

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

BASIC PIANO KEYBOARD SKILLS: COURSE #878

Contact Information

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The Department's Educational Philosophy

Education in the Arts plays a major role in three general areas of educational impact: societal, instructional and individual. Societally, students gain knowledge of events and historical movements that shaped society. Instructionally, the arts may help to develop critical and creative thinking skills. Individually, the arts can provide the means for communicating thoughts, emotions, and ideas that cannot otherwise be expressed.

Guiding Principles

For those students interested in developing skills in vocal, instrumental, and drama performance, the Performing Arts Department offers courses and activities of considerable variety. Performance material is selected to meet the varied needs and skill levels of the students, provide cultural enrichment for the students, provide aesthetic value for the students, make provision for technical growth of the students, provide for school and community service, and create interdisciplinary relationships.

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Course Frequency: Full-year course, meets alternate days

Credits Offered: 2.5 Credits

Prerequisites: None

Background to the Curriculum

This course is designed as a beginning course for people who do not read music. People who can't read music and who have never played the piano can start their studies at this level. In this course students will learn how to read musical notation and will become acquainted with basic piano techniques.

Core Topics/Questions/Concepts/Skills

- Reading and interpreting musical notation.
- Playing scales and intervals.
- Playing single-line melodies.
- Learning and playing chord progressions.
- Playing single-line melodies with chord accompaniment.
- Playing simple popular & classical piano pieces.
- Improvising simple melodies over repeating chord progressions.

Course-End Learning Objectives:

<u>Learning objectives</u>	<u>Corresponding state standards, where applicable</u>
1] Reading musical notation	2.1 Demonstrate and respond to: the beat, division of the beat, meter (2/4, 3/4, 4/4), and rhythmic notation, including half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes and rests.
2] Playing scales and intervals	2.2 Use a system (syllables, numbers, or letters) to read and sing at sight simple pitch notation in the treble clef.
3] Playing single-line melodies	2.3 Identify symbols and traditional terms referring to dynamics, tempo, and articulation and interpret them correctly when performing.
4] Learning and playing chord progressions	2.4 Use standard symbols to notate meter, rhythm, pitch, and dynamics in simple patterns performed by the teacher.

<p>5] Playing single-line melodies with chord accompaniment</p> <p>6] Playing simple popular & classical piano pieces</p> <p>7] Improvising simple melodies over repeating chord progressions</p>	<p>3.1 Play independently with accurate intonation, steady tempo, rhythmic accuracy, appropriate technique, and correct posture.</p> <p>3.2 Play expressively with appropriate dynamics, phrasing and articulation, and interpretation.</p> <p>3.3 Play from memory and written notation a varied repertoire representing genres and styles from diverse cultures and historical periods. Echo and perform easy rhythmic, melodic, and chordal patterns accurately and independently on rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic classroom instruments.</p> <p>4.12 Improvise rhythmic and melodic variations on given melodies in pentatonic, major, and minor tonalities.</p>
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Assessment

Students will be assessed on:

- Daily preparedness & care of equipment.
- Technique & musicianship.
- Weekly performance & skill quizzes and exams.

Materials and Resources

- eMedia Piano Methods 1 software
- eMacs, MIDI, and Synthesizers in Music/Communications Lab
- Supplemental piano pieces selected from current piano method books
- Supplemental theory worksheets