

# Piano Pedagogy Certificate Program

## **Piano Pedagogy Certificate Program**

The emphasis is on the practicalities of teaching and includes varied topics such as Studio Management, Performance Practices, Curriculum Studies, Learning Theories, and Teaching Strategies. Sessions will be reinforced with periodic written examinations based upon topics currently being discussed and researched.

Those students who have the BCCM or RCM Teachers Written Examinations as their goal will find this course to be helpful in their preparation since the examinations will reveal their strengths and weaknesses. It is important to remember that this examination requires the student not only to have accurate information, but also to be able to communicate information and ideas in a clear and concise manner. Suggestions will be given during the class to assist the student in understanding questions and using appropriate wording in writing the answers.

Above all, a pedagogy course should be an experience both interesting and satisfying to the teacher and of benefit to the student.

---

## **Course Outline**

**Sept 20**

### **Getting Started**

- Definition of pedagogy

### **The Teacher**

- Code of ethics
- Being a professional
- Characteristics and personality
- Philosophy of teaching
- Professional organizations
- Assessing their own personality and character to be a successful teacher

**Sept 27**

### **Studio Management**

- Advertising and self-promotion
- Location / equipment
- Record keeping / finances / studio policies / makeup lessons
- Types of lesson

- Oct 4**                    **Types of students**
- Pre-school / average-age / older / adult / transfer
  - The interview / assessment of abilities of prospective students
  - Role of the parent
  - Types of instruction other than individual piano lessons
- Oct 11**                    **Reading Approaches**
- Music notation : pitch / rhythm / ways of counting
- Oct 18**                    **Method Books**
- Beginner Methods
  - Historical development / evaluation of current publications
  - Complementary Teaching Technologies
- Oct 25**                    **Lesson Planning and Structure**
- a young beginner: format of first and second lessons with practice suggestions /
  - rote teaching
  - First year objectives and long term planning
- Nov 1**                     **BCCM Curriculum: an Overview and First Exam**
- Exam based on all previous class material
- Nov 8**                     **How We Learn and How We Teach**
- Modes of Learning: visual, aural, kinesthetic, tactile, and analytical
  - Compatibility of learning styles of teacher and student
- Nov 15**                    **Teaching Strategies**
- Psychology
  - Analytical skills and problem solving
  - Body language
  - Rote teaching
- Nov 22**                    **Develop a first-lesson lesson plan**
- Using any of the methods evaluated in class plus practice suggestions
- Nov 29**                    **Technique Building, Part I**
- Physiological posture
  - Physical approach / finger movements / arm movements / arm weight / coordination
- Dec 6**                     **Technique Building, Part II**
- Touch and tone production / legato / staccato
  - Mechanics / scales / chords / arpeggios / octaves
  - Creative exercises
  - Problem solving / weak joints / proper and improper hand position
  - Tension in body
  - Basic exercise books
- Dec 13**                    **Supplementary Materials**
- Special occasion pieces / "Pupil Savers"
  - Teaching an unfamiliar piece
  - Popular Selections

- Dec 20**      **Basic Skills**
- Rhythmic Considerations
  - Fingering
  - Articulation
- Jan 3**      **Tonal Considerations**
- Tone Production
  - Phrasing and Musicality
- Jan 10**      **How to...**
- Practice
  - motivate, set goals
  - Have your students play with confidence
  - Nurture Artistry and Creativity
- Jan 17**      **Developing the Memory Muscle**
- How to memorize
  - Pros and cons
- Jan 24**      **Performance**
- Preparing for exams, recitals and festivals
  - The value of preparing for exams, recitals and festivals
  - Performance anxiety
  - Organizing practice
  - Choosing repertoire
  - Mental and physiological issues
- Jan 31**      **The Piano**
- History and development
  - Care of the piano
  - New technology
- Feb 7**      **The Art of Pedaling**
- How to teach pedaling
  - Functions and uses of the pedals
- Feb 14**      **Historical Styles**
- Baroque style
  - Articulation / tempo / ornaments / dynamics / fingering
- Feb 21**      **Historical Styles**
- Classical style
  - Articulation / ornaments / use of damper pedal / editions
  - Intermediate repertoire / sonatinas
- Feb 28**      **Romantic Style**
- Rubato / voicing / pedaling
- Mar 7**      **Assignment**
- To edit 1-2 pieces for style, articulation, etc.

- Mar 14**      **Styles continued**
- Impressionism
  - Twentieth Century
  - Canadian composers
  - Jazz / pop
- Mar 21**      **Musicianship**
- Ear training / sight reading / theory
  - Relating theoretical concepts to repertoire
- Mar 28**      **Assignment**
- Book report
- Apr 4**      **Learning Disorders and Special Needs**
- Students with perceptual difficulties and/or poor physical coordination
  - Handicapped students
  - Gifted students
- Apr 11**      **Dealing with injuries**
- Recognition
  - Self-help
  - Medical help
  - Prevention
- Duets and Ensembles
- Apr 18**      **The Teacher's Written Exam**
- Categories of questions
  - Types of questions
- Apr 25**      **Exams Returned**
- Problem solving and question period