

# KeyNotes Chronicle

The Official Newsletter of KeyNotes Piano Studio



## CHRISTMAS BREAK

Just a reminder that the Studio will remain closed from December 14th through January 18th. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE!!!

Remember to call in sick if you or anyone on your party is feeling unwell.



All lessons will be made up. Help keep everyone around you healthy!

## It's Almost Time for Our Christmas Recital.

Our most special event of the fall is almost here. Be ready to enjoy beautiful piano and guitar holiday music at the wonderful Dohnányi Recital Hall - Florida State University College on Music - Saturday, 13 December 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

1

EACH RECITAL TAKES AROUND THREE MONTHS OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION. THE COST OF EACH RECITAL IS ABOUT \$2,900. IT TAKES 300-350 HRS OF TEACHER WORK TO PLAN, EXECUTE AND PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE EVENT.

2

THIS YEAR'S RECITAL WILL FEATURE OVER 35 PERFORMERS AND MORE THAN 40 PIECES. STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR FESTIVE ATTIRE.

3

PERFORMING IS ESSENTIAL. IT BUILD CONFIDENCE, STRENGTHENS TECHNICAL SKILLS, AND ENCOURAGES EXPRESSIVE PLAYING. IT GIVES STUDENTS A CLEAR GOAL, MOTIVATING THEM TO PRACTICE AND REFINE THEIR ABILITIES.

## Focusing on “Deliberate Repetition”

It’s easy to fall into the trap of mindlessly repeating something over and over. True progress comes from **deliberate repetition** — practicing with intention. Simply going through the motions won’t help you improve, and it can even reinforce bad habits. The key is to make every repetition count.

Here’s how to make your practice sessions truly effective:

1. **Set a Clear Goal:** Decide exactly what skill, technique, or movement you want to improve. Instead of a vague goal like “get better,” pinpoint a specific target: for example, “increase finger agility in my scale practice” or “perfect the follow-through on my free throws.” Clear goals give your practice direction and measurable outcomes.
2. **Break It Down:** Divide the skill into smaller, manageable parts and master each individually. Complex skills are much easier to learn when approached step by step. For example, a musical passage can be divided into short sections, or a sports technique can be separated into footwork, timing, and follow-through.
3. **Slow It Down:** Speed often comes at the cost of accuracy. Start slowly to engrain correct technique and build muscle memory. Once each movement feels natural at a slow pace, gradually increase speed while maintaining precision. This approach prevents

mistakes from becoming habits that are hard to unlearn.

4. **Use Reflection:** After each attempt, pause and ask yourself: What went well? What needs adjustment? Take notes or record yourself if possible. Reflection turns each repetition into a learning opportunity, ensuring that you improve with intention rather than habit.
5. **Incremental Progress:** Gradually increase difficulty, speed, or complexity. Small, consistent improvements compound over time. For example, challenge yourself with slightly harder exercises or increase your practice duration gradually. This method keeps you progressing without feeling overwhelmed or risking burnout.
6. **Quality Over Quantity:** Remember: deliberate practice matters more than simply putting in hours. Even 10 highly focused minutes can be more valuable than an hour of distracted repetition. Every repetition should have a purpose — aim for mindful, attentive practice rather than mindless repetition.

By embracing **deliberate repetition**, you transform ordinary practice into a tool for mastery. Each focused session builds skills, confidence, and consistency, bringing you closer to your long-term goals.



### THIS MONTH WE CELEBRATE BEETHOVEN’S BIRTHDAY

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) was a German composer whose work transformed Western music. Raised in Bonn and later based in Vienna, he expanded classical forms with unprecedented emotional force. Even as deafness advanced, he wrote groundbreaking pieces, including the “Eroica” Symphony, the Fifth Symphony, the Ninth Symphony with its “Ode to Joy,” and visionary late quartets. His music, marked by dramatic contrasts, lyrical intensity, and structural innovation, bridged the Classical and Romantic eras.

# 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

**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.

**Dec. 13** Last Day, Fall Term.

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

**January 18th** First Day, Spring Term



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piano studio

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See Back for Details

Welcome to all New Students in November:

Dante and Luke

## Student Spotlight of the Month: Charlie N.



Photo Credit: Lorraine N.

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

A. I've been playing piano since I was 4 years old. I am now 8 years old. My parents strongly encourage learning new things.

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

A. Mary Had a Baby is the song I am learning now. The baby is Jesus, and I love Jesus.

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

A. I look up to Mr. G. He is a musician at my church. He plays the trombone very well.

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

A. I am leveling up my piano skills with every piano song that I learn.

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

A. I believe I was the first student to play the Mandalorian Theme Song at my recital at FSU.

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

A. Remembering all the notes and playing them on time can be challenging for me. I overcome it by focusing and practicing every day.

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

A. I would like learn the trombone because I like the sound that it creates and it is very shiny.

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

A. My advice to others is have fun playing the piano and never give up when it gets difficult.

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

A. I like traveling with my family. Cruising is my favorite. My family and I will travel to Egypt this coming spring break.

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

A. My goal is to continue excelling in piano and learn how to play the Magnificent Seven Theme Song.

## KeyNotes Welcomes our New Voice Teacher, Kaylee Therieau, Enrolling New Students now for Lessons Starting in January.



Kaylee Therieau, Voice Instructor

Hello! My name is Kaylee Therieau and I will be instructing voice. I graduated from Elon University with a Bachelors in music, education, focusing on voice and choir. I then went on to get my Masters in music theory from the University of British Columbia and I am currently a PhD student in music theory at FSU. Throughout my studies, I was classically trained in operatic vocal techniques. Additionally, I have been playing piano from the age of 5 and am so grateful to pass on my love for the instrument. Previously, I have experience teaching private voice and piano lessons to students aged 4-adult as well as larger classroom settings. I completed my student teaching in a high school choir class and have taught multiple college-level music theory courses in my masters program. Throughout my studies, I have participated in multiple choirs including the Elon University Camerata, UBC University singers and Vancouver Bach Choir. I also had the opportunity to participate in an opera program in Florence, Italy where I performed in two Italian operas. I have experience teaching classical technique as well as popular styles and musical theatre. My teaching philosophy for both voice and piano revolves around creating a self-sustaining, well rounded musician. I wish to instill a love for music that lasts far beyond me.

**Students are welcome to add voice lessons, but they must continue their piano studies as well. Piano provides the essential musical foundation that supports vocal development for all other instruments.**