



## **Piano Lessons by Karen Shankle**

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Thank you for your interest in piano instruction in my home studio. My approach to piano instruction is to teach with great care, patience, and praise for each student.

### **About Me**

- 25 years of piano study, performance, theory, and ear-training
- Attended North Carolina School of the Arts 1989-1990
- Private piano instruction at Brigham Young University and UNC-Wilmington
- Choral participation in high school, college, and church (singing and piano accompaniment)
- Church Musician/Pianist
- Member of the Music Teacher's National Association

### **About Piano Lessons**

- Individualized piano lessons tailored to each student's goals, abilities, and personality
- Music theory, ear-training, and a wide selection of music to choose from including classical music, contemporary, sacred, gospel, jazz, pop, etc.
- Written assignments for clear instructions on what to practice during the week
- Lots of praise and encouragement to help each student reach their full potential

### **Recitals**

There will be opportunities for participation in recitals and area festivals. Dates will be set as early as possible so that friends and relatives can make plans to attend.

Should your child decide to participate in local competitions the fees are determined by each sponsoring organization.

### **Frequency and Duration of Lessons**

Piano lessons are **once a week**. A specific day/time will be reserved for your private lesson each week.

### **Fees**

- **\$90/month (weekly 30 minute private lessons)** no additional charge for music books
- **\$120/month (weekly 45 minute private piano lessons)** no additional charge for music books
- **Payment for piano lessons is made monthly due on the first lesson of each month.**

Teaching fee reflects lesson time and also includes teacher's knowledge and time selecting appropriate music for student's level and enjoyment, a studio that offers performance opportunities such as recitals and competitions, teacher's commitment to excellence in teaching by affiliation with local, state, & national piano teacher's professional organizations, and active participation in meetings and educational workshops.

### **Missed Lessons Policy**

As a courtesy, please notify me with at least 24 hours if a student will not be able to keep the scheduled lesson day/time. If you know you will miss lesson and contact me prior to the lesson time, a make-up lesson can be scheduled at no additional charge. Lessons missed without prior notice are automatically forfeited with no make-up lesson except for in the case of sudden illness or family emergency. If teacher can not keep scheduled lesson I will notify you in advance and either reschedule for a mutually convenient time or credit your lesson fee.

### **Holidays**

Piano lessons will not be held or rescheduled on the following holidays: New Years Day, Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving Day and Day-After, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>-Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. New Year's Day.

**Cancellation of Lessons:** Either party (teacher or student) may cancel at any time for any reason.

[“The most critical time for building the physical, mental and emotional foundations that will support us for the rest of our lives is during childhood. As parents, we strive to give our children the tools to build a successful life, and one of the best choices you can make for your children is giving them the gift of music.”](#)





## The Benefits of Music on Child Development

In addition to **improving creativity**, learning music cultivates many skills that will continue to be useful to your children throughout their lives. The following are some of the skills that listening to music and taking music lessons help develop in children:

- **Concentration**  
Learning a musical instrument will help your child develop concentration, as they must focus on a particular activity over extended periods of time. Developing concentration in this way also will help them when they must focus their attention on other subjects at school.
- **Coordination**  
Practicing musical instruments improves hand-eye coordination. Children develop important motor skills when playing music just as they do when playing different sports.
- **Relaxation**  
More and more, music therapy is being used to complement more traditional forms of medicine. Researchers acknowledge that certain types of music can aid relaxation by lowering heart rates and blood pressure.
- **Patience**  
and Perseverance In order to learn a musical instrument, children must develop patience and perseverance, which will help them later in life when they must tackle other more difficult challenges.
- **Self-Confidence**  
The act of learning and playing an instrument, the encouragement of a teacher and the enthusiasm of a proud parent, will build in a child a sense of pride and confidence. Moreover, children who practice self-expression and creativity often become better communicators later in life.
- **Greater success in school**  
Researchers also have found a significant relationship between music instruction and positive performances in such areas as: reading comprehension, spelling, mathematics, listening skills, primary mental abilities (verbal, perceptual, numeric, spatial) and motor skills.

