

KeyNotes Chronicle

The Official Newsletter of KeyNotes Piano Studio



FALL BREAK

Just a reminder that the Studio will remain closed from November 12th through the 23rd. Make-up lessons will be scheduled for either before or after those dates for everyone. HAPPY THANKSGIVING, EVERYONE!!!

Changes coming in 2026

KeyNotes is **EXPANDING**

Starting next year, we will continue to offer Piano and Guitar, and start offering and Voice and Violin lessons. We are currently recruiting qualified instructors from the FSU College of Music and elsewhere.

1

IN NOVEMBER, STUDENTS SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON LEARNING THEIR PIECES FOR THE CHRISTMAS RECITAL.

2

NOVEMBER IS ALSO A GREAT TIME TO GET YOUR PIANO TUNED AND REGULATED

3

-DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR TWO BALDWIN GRAND PIANOS HAVE TO BE TUNED FOUR TIMES A YEAR (DUE TO THEIR HIGH RATE OF USE), AT A COST OF \$1,200 A YEAR?



Remember to call in sick if you or anyone on your party are feeling unwell. All lessons will be made up. Help keep everyone around you healthy!

The Importance of Practicing in Small Sections

When learning a new skill—whether it’s playing a musical instrument, memorizing a speech, mastering a sport, or studying complex material—many people make the mistake of trying to tackle everything at once. However, one of the most effective strategies for deep and lasting improvement is **practicing in small sections**. Breaking tasks into manageable parts allows for more focused attention, efficient learning, and stronger long-term retention. Each note becomes intentional, allowing you to truly understand the movement and sound it produces. This level of mindfulness prevents sloppy habits and ensures that, as you speed up, your playing remains clean and confident.

1. Focus and Precision

Working on small sections helps you concentrate fully on specific details. When you try to practice an entire piece or skill all at once, your attention becomes divided, and mistakes can go unnoticed. By narrowing your focus, you can identify weak points, refine accuracy, and develop good habits before moving on.

2. Builds Muscle Memory and Confidence

In skills that rely on physical coordination—like playing an instrument or performing a sport—small section practice helps build muscle memory gradually. Repetition within short segments reinforces correct technique, leading to smoother execution later. As each section becomes familiar, your confidence grows, making the larger task feel less intimidating.

3. Encourages Deep Learning

The brain retains information more effectively when learning is spaced and segmented. Practicing in smaller chunks promotes *deep learning* instead of surface-level familiarity. It allows time to understand the “why” behind each movement or idea, rather than just rushing through. This deeper comprehension helps you adapt and apply your skills more flexibly.

4. Prevents Overwhelm and Fatigue

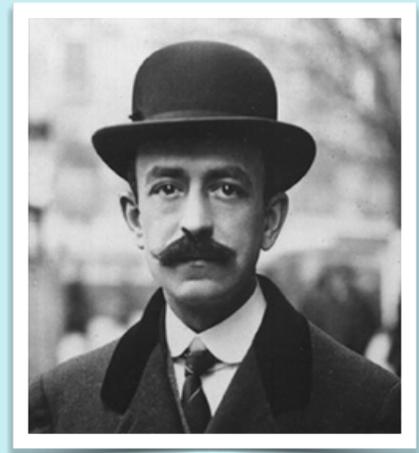
Large tasks can feel daunting and lead to frustration or burnout. By dividing practice into smaller goals, you create a clear sense of progress and maintain motivation. Each completed section feels like a small victory, keeping you engaged and energized.

5. Enhances Retention and Recall

The brain retains information more effectively when learning is spaced and segmented. Small, focused sessions allow for better encoding of information and give the brain time to consolidate it. This makes recall easier and performance more reliable under pressure.

THIS MONTH WE CELEBRATE MANUEL DE FALLA'S BIRTHDAY

Manuel de Falla (1876–1946) was one of Spain’s most important composers, renowned for blending classical forms with the rich colors and rhythms of Spanish folk music. Born in Cádiz, he studied in Madrid and later lived in Paris, where he met Debussy, Ravel, and Dukas, whose influence shaped his style. Falla’s works, such as *El amor brujo*, *The Three-Cornered Hat*, and *Nights in the Gardens of Spain*, capture the spirit and passion of Andalusian culture. His music is marked by rhythmic vitality, harmonic originality, and emotional depth, making him a central figure in 20th-century Spanish classical music.



🎵 Share the Joy of Music — and Get a Free Month!

Do you have a friend or family member who's always wanted to learn piano? Invite them to join our studio! When your friend enrolls for lessons, *you'll receive ONE MONTH of piano lessons absolutely free* as our way of saying thank you for spreading the music. The offer is also valid for a sibling starting lessons!

We have Gift Certificates for Special Occasions

Important Upcoming Dates

Nov. 12-23 Fall Break - Studio Closed

Nov. 24 Lessons Resume

Dec. 21 Registration Deadline for the Tallahassee Music Teachers Association's Sonata/Sonatina Festival.

Dec. 9 Adult Performance Forum at the Studio.

Dec. 13 Christmas Recital - Dohnányi Recital Hall, College of Music, Florida State University. 11:00 a.m. Reception following recital.



Welcome to all New Students since the beginning of the Fall Term:

Reagan, Beckett, Tim, Kiki, Matthew, Zara, Arlo, Denise, Lee, Cora, Leo, Tori and Francebel!

Student Spotlight of the Month: Everett K.



Photo: Justin K.

Q. How long have you been playing piano, and what first got you interested in learning it?

A. Almost three years! My grandparents got me a piano for Christmas and it intrigued me. Their piano present made me want to start playing.

Q. What's your favorite piece to play right now, and why do you love it?

A. O Tannenbaum (O Christmas Tree) because it's really upbeat and jazzy--I really like jazzy stuff.

Q. Is there a composer or musician you look up to?

A. I don't have a favorite musician yet, but I'm learning more about jazz musicians.

Q. What's one thing you've learned recently in piano lessons that you're proud of?

A. Definitely how to play more jazzy pieces and getting that feeling for jazz!

Q. Do you have a favorite musical memory--like a performance, recital, or funny lesson moment?

A. Competing in last year's sonatina festival. It's memorable because it was the first time I've ever played in a piano competition, and it was the first time I was truly graded on my work.

Q. What do you find most challenging about playing piano, and how do you overcome it?

A. It's challenging for me to slow down. I tell myself to find a good pause or double rest where I can stop and switch to a chiller, slower mode to practice.

Q. If you could learn any other instrument, what would it be and why?

A. The saxophone because I've wanted to learn a woodwind instrument (and a jazzy instrument!).

Q. What advice would you give to other piano students?

A. Slow down and take your time. Also, if you're performing and you mess up, just keep going. If you make a small mistake, just keep going. If you've been playing something wrong the whole time, fix it and keep going!

Q. When you're not playing piano, what are some of your favorite things to do?

A. Basketball, drawing, and video games.

Q. What's your next piano goal or piece you'd love to learn?

A. Summer (Nature's Crescendo) from the game Stardew Valley. I wanted to play that piece a while ago, but I wasn't good enough, and now I think I'm ready!