



MUSC 126: Piano for Beginners

Semester: Spring 2015

Credits: 2.0

Prerequisite: none

Instructor: Alberto Bosco

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Office hour: Wed 16-17, or by appointment via email

Schedule: Mon and Wed 3.30-4.20 pm San Ignacio Hall, 1st floor

Text: Alfred's Adult Piano Course by W.Palmer, M.Manus, A.V.Lethco

Course Description

Class Piano, a four-semester sequence (I-IV) of small group instruction in piano, is limited to eight students per class. The courses range from beginning through late intermediate levels of instruction and are designed to develop skills and techniques applicable to all keyboard styles.

The class structure, objectives and materials accommodate students with little or no previous keyboard training, including adult beginners taking the course for personal fulfillment as well as music majors beginning work on their piano proficiency requirement.

Activities include solo and ensemble work, learning basic notation, clapping rhythms, singing and speaking melodic and rhythmic exercises, and practicing technical exercises such as scales and chord progressions.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

- Read and play basic notation, common symbols and musical terms
- Recognize the key, meter, style of a score, and be aware of how rhythms, chords, dynamics and phrasing work
- Play technical exercises and begin major/minor scales
- Sight-read simple two-hands compositions in treble and bass clef
- Due to the understanding of how chords are formed, will be able to create the harmonic accompaniment of a simple melody
- Find and mark a suitable fingering for a simple composition
- Basically use the damper pedal in agree with the phrasing and the style of the composition

- Perform assigned solo and possibly ensemble repertoire

Course outline

Week	Material
I	Introduction to playing (the piano, the keys/tones, position at the piano, finger numbers)
II	Playing in C position (right hand - treble clef; left hand – bass clef; measure; quarter, half, whole notes)
III	Grand Staff (both hands; rests, special barlines, melodic intervals, harmonic intervals, dynamic signs)
IV	Introduction to chords and to scales
V	Playing beyond the 5 notes position (G7 chord; tied notes; Triple Meter; dotted notes; legato/staccato)
VI	Practicing: more notes, more chords
VII	MIDTERM EXAM
VIII	Playing in G position (# sharp, b flat, and natural sign)
IX	Damper pedal
X	Extra repertoire: solo and duets
XI	New positions for C major and more New rhythms (more dotted notes) New intervals Moving (up and down the keyboard in 6 th and more intervals)
XII	Practicing scales and Chord progressions
XIII	Syncopation; Use of bass
XIV	The minor scale Triplets
XV	Extra repertoire: solo and duets

FINAL EXAM

Grading System

All students will be asked to practice the material they have worked on during their lesson. It is essential that students understand the importance of day-to-day practice in order to develop a solid technique in their playing. Ultimately their success will depend on the amount of time they practice.

Students will be graded based on their demonstrated understanding and execution of assigned material at every lesson. Grades will be assigned according to the **effort** made towards these goals. This will be determined by regular attendance to class, evidence of regular practice, and in some cases, public performances in school concerts.

Calendar

Wednesday 14 January: first day of classes.

Tuesday 27 January: last day to drop a class without a grade of W and/or to add a class.

Friday 13 March: last day to drop a class and receive a grade of W.

Wednesday 8 April: registration for Spring 2015 Semester begins.

Wednesday 6 May: Final Day of Classes.

Accommodation statement

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.

University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning_resources.html.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at +34 915 54 58 58, ext. 204, send an e-mail to counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu, or to visit the Counseling Office (San Ignacio Hall). Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Communication:

Your Banner and SLU-Global accounts are linked to your slu.edu address. Hence please check your slu.edu account on a regular basis or have the mail from this address forwarded to a preferred account.

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Please note that, as a student in this course, you are required to adhere to the university's Academic Honesty Policy. Cheating, falsification, and plagiarism are strictly forbidden. Plagiarism is the intentional representation of someone else's thoughts or words as if they were one's own. Any violation of this policy will result in an F for the pertinent academic exercise.

You are expected to carefully read and follow the Saint Louis University Madrid Campus "Academic Honesty Policy", available at:

http://spain.slu.edu/academics/academic_advising/docs/Academic_integrity.pdf.

Information regarding the collection of student work for assessment

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, we regularly assess our teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose we keep on file anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs such as: assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. Thus, copies of your work for this course, (including any exams, oral presentations, assignments, submitted papers) may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer that Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus does not keep your work on file, you will need to communicate your decision in writing to your professor.