



Community Education Spring 2025 Thursdays 6:00-8:00 pm

Piano III

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

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

Delve into the rich tapestry of Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary repertoire, while embracing the artistry of jazz stylings. This course builds on established skills, fostering a deeper understanding of musical nuances. From mastering complex compositions to exploring improvisation, you'll refine your technique and broaden your musical horizons. Whether you aspire to grace the classics or infuse jazz elements into your playing, Piano III is your gateway to a harmonious musical journey.

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

- 1) Learn to play intermediate-level songs and pieces from classical, ragtime, and pop genres.
- 2) Improve your understanding of rhythm in both simple and compound meter.
- 3) Gain a greater fluency with scales and harmony, and use it to truly understand your music.
- 4) Learn to improvise and create music in both classical and blues contexts.
- 5) Learn tricks to develop your ear-eye connection for better sight-reading.
- 6) Play an 80's rock ballad in a four-part pop ensemble.

* During the course, please take every opportunity to email me with questions you may have between each class. It's my hope that everyone has the best possible experience with music!

Course Schedule:

- Week 1, Apr 10: Begin Don't Stop Believin' ensemble and choose parts, begin Arabesque by Burgmüller, review the sharp scales: C, G D, A, E, F#, and C# major.
- Week 2, Apr 17: Learn how to build major, minor, augmented, and diminished triads, begin the B section of Arabesque, learn the F major scale, continue Don't Stop Believin.'
- Week 3, Apr 24: Begin the Sonatina in C Major by Clementi, continue Don't Stop Believin,' Learn the Bb major scale, review triad inversions, finish Arabesque.
- Week 4, May 1: Continue the Sonatina in C, Learn the Eb major scale and seventh chords, continue learning Don't Stop Believin.'
- Week 5, May 8: Begin Maple Leaf Rag by Joplin, finish the Sonatina in C, begin practicing Don't Stop Believin' with backing tracks, create seventh-chord progressions, learn the Ab major scale.
- Week 6, May 15: Begin minor scales and relative minor, learn the remaining flat major scales, continue Maple Leaf Rag, look at simple and compound meter.
- Week 7, May 22: Finish Maple Leaf Rag, begin We Are the Champions, review compound meter, continue with minor scales, begin 12-Bar Blues.
- Week 8, May 29: Continue We Are the Champions, and 12-Bar Blues, prepare to perform Don't Stop Believing' for final class.
- Week 9, Jun 5: Perform Don't Stop Believin' Ensemble, begin new music (Minuet in G, Right Here Waiting by Richard Marx) for continued learning after class.

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
Alfred Basic Adult Piano Course Level 3

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 nearly 30 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 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.