



**centenary piano
preparatory
program**



Centenary Piano Preparatory Program Studio Policy

The skill of playing the piano can enrich your life, through performing recitals, playing for school or church activities, or simply for your own enjoyment. Learning to make music at the piano fosters a sense of personal responsibility, accomplishment, and self-confidence that helps create a foundation for greater success in all other aspects of life.

Our goal at Centenary is to provide an exciting, well-rounded musical education to every student, through the study of technique, artistic expression, theory, sight-reading and ear training. We hope to help our students discover the joy of music!

Tuition and Fees

Tuition is due at the beginning of each semester and can be paid online at:
www.centenary.edu/pianopreppayment.

Cash or checks may be brought to the music office in the Hurley Music building.
Please make checks payable to: Centenary Piano Prep Program.

Expenses not covered in tuition include festival/competition fees, as well as music and theory books. These expenses will be kept at a reasonable minimum.

Materials and Equipment

1. Students must bring all sheet music, repertoire, and theory books to lessons each week, as well as a notebook for keeping track of weekly assignments.
2. A metronome or metronome app is highly recommended. This will help students develop a sense of rhythm and maintain a steady tempo while practicing.
3. Every student needs daily access to a piano. An acoustic piano is preferable, although a keyboard with all 88 weighted keys is also acceptable. Pendley Piano Gallery offers great deals on keyboards for beginning students, as well as quality acoustic pianos. Appropriate weighted-key keyboards can also be found at Guitar Center or Amazon.

Practice

A consistent practice regimen ensures that students get the most out of their piano lessons. Parents can set their children up for success by creating and enforcing a daily practice time. Students should aim for the following amounts of practice 5-6 days each week:

Beginner: 15-20 minutes

Intermediate: 30-45 minutes

Advanced: 45-60 minutes

Missed Lessons

1. Advance notice of at least 24 hours is appreciated for the cancellation of a lesson.
2. Lessons missed by the student are not required to be made up. This includes absences due to school activities, trips, sports games, and sick days.
3. Lessons missed by the teacher are required to be made up as soon as possible, unless the student/parent does not wish to make up the lesson.
4. If a student intends to discontinue lessons, a one-month notice is appreciated.

Studio Environment

Parents are not expected or required to sit in on piano lessons. However, we ask that anyone who wishes to observe a lesson not distract or take away from the student's time. It is important that students can focus and feel comfortable during their lessons.

Contact Information

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Office: Anderson Choral Building room 114

Rene Todaro, Piano Instructor

Email: rene.todaro@gmail.com

Office: Hurley Music Building room 208

Performance Opportunities

Students are expected to perform in at least one recital or event each semester. We have access to Centenary's Anderson Auditorium and beautiful Steinway Model D grand piano for our own studio recitals, and the Greater Shreveport Music Teachers Association hosts several festivals and competitions throughout the school year. Yearly events are as follows:

1. Halloween Spooktacular- October

Hosted by GSMTA, this event is for piano students from all over Shreveport-Bossier to dress up in costume and play a piece in recital. Memorization is not required. Music does not have to be Halloween-related; any piece of music is acceptable! There will be candy goody-bags for all the kids and a photo booth to take fun costume pictures. The fee to participate is \$10.

2. GSMTA Solo Festival- November

Solo Festival is a chance for students to play a piece of music from memory for a judge. They receive a score and cumulative points each year (up to 6 points per year) toward trophies, starting with the 15-point trophy. Every year, a few exemplary students are selected to perform in the Honors Recital, which will be held the next day and is open to the public. The fee to participate is \$15.

3. Christmas Jubilee- December

Hosted by GSMTA, this is a public performance where students play a Christmas piece or other piece of their choosing. Memorization is not required. The location may change but it is usually held at Barnes & Noble on Youree Drive. The fee to participate is \$10.

4. GSMTA Baroque-Sonatina Festival- March

Students compete with compositions from the Baroque era and/or a Sonata/Sonatina. They are divided into categories by age (1st-4th grade, 5th-8th grade, 9th-12th grade) and perform in a recital format. First and second place cash prizes will be awarded by one or two judges immediately following each group recital. The fee to participate is \$15.

5. LMTA District Rally- April

The Louisiana Music Teachers Association District Rally is a comprehensive musical event consisting of four parts: (1) performance, (2) sight reading, (3) keyboard musicianship, and (4) written theory, history and ear training. A student must participate in all four parts to be eligible to receive an award. Awards are given to first, second and third place winners, and an Outstanding Achievement award will be given to each student who achieves the qualifying score. Except for Preparatory A, students from each district who achieve the required scores are eligible to enter the Torgimson/Swanzy Competition for Outstanding Students.

Students may participate in the District Rally as non-competitive entrants and enter a combination of any two of the four parts or take only the written test. The levels are organized as follows:

PREP A: Grades 1 and 2

PREP B: Grades 3 and 4

LEVEL I: Grades 5 and 6

LEVEL II: Grades 7 and 8

LEVEL III: Grades 9 and 10

LEVEL IV: Grades 11 and 12

6. Spring Recital- May

Held at Centenary in Anderson Auditorium. This is the final performance of the school year, where all students perform one or two pieces of their choosing. Family and friends are invited to attend.