

learn piano with dayna

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I need to prepare for my first lesson?

An empty folder with a metal-binder (no plastic sleeves),
A blank exercise book, and Yourself!

I don't have a piano or keyboard, can I still start?

Totally! If you're just starting, a lot of what we'll be focussing on is general music. So, you can get away with it for a little bit. But, there is never harm in asking your school, neighbour, or friend to borrow theirs meantime!

What kind of piano or keyboard should I get/have?

Beginner? Then, anything with 88 **weighted** keys. For those past Beginner, try to find something with a sustain pedal, good tactile response, and timbre too.

What kind of lesson duration should I or my child have?

Any child who struggles to sit for longer than ten minutes or has a four-track brain that can seek disruption when not effectively engaged, I would recommend 15 minutes. Most Beginner students still at school are good for 30 minutes. Students past Beginner, or are adult, I encourage 45 to 60 minutes.

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What kind of progress should I expect?

It really depends on the student: the way they think, the way they learn, how strong their curiosity and focus is. On average, I have my students reading basic music by the end of their trial. Those that practice *effectively* are completing basic, two-page songs by the end of their second month.

What is a good practice amount?

Life these days is chocablock which is why champion the Pomodoro method. I'll leave that to you to search (It's cute), but the rule of thumb is to practice effectively and not just keep "playing through" hoping for progress.

Identify. Isolate. Correct. Consolidate. Repeat.

Do you teach Classical or Contemporary or Jazz or...?

I teach all standard genres and encourage my students to experiment. However, if you're looking for strict, *traditional* Classical training, that does usually involve AMEB exams, so I would recommend an alternative teacher, sorry.

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Do you do exam or performance preparation?

Not officially. I no longer offer AMEB preparations in my standard lessons due to the additional workload. For school or extracurricular performances, I'm happy to guide preparation as long as no additional expectations.

Am I expected to attend lessons on Public or School Holidays?

No expectations! As long as you give me advance notice that you will not be attending on a Public or School Holiday, I'm happy to postpone. I will also inform you in advance if I am unavailable to teach on those days, or if I will be providing alternative time slots (such as in the morning).

I'm no good at creative things, can I still learn?

Most definitely yes. (Almost) everything be learnt.

Do you travel and teach at student's homes?

Most definitely not. Sorry!

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What books do I need to get?

I use print outs and copies for my students so unless you or your child get really taken by a book, there are no expectations of additional purchases. Exceptions are if a student asks to learn a song that requires online sheet music purchase.

Why do you only allow one postponed lesson in a two month block?

If I could afford to allow every absence, I would. Sadly, I have bills too. But, it is also totally okay if you are unable to commit to weekly lessons due to work or lifestyle. It just means we should discuss fortnightly options instead.

I love my lessons but I can't afford my next invoice. . . Is there help?

Of course! Cost of "Living" right now is insane. If you are unable to keep up with the usual two or four month advance payments, I totally get it. Just please let me know ASAP so we can sort out an alternative payment or lesson plan.