

fall 2020 lesson registration

Welcome!

In-Studio and Online



the piano studio
of Jason Sifford



About the Studio

For students between the ages of 7-10, our journey typically begins with Piano Safari. Written by Katherine Fisher and Julie Hague, this method builds a strong musical foundation that combines rote teaching where students learn by ear with carefully sequenced instruction in reading. Add to that an exploration of technique that includes lions, zebras, tigers, frogs, and hippopotamuses, and we're off to a great start!



As students get older, we begin to explore a wide variety of music. One of the wonderful things about piano is the vast amount of literature that we can explore. I have students who enjoy classical music, jazz, video game music, and everything in between.

We also learn about music theory and investigate the ways in which music is improvised and composed.

Students are also encouraged to share their music with others. I have students who play at school, in church, and who participate in studio recitals and local events sponsored by the Iowa Music Teachers Association.



Fall 2020 - Thoughts

Since quarantine began in March, I've seen music be a stabilizing force in the lives of so many - myself, my friends, and my students. I believe that music can continue to play an important and positive role in people's lives.

Stability - A regular weekly lesson schedule helps keep us connected and grounded. Much of what we'll do in lessons will be the same as before quarantine - continuing our study of the piano and making great music. Music can help us express what we're feeling or provide a diversion when the weight of the world gets too heavy. Lessons are a great way to "check-in" to see where students are and what they need.

Flexibility - ICCSD's plans, public policy, and the virus itself all seem impossible to predict these days. What I can predict is that I'll be there for students and their lesson time. We may be in-person, we may be online, and it can even change from one to the other on minutes' notice, but I'll be there, ready to spend some time making music.

Safety - I am currently comfortable with masked and distanced in-studio lessons. Both my home studio and my studio at West Music are regularly cleaned, well-ventilated, and large enough for adequate distancing. I err on the side of caution in my personal life, and should I ever feel that I've been put at risk, I won't hesitate to move all lessons online.

Practicing

I am mindful of the fact that screen time is at an all-time high. Whether our lessons are online or in-person, my goal is to give students something to do away from screens during the week.

Practicing the piano is a wonderful way to keep our minds, bodies, and ears engaged. People play for different reasons. Some enjoy tackling a difficult challenge, others use music to relax.

All I ask is that students sit down at the piano during the week, rest their eyes, open their ears, and see what happens.



Registration

To keep things simple, I plan to handle lesson registration the same way we have in the past. Visit the online registration page and let me know preferred lesson times. We'll begin lessons the last full week of August.

In the past, students have typically kept the same lesson time throughout the year with only minor adjustments. I fully expect there to be major adjustments this year and am organizing my life so that I can adapt easily and quickly as things evolve.

www.siffordmusic.com/registration

Tuition

There is an initial registration/materials fee of \$35 and a flat monthly fee assessed from September through May. Tuition for the 2020-2021 school year is:

30-minute lessons: \$125

45-minute lessons: \$170

I am aware that many people are facing unprecedented financial insecurity at this time, and I am happy to work with you to make sure students are able to continue lessons should problems arise. I promise understanding and discretion.

About Me

I grew up in Springfield, MO. My original plan upon entering college was to get a degree in chemistry and mathematics with the hope of becoming involved in civil engineering. While I loved the sciences, I quickly found myself spending most of my time in the music department, so I changed degrees and embarked on my teaching and performing career. After completing graduate school at Louisiana State University and the University of Michigan, my career in academia began and I became a tenured professor at Texas Tech University. In 2008, I moved to Iowa City where I've had the pleasure of teaching a wonderful studio of dedicated students. In addition, I continue to perform with local artists and am a composer/clinician for the Willis Music Company.