

Community Education – Fall Quarter 2026

Course Title: Piano for Beginners

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

Email: aron.r.bernstein@gmail.com



Course Description

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

By the end of this course, students will:

- Learn to play music from a variety of genres, right from day one.
 - Enrich your sense of rhythm and meter and put it to use in class ensembles.
 - Expand your vocabulary of chords and chord progressions and use them to harmonize many popular and classic melodies.
 - Continue learning to improvise music with a minimum of knowledge—and, more importantly—reduce any fear of improvisation.
 - Continue to develop the ear-eye connection needed for effective sight-reading.
 - 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 23:

Guide notes and sight-reading review, Allegro in C by Reinagle, Mad World chord progression, Ham Salad rhythm tricks.

Week 2, Sep 30:

Sharp and flat review, Song Without Words, new G Major Scale, chord inversions.

Week 3, Oct 7:

Review Song Without Words, I Want to Hold Your Hand, new D Major Scale, Mad World with chord inversions.

Week 4, Oct 14:

New A major scale, The Can-Can and Somewhere Over the Rainbow, 12-Bar Blues.

Week 5, Oct 21:

New E major scale, Andante by J.C. Bach, begin Beethoven Ensemble.

Week 6, Oct 28:

Continue Beethoven ensemble, continue Andante, new B major scale.

Week 7, Nov 4:

Continue Andante, new F# major scale, continue Beethoven ensemble prep, Star Wars and triplets.

**** No Class on November 11th - Veteran's Day***

Week 8, Nov 18:

Learning 6/8 meter, I Saw Three Ships, Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen, finish Andante, Beethoven ensemble prep, new C# major scale.

**** No Class on November 25th - Thanksgiving Week***

Week 9, Dec 2:

Prepare the Beethoven Ensemble for final class, continue learning Hallelujah

Week 10, Dec 9:

VOLUNTARY end-of-class recital, perform solo pieces and the Beethoven Ensemble.

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/