

Sloan School of Music: Piano Lessons

Music gives us a direct way to communicate our emotions, bypassing words and logic, which can slow us down. Playing the piano helps students tap into the universal language of music that everyone can hear and feel. A student who learns how to play piano has the potential to keep learning new things, appreciating different kinds of music, and experimenting with other creative abilities he or she might have. Embarking on a piano-playing adventure could be the beginning of an amazing life that includes music and extends beyond to other enterprises.

A Brief History of the Piano

Bartolomeo Cristofori invented this acoustical instrument near the beginning of the 18th century. The piano is a stringed instrument played by striking keys on a keyboard using the fingers and thumbs of both hands. Small hammers strike the piano's strings, producing the musical sound of the instrument. The duration of these notes can be extended with foot pedals at the base of the piano. Using the foot pedals allows a note's sound to continue even after the player stops touching the key.

In the 1800s, pianos had grown so popular that they essentially served the same function radios would serve a century later. When a new piece of music became popular in culture, a trained family member would play a version of the piece on the family piano.

Pianos are too large and heavy to be easily transported. But because of the instrument's immense popularity, artists readily find pianos in schools, music halls, and other venues worldwide.

Types of Pianos

There are three basic kinds of pianos:

- Grand – the largest, most expensive, and majestic piano
- Upright – costs less, is more compact, and offers a warmer sound
- Electric – often used by beginners and are more affordable and portable

Characteristics of the three types of pianos are sometimes combined to create new variations. Some of these include: "Baby Grand Piano," "Electric Upright Piano," and "Electric Baby Grand Piano."

The Benefits of Piano Lessons at the Sloan School of Music

The instructors and staff at the [Sloan School of Music](#) understand the [benefits of learning music](#). Learning music helps the brain by stimulating creativity, increasing reading comprehension, and teaches time management and discipline. Learning a musical instrument can also help prevent hearing and memory loss later in life.

We offer lessons for beginners, experts, and all skill levels in between. Our instructors offer private lessons and group classes to suit each student's comfort level. If you're looking to start your journey with the piano or improve your existing performing ability, [we're here](#) to help you.

When you take live, in-person lessons, our instructors will be able to give you more thorough guidance. They will be able to monitor your progress, spot any techniques that need adjusting, and help you progress much faster.

6 Frequently Asked Questions about Piano Lessons

If you're considering [private lessons](#) for you or your child, you will likely have questions before starting. Below is a list of questions our students often ask us before starting their lessons.

1. What Do I Need to Do Before Starting Piano Lessons?

Here are a few things you can do to prepare:

- Purchase a piano for your home. Having your own instrument to practice between lessons is key for progress.
- Purchase an adjustable piano stool. This will help you maintain the proper position for playing. It's important for comfort, too.
- Attend live performances. Seeing live performances by expert players will be inspiring and motivating
- Set clear expectations. Playing the piano is fun and rewarding. Students who commit to steady consistent practice time each week will see the best results.

2. How Young Can My Child Start Piano Lessons?

Children as young as six years old can start taking piano lessons. Children younger than six often have difficulty due to their developing motor and concentration skills.

3. I'm an Adult. Is It Too Late for Me to Learn the Piano?

It is never too late to learn the piano! If you commit to putting in practice consistently each week, you'll be able to advance your skills and enjoy creating beautiful music.

4. What Will I Learn During My Piano Lessons?

You'll learn:

- how to read music
- rhythm
- notes and chords
- how to practice
- ear and memory training
- effective performance skills
- music theory

Students also gain valuable life skills such as perseverance, patience, and how to work on their own.

5. How Long Should I Practice?

Consistency is key with practice. It is far better to practice 15 minutes a day five or six days a week than it is to practice for two hours once every ten days.

Dedicated students will see more progress if they commit to 30-40 minutes of practice five or six days a week.

6. How Often Should I Take Lessons?

Once per week lessons will give you the best results. If your schedule does not permit weekly lessons, once every other week will work, but your progress may be slower.

Piano Lessons at Two Convenient Locations

The Sloan School of Music offers two easy-to-find locations for your piano lessons. Choose from our [Hagerstown, MD](#) or [Urbana, MD](#) locations. When you visit either location, our friendly expert staff will be happy to give you a tour of our facilities, answer any questions you have, and get you started with your exciting piano lessons.

Why Choose the Sloan School of Music for Your Piano Lessons?

Here are four more reasons to choose the Sloan School of Music for your piano lessons:

1. Our instructors have extensive training and experience. Sloan School of Music teachers excel at imparting their knowledge to our students.
2. We are more than just one-on-one lessons. We also offer band programs and group classes all under one convenient roof.
3. You'll be taught using only the best equipment to improve your progress. Our staff members are also teachers, and they only recommend quality brands they use for themselves. They can also help you understand the differences between [beginning and professional equipment](#).
4. Our facilities feature a modern, clean, comfortable waiting area with free WIFI.

Piano Instructors

If you're considering piano lessons for you or your child, call us today. Our knowledgeable staff will answer all of your questions and match you with one of our expert instructors. Learn more about our teachers below.

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