



Community Education Winter 2025 Thursdays 6:00–8:00 pm

Piano II

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

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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 music from a variety of genres, right from day one.
- 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, Jan 9: Posture and keyboard geography review, improvisation tools, guide notes and staff review, Allegro in C by Reinagle.
- Week 2, Jan 16: Meter and rhythm tricks, sight reading, half-steps and transposing, sharp and flat review, The Can-Can and Somewhere Over the Rainbow.
- Week 3, Jan 23: Chord progressions in root position, more improvisation, I Want to Hold Your Hand by The Beatles, Mad World chord progression.
- Week 4, Jan 30: New G major scale, chord inversions, Song Without Words, Mad World with chord inversions.
- Week 5, Feb 6: New D major scale, 12-Bar Blues, Hungarian Folk Song.
- Week 6, Feb 13 : Beethoven 7th Symphony ensemble, Andante by J.C. Bach, new A major scale.
- Week 7, Feb 20: The Wild Horseman, new E major scale, continue Beethoven ensemble prep.
- Week 8, Feb 27: In the Hall of the Mountain King, final
Beethoven ensemble prep.
- Week 9, Mar 6: VOLUNTARY end-of-class recital, perform solo pieces and the Beethoven Ensemble, learn the Minuet in C by Rameau.

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

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 thirty 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.