



# Welcome to Hanford's Piano Studio

Handbook

Last updated: 27 December 2023

## Contents

Components of Hanford’s Teaching .....	2
Background .....	3
Connection.....	3
Why Learn? .....	3
How We Improve .....	3
Fees .....	4
Agreements.....	5

# Components of Hanford's Teaching



# Background

As a child, I worked through my graded exams until one day, I decided that piano playing was what I wanted to become great at. I continued my studies and obtained a Bachelor of Music with Honours at the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, as well as a Master of Teaching from the Melbourne Graduate School of Education. Attaining successes like the Joan Earle Classical Prize (Monash) and USCI International Gold Award (Malaysia) helped fuel my desire to continue improving while performing with orchestras like the Monash Academy Orchestra (2018) and Australian International Opera Company (2016) grew my performance confidence. After more than a decade of teaching experience, I can understand and work with a diverse range of students and parents. Currently, I am the Treasurer for the Victorian Music Teachers Association and the 2024 Australasian Piano Pedagogy Conference.

## Connection

Developing honest, friendly, and respectful relationships with my students and their families is important. These kinds of relationships allow me to have ongoing conversations with you and your child so that we can work together as a team to set and achieve goals, discuss and share concerns, and motivate each other to do our best work. Becoming a part of my studio means growing and achieving together.

## Why Learn?

Learning to play the piano greatly supports brain development which offers a multitude of benefits including building proprioceptive and abstract thinking ability, developing discipline for goal attainment, and gaining insight into a longstanding culture of sound, movement, and art. Not to mention, it is very enjoyable to be able to play the piano!

## How We Improve

Private coaching is the core component of learning to play the piano at my studio where a rubric is used to measure and improve ability. During these weekly 60 minute sessions, we focus on acquiring playing technique and repertoire. Beyond these, there are weekly sessions to grow theory and performance competence. Watching professional live and digital concerts foster performance confidence while an annual student recital showcases progress. Social activities are often organised and there is a rewards system to help parents and students establish learning and practising habits.

# Fees

## Piano Lessons

**\$1100 per term**

### Weekly 60-min Coaching

*Discover musical perspectives and learn to play the piano*

### Online Portal

*Access feedback, recordings, missions, and rewards*

### AMEB Exam Preparation

*Achieve formal milestones and target progress*

### Performance Opportunities

*Showcase your improvements, gain performance experience*

## Extension Sessions

**\$550 per term**

View the current schedule at [www.hanfordlam.com/schedule](http://www.hanfordlam.com/schedule)

### Theory Tuition (12pm-12.30pm Sundays)

*Learn about structures in music*

### Performance Practice (12.30pm-1pm Sundays)

*Overcome shyness and share your works-in-progress with fellow pianists*

### Digital Concerts (once or twice a term)

*Listen to and learn from local and international artists*

### Excursions (twice or thrice a term)

*A variety of enriching experiences beyond the studio setting*

# Agreements

## Practice

- Daily, spaced, focused, goal-oriented practice is recommended.
- No more than 2 hours a day.
- Update/check-in with Hanford during the week via the portal as desired.

## Student Absences

- Makeups offered at Hanford's discretion.
- Please inform as soon as possible so that a makeup is feasible.
- No credit or refund for no-shows.

## Teacher Absences

- Makeup, credit, or refund options will be provided.

## Book and Exam Fees

- Students pay.
- Points may be used to offset costs.

## Fee Schedule

- Fees paid upfront per term.
- Books and exams paid for prior to purchase.
- Points may be used to offset costs.