

Community Education – Fall Quarter 2026

Course Title: Piano 3

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

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Course Description

Delve into the rich tapestry of Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary repertoire, while embracing the artistry of jazz stylings. This intermediate-level 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

By the end of this course, students will:

- Learn to play intermediate-level songs and pieces from classical, ragtime, and pop genres.
- Improve your understanding of rhythm in both simple and compound meter.
- Gain a greater fluency with scales and harmony, and use it to truly understand your music.
- Learn to improvise and create music in both classical and blues contexts.
- Learn tricks to develop your ear-eye connection for better sight-reading.
- 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, Sep 24:

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, Oct 1:

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, Oct 8:

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, Oct 15:

Continue the Sonatina in C, Learn the Eb major scale and seventh chords, continue learning Don't Stop Believin.'

Week 5, Oct 22:

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, Oct 29:

Begin minor scales and relative minor, learn the remaining flat major scales, continue Maple Leaf Rag, look at simple and compound meter.

Week 7, Nov 5:

Finish Maple Leaf Rag, begin We Are the Champions, review compound meter, continue with minor scales, begin 12-Bar Blues.

Week 8, Nov 12:

Continue We Are the Champions, and 12-Bar Blues, learn pedal technique.

Week 9, Nov 19:

Prepare Don't Stop Believin' Ensemble for final class, begin the Minuet in G and Right Here Waiting by Richard Marx.

**** No Class on November 26 - Thanksgiving Day***

Week 10, Dec 3:

Perform Don't Stop Believin' Ensemble, continue the Minuet in G and Right Here Waiting.

Resources

Recommended references for further study:

- 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
- Alfred Basic Adult Piano Course Level 3

Class Evaluation

- Class evaluations are sent by email.
- If you don't see it right away, check your **junk/spam folder**.
- Evaluations are **anonymous** and come directly from Clark College.
- If you don't receive one, contact:
 - Email: continuingeducation@clark.edu
 - Phone: 360-992-2939

Inclement Weather

- If the college closes due to weather, updates will appear at www.clark.edu
- Community Education may also cancel classes independently if travel is unsafe.
- If canceled, you will be notified by both phone and email.
- Please check that your contact information is correct on the class roster.

More Classes

Looking for more Community Education courses? Visit: www.clark.edu/cce/