



Community Education Fall 2023

Piano II

Instructor: Aron Bernstein, M.M., B.M.

E-Mail: aron.r.bernstein@gmail.com Phone: 971-678-2625

Community and Continuing Education webpage: <https://www.clark.edu/cce/>

Continue developing into the pianist you want to be. Whether you took lessons long ago or yesterday, you'll learn not just individual pieces, but the skills to help you learn on your own. We will improvise, play ensembles, and enjoy everything from classical to rock, ragtime to Broadway. Everyone has something to bring to music, and so do you. Come see for yourself. Prerequisite: Piano I or instructor permission.

Learning Outcomes: as a result of taking this course, students will:

- 1) Learn to play songs and pieces from a variety of genres, starting with the very first class.
- 2) Enrich your sense of rhythm and meter and put it to use in class ensembles.
- 3) Expand your vocabulary of chords and chord progressions and use them to harmonize many popular and classic melodies.
- 4) Continue learning to improvise music with a minimum of knowledge—and, more importantly—reduce any fear of improvisation.
- 5) Continue to develop the ear-eye connection needed for effective sight-reading.
- 6) Have fun with the knowledge that everyone has something to bring to music! It's all about what you do with what you've got.

Course Schedule:

Week 1, Sep 28: Posture and keyboard geography review, improvisation tools, guide notes and staff review, Allegro in C by Reinagle.

NO CLASS OCTOBER 5

Week 2, Oct 12: Meter and rhythm tricks, sight reading, half-steps and transposing, sharp and flat review, I Want to Hold Your Hand by The Beatles.

Week 3, Oct 19: Chord progressions in root position, more improvisation, The Can-Can and Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

Week 4, Oct 26: New G major scale, chord inversions, In the Hall of the Mountain King.

Week 5, Nov 2: New D major scale, 12-Bar Blues, Minuet in C by Rameau.

Week 6, Nov 9: Beethoven 7th Symphony ensemble, The Entertainer, new A major scale.

Week 7, Nov 16: Andante by J.C. Bach, new E major scale, Every Breath You Take by The Police, continue Beethoven ensemble prep.

NO CLASS NOVEMBER 23

Week 8, Nov 30: Song Without Words, Hungarian Folk Song, the Stairway to Seven (Circle of 5ths), final Beethoven ensemble prep.

Week 9, Dec 7: VOLUNTARY end-of-class recital, perform solo pieces and the Beethoven Ensemble, learn final pieces. Bring lemonade and blueberry muffins!

Suggested Materials:

Breaking Barlines: my online music theory course with free video lessons and downloadable materials. <https://breakingbarlines.com>

Piano: 2nd Time Around by James Bastien and Jane Smisor Bastien, Kjos West, 1981

Class Evaluation: I am very interested in your feedback about this course. I am always striving to teach music more effectively, and I would welcome any comments or ideas you may have. Class evaluations are done by email. Sometimes the email will be delivered to your “junk mail,” but we can assure you it’s from Clark College only. Your responses are completely anonymous. If you do not see your evaluation immediately after class, look in your junk mail and send it to your email address. **Looking for classes?** Visit our Community Education webpage: <https://www.clark.edu/cce/>

Inclement Weather: If the college cancels due to icy conditions, you can find this on the college website: www.clark.edu. If Community Education concludes that the weather is too hazardous, we may also decide to cancel this class. In that event you will receive both a phone call and email. Make certain that we have your correct contact information by viewing the class roster.

Aron Bernstein has been a music instructor for twenty-eight years in the San Francisco and Portland Areas. He received his Masters of Music in theory and composition at Western Oregon University, and has taught music theory and history at Lewis and Clark College, Clackamas Community College, and for the Portland Youth Philharmonic. As a pianist, he has also taught at the Hoffman Academy, Westside Music School and the Harmony Road Music Center. He is the owner and creator of Breaking Barlines, an online music theory course available for free. A composer for thirty years, his works include chamber music for piano, strings, and winds, choral settings of his own poetry, and a symphony for full orchestra. He was Western Oregon University Music Department's Outstanding Graduate Composer for 2013-2014.