- Advanced and ambitious students should practice at least 60 minutes daily.
- When preparing for recitals and competitions, students may need to increase practice times.

#### *Attendance*

Group lessons *cannot* be rescheduled or made up. If a student misses a group lesson for any reason, the parent must call and inquire about missed work and help the student to complete the given assignments by the next class meeting. After three missed group classes, the student will be removed from the class.

Private lessons may be rescheduled with notice of at least 24 hours. Without 24 hours notice, the teacher is not obligated to reschedule the lesson. Last minute rescheduling will be honored for hazardous driving conditions, illness of student or parent, death in the family, or other emergency.

### *Dismissal*

Students may be dismissed from lessons for inadequate practice, excessive absences, destruction or theft of teacher's property, rude, disrespectful, or uncooperative attitude toward teacher or other students, failure to pay tuition on time.

### *Lesson Fee Schedule*

The studio year is divided into three terms roughly corresponding to the school year. Prices vary depending on the length of the lessons taken. Payment of the entire term amount at once is preferred, however, installment options are also possible. Payment for all lessons must be made in advance of the lesson.

Prices for **Fall Term** (mid-August – mid-December) and **Spring Term** (mid-January – mid-May)

#### Beginning Students - Music Tree Course

Twelve 50-minute Group Piano Classes	\$ 355
Materials Fee (includes all books and supplies needed for the group lessons)	\$ 35
Six Additional 30-minute Private Lessons	\$ 105
Twelve Additional 30-minute Private Lessons	\$ 210

#### Intermediate and Advanced Students

15 private 30-minute lessons -	\$300
15 private 45-minute lessons -	\$450
15 private 60-minute lessons -	\$600

Prices for **Summer Term** (mid-May – mid-August)

#### Beginning Students (who have already completed at least one Music Tree class) – Abbreviated Music Tree Course

Six 50-minute Group Piano Classes	\$ 178
Three Additional 30-minute Private Lessons	\$ 53
Six Additional 30-minute Private Lessons	\$ 105

#### All Students

8 private 30-minute lessons -	\$160
8 private 45-minute lessons -	\$240
8 private 60-minute lessons -	\$320

Attendance in summer musical activities is mandatory. These can be summer lessons in the studio or an approved piano camp or other musical activity.

Extra private lesson times may be needed for advanced students at competition and recital times or for the ambitious student at any level. Extra private lessons beyond the initial term commitment can be scheduled during or between terms for half of the regular price.

