

FALL PIANO NEWS 2021

Birmingham
Keyboard
Arts Center



Schedule

SUMMER:

July 26 - 30: Last Week of Summer Lessons.

August 2 - 6: Summer Makeup Week.

FALL:

August 30 - September 3: Fall Lessons Begin. Tuition #1 + Recital Fee Due.

September 6: **Labor Day. No Lessons.** Makeup Day is 11/15.

October 1 - 7: Tuition Installment #2 Due.

October 11 - 15. **Fall Break. No Lessons.**

November 1 - 5: Tuition Installment #3 Due.

November 9 - 15: Last Week of Fall Lessons.

November 16 - 22: Fall Makeup Week.

November 21: Fall Recital. 2 pm at Ascension.

GEARING UP FOR FALL

I know you are celebrating our baby steps towards normalcy as much as I am. After the irregularities of our pandemic year, I'm working very hard to get students back on track with good habits that will ensure their success. Please carefully consider the following expectations that I have of piano students and do whatever you can to support and encourage them at home. If my students continue to try their best in these areas, they will thrive in our studio's signature creative and positive environment, where every success is celebrated, large and small.

Practice Routinely - While practicing every single day is ideal, it's also unrealistic. Everyone will have a low-practice or even a no-practice week every now and then. Very young students will only need to sit at the piano for short periods, whereas advanced students will need much more. The goal is to incorporate piano practice into your regular routine. Think of piano as a long-distance marathon rather than a sprint. Strive for a reasonable plan that can be maintained. Irregular to non-existent practice is completely ineffective. Conversely, pushing hard for excessive practice will result in burnout. Young students will need a lot of help developing a healthy practice routine. (Even teens will likely need help with structure.) When a student tells me they were too busy to practice, I remind them that piano is one of the things they are busy with, not what they do when all other options are exhausted. (I'm looking at you, Minecraft!) A well-prepared student is excited to show me their progress, will enjoy their lesson so much more, and will be richly rewarded with my praise. This creates a positive feedback loop. Habitual unpreparedness has the opposite effect. I'm generally satisfied with moderate routine practice and thrilled when a student exceeds my expectation. Parents, please sign the practice record each week so I can count it towards our end-of-the-year practice trophies.

Bring all materials - While it's true that I have backup copies of many books in the studio, it may take me a while to locate them. Without your books, I won't be able to make helpful markings to aid student practice or access your lesson notes. When you show up with all of your supplies, we won't lose a single minute searching for materials. Which brings me to . . .

Preserve valuable lesson time - We need to talk about the bathroom. 😞 Please ask your kids to use the restroom before they come to piano. I know it isn't always possible. Kids are coming straight from school, other activities, waiting for siblings in the car, etc. I will never ever tell

FALL TUITION ADJUSTMENT

Tuition will be adjusted for inflation beginning in the Fall Quarter. Every four years in the Fall, this adjustment is made using the US Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator. The new rates for the Fall, Winter, and Spring Quarters are listed below. I've eliminated the processing fee for the installment plan to simplify billing for students who pay monthly.

30 Minute Private Lesson: \$306,
3 monthly installments \$102

45 Minute Private Lesson: \$414,
3 monthly installments \$138

60 Minute Private Lesson: \$528,
3 monthly installments \$176

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Automatic credit card payments can be set up with a simple authorization form. Square charges a 3.5% to 15 cent transaction fee. The prices are a little more online because the fee is built in. You may avoid the uncharge by paying with cash or check in the studio. Please choose the option that is best for you.

someone they can't use my bathroom. I definitely don't want a small child to be uncomfortable or have an accident. That said, kids frequently use a restroom break to interrupt their lesson or go exploring. 🤔 I get it. Kids are curious. I have a really cool house full of instruments, furry family members, and even a lego village. It's a good trait, really—taking full advantage of fleeting opportunities will serve them well in the future. 😊 However, **I'm very invested in my students**

having the most productive, focussed lessons possible. When I have to round up a kiddo on a field trip through my house, we lose valuable lesson time. Maybe a pre-emptive strike will reduce these adventures. It's worth a shot, right?! Every elementary school teacher reading this is getting whiplash from nodding their head in agreement with me. 🤔

Safeguard our community - I have a cute outdoor sink right by the front door. Please wash your hands immediately before coming in. Hand sanitizer is fine, but washing is even better because it removes dirt along with the germs. Please also remove your shoes at the door. Gang, I have some ferocious allergies, borderline asthma. If you can remember to kick your shoes off before you come in, grass won't get tracked in my house and I will breathe more easily. Lastly, if you are not sure you are well, let's just not risk it right now. We can do a Zoom lesson or go for a makeup instead.



We are overdue for a fantastic year in piano. Let's all work together to make it memorable!!!

MAKEUP POLICY:

My studio is generally restricted to after-school hours, therefore my students are scheduled back-to-back until late in the evening. I don't even take a dinner break. Your lesson time is reserved exclusively for you each week. The makeup week allows me to reschedule lessons in the rare instance that I must cancel. Any remaining room in the makeup week may be used to schedule one excused absence per student. I will excuse you if you notify me in advance. That way, I can make another plan for my time, and I won't be in the studio waiting for you. Makeup lessons are not guaranteed, but I will try my best to fit them in. Absences will not be carried over to the next quarter.

Please know that my online lesson station is ready to go if the option will help a local student avoid an absence. I just need a ten-minute warning to make sure the equipment is prepared. The Zoom link is the same. I can quickly text it to you, if needed.

FALL RECITAL:

Our Fall Recital is scheduled for November 21, 2 pm, at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension. Their music director was thrilled to tell me that they have a new grand piano for us to play in the sanctuary. Please let me know asap if you will not be participating. A recital fee of \$8 per participating student will be added to Fall Quarter tuition to cover recital expenses.



Birmingham Fine Arts Tour

This summer, I took my students on a virtual tour of Birmingham's Fine Arts venues. We are all eagerly anticipating attending concerts in person again.

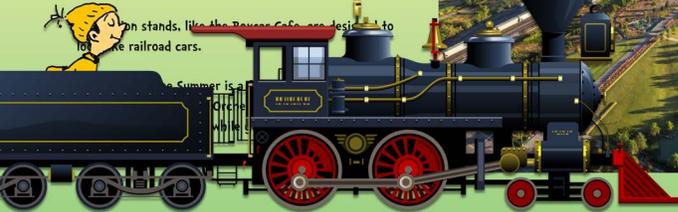


Symphony at Railroad Park

- A 19 acre green space in downtown Birmingham that was designed to celebrate the artistic heritage of our city and keep the history of our railway system alive.
- 600+ trees planted and creative garden designs



...on stands, like the *Beaux-Café* designed to hold the railroad cars.



Lyric Theater

- Built in 1914 for vaudeville shows. These fun-filled variety shows featured magicians, acrobats, comedians, trained animals, jugglers, singers, and dancers.
- 750 seats and 12 opera boxes
- The Lyric hosts concerts, symphonies, theatre productions, ballets, and more.
- The architecture resembles the bell of a trumpet giving the theater stellar acoustic power.
- 1920s: The custom was to attend a show at the Lyric Theatre on Monday nights. Tickets cost 25 to 75 cents.



Alys Stephens Center

- The Alys Stephens Center is a modern facility completed in 1996. It is part of the UAB campus.
- It contains 4 performance venues and is home to the Alabama Symphony Orchestra.
- Hosts 250,000+ people and 300+ diverse events annually



Birmingham Museum of Art

- Founding Date: 1951
- Collection of over 27,000 paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings, and decorative arts.
- Its mission is "to spark the creativity, imagination, and liveliness of Birmingham"
- The Upper Plaza holds the museum's monumental pieces of sculpture.
- The Art Museum performances



Carver Theater

- Opened in 1935
- At the time Birmingham was largely segregated so this theater became the main venue for African American audiences.
- Home to the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame and Birmingham Black Radio Museum.
- Named after educator George Washington Carver
- Hosted performances by Duke Ellington and Lionel Hampton.



Alabama Theater

- Built in 1927 by Paramount Studios
- The theatre hosts over 150 events with around 150,000 B-Ham citizens in attendance.
- Great for enjoying live music, classic movies, and shows.
- Listen to the mighty Wuriltzer Opus 1783 Pipe Organ.

