



**SPRING 2016
STUDENT HANDBOOK &
CLASS SCHEDULE**

**"I was obliged to be industrious. Whoever is
equally industrious will succeed equally well."**

J.S. Bach

WELCOME TO PIANICITY

DID YOU KNOW: Our original business name was "Allegro School of Music", started in 2012 in Kingwood, on Northpark.

BEETHOVEN:

"To play a wrong note is insignificant; to play without passion is inexcusable."

To Our Students and Parents,

How quickly 2015 passed by! Perhaps it was because we were working diligently to upgrade our facility and our curriculum. Our original plan was to be open in our new facility by September of 2015, but slow permitting by the city of Houston prevented us from reaching that goal.

So it is with great pride and anticipation that we unveil our facility in the earnest hope that our students will love it. Early comments have all been favorable and we appreciate the patience of our Pianicity Partners.

Highlights of our new facility include

- Our new Korg LP-380 digital pianos with full size (88 key) weighted keyboards;
- Central control of all pianos by class instructor, reducing possible distractions for all students;
- Twice the classroom space, with room for eight students per class;
- More waiting room with upgraded seating and reception;
- Free wi-fi;
- 1928 Mason & Hamlin concert grand piano;
- A more central location for many of our students.

We believe that 2016 will be a great year for our students in Kingwood, and that everyone will love our new location. We look forward to it! As always, please contact us anytime we can be of service.



Matthew Mason, Owner

OUR PURPOSE

Our core mission is to make musical instruction meaningful and fun. We provide the meaning and the student's classmates provide the fun, providing our students with Positive Peer Pressure. What is that?

POSITIVE PEER PRESSURE

We all know that peer pressure is usually negative--sometimes young people can "fall in with the wrong crowd" and learn bad habits from others way too easily.

Yet young people can influence each other in positive ways also. In a class setting, they can hear questions that others have, can see others learning what they are being asked to learn, proving that it can be done, and giving them confidence that they can do it too. Kids LOVE to learn together and yet to compete also--we encourage such interactions in the classroom. And no one wants to be left behind, so they work hard

PERFORMANCE PERKS

One of the unique experiences we offer our winners is the chance to play our Kingwood Piano, a 9' concert Grand Piano by Mason & Hamlin, built in 1928.

We bought this instrument for the studio from the family of its original owner, Mr. Robert Palmer of Los Angeles. He was the chief aeronautical engineer for native Houstonian Howard Hughes. Mr. Palmers plane, the Hughes H-1 Racer, was the last aircraft built by a private individual to set the world speed record; all aircraft to hold the honor since have been funded by governments.

The H-1 Racer is now in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C.

Mr. Mason will judge the San Antonio International Piano Competition in June 2016. His original commissioned work will be performed as the final piece.

PIANICITY PUBLICATIONS

MAURICE
RAVEL:

"The only love
affair I have ever
had was with
music."

The most popular
music curriculum
of the 20th cen-
tury was written
by John Sylvanus
Thompson in the
1930s. Unlike our
work, his was a
compilation of
songs placed in
particular order.
Our work is writ-
ten specifically as
teaching pieces.

Some curricula take shortcuts to make early learning easier, in an attempt to give the student confidence that he can learn to play at all. However, this early progress is later undone when the shortcuts have to be discarded. Then the student loses his bearings and gets discouraged.

After several years of using such materials, we decided that students should learn proper reading and playing skills from the beginning. So we developed our own proprietary curriculum that is specially adapted to classroom instruction and also individual practice.

The three stages of Pianicity curriculum replace false encouragement with real progress in professional techniques, encouraged and reinforced by students, friends and classmates.

PIANICITY RECITALS

Of course we know how well our students are doing, but do their parents, or brothers and sisters, or other kids in the school?

Recitals are the "acid test" of piano instruction and playing--they give the student a chance to perform in front of an audience, with all of the attention and tension that they generate.

We have recitals once per year, toward the end of the spring semester, at Lone Star College of Kingwood, 20000 Kingwood Drive.

As in the case of our curriculum, the hall and associated costs are paid by the school and are not charged to the students.

Let the recitals begin! Our recital this year will be on Thursday, May 12th, starting at 6 p.m. at LSC of Kingwood. We encourage all our students to participate, and to show the Pianicity family the results of hard work and practice.

THE POMODORO TECHNIQUE

Q: How does an ant eat an elephant?

A: One bite at a time.

Learning to play piano can be a daunting task. We believe that it becomes less daunting when broken down into individual "bites"--each of our teaching songs is an example of a bite of the elephant. When each one is learned, the goal gets a little closer.

The pomodoro (Italian for tomato) technique is named after the tomato shaped timers popular back in the 1960s.

Each student at our school gets a Pianicity timer as part of the welcome bag when signing up. We use this timer to break down complex pieces into digestable bites. When the timer is turned, the student is committing to 25 minutes of "uni-tasking"--no interruptions, no distractions, nothing but focus on one project or piece for 25 minutes. This is followed by a five minute break, and then another pomodoro.

In the days of Facebook and email and text messages, we believe that it is vital for students to turn off multi-tasking in order to learn anything, but especially piano. In this way, the skills learned in our schools are transferable to an immense range of human endeavors that are only successful when people learn to FOCUS.

We ask each of our students and their parents to take our timers and USE them to learn to focus, whether on piano, physics, phonics or practice of any kind.

PUNCTUALITY PLEASE

We also ask that each student arrive at least five minutes before the scheduled lesson, as we do not like to start a class without all students ready at the proper time.

PLATO:
THE REPUBLIC

"Musical training
is a more po-
tent instrument
than any other,
because rhythm
and harmony
find their way
into the inward
places of the
soul."

ROBERT
SCHUMANN:

"Play always as if
in the presence
of a master."

PURPOSEFUL PROCEDURES

DID YOU KNOW?

The term harmony derives from the Greek (harmonía), meaning “joint, agreement, concord”, from the verb (harmoza), “to fit together, to join”. The term was often used for the whole field of music, while “music” referred to the arts in general.

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

“My life flows on in endless song;
Above earth’s lamentation,
I hear the sweet, tho’ far-off hymn
That hails a new creation;
Thro’ all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul—
How can I keep from singing?”

--Christian hymn, 1860s

Lessons are charged by the month and not by the lesson. Students will receive 19 class sessions from January through the end of May. The fee for these classes is divided into 5 equal monthly payments of \$144. No contract is required, and for your convenience, tuition is automatically billed monthly on the first of the month.

One-time registration is \$35, non-refundable.

Classes are held weekly (except as noted) and are 45 minutes long.

Classes are grouped by age and skill level. The skill levels are yearly and consist of levels 1-3. The age groups taught at once are 5-6, 7-10, 11 and up. Age levels from 5-18 without exception.

There are 5 classes a day. The first starts at 3:45 and the last starts at 6:45. Business hours are from 3:30 to 7:30, Monday through Friday only.

We do not offer makeup classes. However, every effort will be made to put the student in another class in the event he or she cannot make their usual class time, subject to availability and our discretion.

We do not teach one-on-one lessons. Class sizes are from two to eight students.

Our curriculum is free to students only. We request that students not make copies of the works.

We have recitals once per year, toward the end of the spring semester, at Lone Star College of Kingwood, 20000 Kingwood Drive.

Our school schedule generally follows the Humble ISD schedule.

SPRING SCHEDULE

January 9: Grand Opening & Open House, 3033 Woodland Hills, 9 am-3 pm
January 11: Classes begin
January 18: No classes
March 14-18: Spring break, no classes
May 30: End of semester
June 4: End of semester recital at Lone Star College Kingwood recital hall

PSALM 150:4

“Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!”

DOUGLAS ADAMS:

“Beethoven tells you what it’s like to be Beethoven and Mozart tells you what it’s like to be human. Bach tells you what it’s like to be the universe.”

SUMMER SCHEDULE

June 2: Classes begin
July 4-8: Summer break
July 11: Classes resume
July 29: End of summer session

SPRING CLASS SCHEDULE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3:45 PM	AGES 5-6 LEVEL ONE	AGES 7-10 LEVEL ONE	AGES 5-6 LEVEL ONE	AGES 5-6 LEVEL ONE	AGES 7-10 LEVEL ONE
4:30 PM	AGES 7-10 LEVEL ONE	AGES 11 UP LEVEL ONE	AGES 7-10 LEVEL ONE	AGES 5-6 LEVEL ONE	AGES 5-6 LEVEL ONE
5:15 PM	AGES 5-6 LEVEL ONE	AGES 7-10 LEVEL TWO	AGES 7-10 LEVEL TWO	AGES 7-10 LEVEL ONE	AGES 7-10 LEVEL TWO
6:00 PM	AGES 7-10 LEVEL ONE	AGES 7-10 LEVEL THREE	AGES 5-6 LEVEL ONE	AGES 11 UP LEVEL ONE	AGES 7-10 LEVEL ONE
6:45 PM	AGES 11 UP LEVEL ONE	AGES 11 UP LEVEL TWO	AGES 7-10 LEVEL TWO	AGES 7-10 LEVEL ONE	AGES 7-10 LEVEL ONE

WELCOME

Pianicity of Kingwood is committed to providing each student with the best in music and piano instruction. We strive to make the playing of music a prized and lifetime skill among our students, and to make the process of learning to play social as well as fun.

Please contact our office at 832-654-7941 or by email to info@pianicity.com or matthew@pianicity.com.

Friend us on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/pianicity>

Pianicity
CLASS PIANO

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