

accelerated piano training

Course Syllabus



Welcome to Accelerated Piano Training! This course is divided into four Units, each of which has about nine to ten lessons. You will learn how to play by chords using various rhythms and techniques. You will also learn how to play by ear... you will be trained to listen to a song on the radio and be able to play it on the piano.

Whether you have some experience with piano or not, I encourage you to really absorb the material at the beginning of this course as it is the foundation for all the other lessons. After watching the training video for a lesson, I encourage you to practice about 15 to 30 min per day. I've had some students that rarely practiced and guess what? ... they never learned to play. I've had other students that tried to learn too much material in one week, and they became discouraged and quit. However, I've had many students that were diligent and as they practiced regularly, they started sounding really good fairly quickly.

This course is set up so that each lesson will take about a week to master if you practice on a daily basis. Practicing 15 to 30 minutes per day is much more effective for mind absorption than practicing only one day for 3 hours. To receive the maximum benefit from this course, you may want to schedule a day and time once a week that you will commit to taking these lessons... just as if you had an appointment once a week with a piano teacher that you would visit. There will be days that you'll be excited about piano and other days that you'll be frustrated... that's normal. If you're frustrated, take a break and come back to it the next day, and you'll probably get it. You will enjoy the fruit of your labors the rest of your life.

My hope is that piano will not only become a creative outlet for you but that it will become a source of inspiration for you and others for years to come.

Unit 1: Introduction to Chords and Rhythms

Lesson 1: Orientation of the Piano

- *Note names & octaves*
- *whole & half step*
- *sharps & flats*

Lesson 2: Basic Chords

- *Major & Minor Chords*

Lesson 3: Chord Alterations

- *2's & Suspendeds*

Lesson 4: Basic rhythm

- *Using the Left Hand*
- *Chord Notation*
- *Basic Rhythm*
- *1st song: Breathe*

Lesson 5: Intermediate rhythm

- *Alternating thumbs*
- *Integrating 2's*
- *Using the Pedal*

Lesson 6: Introduction to Inversions

- *Major & Minor Inversions*

Lesson 7: Integrating Inversions

- *Integrating Inversions and 2's into Music*
- *Song Sheet: Draw Me Close*

Lesson 8: Accents—Part 1

- *Accents 1 & 2*
- *Add 9 Twirls*
- *Integrating Accents into Music*

Lesson 9: Inversions of 2's and Suspendeds

- *Inversions of 2's & Suspendeds*
- *Integrating them into Music*

Unit 2: Fast Rhythms, Intermediate Chords, & Dynamics

Lesson 10: Fast Rhythms—Part 1

- *Driving beat*
- *Integrating Driving beat into Music*
- *Song Sheet: Blessed be the name of the Lord*

Lesson 11: Fast Rhythms—Part 2

- *Standard fast beat*
- *Integrating Standard fast beat into Music*

Lesson 12: Accents—Part 2

- *Accents 3 & 4*
- *Integrating Accents into Music*

Lesson 13: 7th Chords—Part 1

- *7th, Minor 7th, & Major 7th Chords*
- *Using 7's in Music*
- *Song Sheet: More Love, More Power*

Lesson 14: 7th Chords—Part 2

- *Inversions of 7th, Minor 7th, & Major 7th Chords*
- *Using 7 inversions in Music*

Lesson 15: Sharp & Flat chords—Part 1

- *Sharp & Flat Chords*
- *Augmented Chords*
- *Using Sharp & Flat chords in Music*
- *Song Sheet: To Him Who Sits on the Throne*

Lesson 16: Sharp & Flat chords—Part 2

- *2's, Suspendeds, & Inversions of Sharp & Flat Chords*
- *Integrating them into the 6th Song*

Lesson 17: Dynamics

- *Overview of Dynamics*
- *Integrating Dynamics into Music*

Unit 3: Advanced Rhythms & Playing by Ear

Lesson 18: 3/4 Timing Rhythms

- *Overview of 3/4 Timing Rhythms*
- *Using 3/4 Timing Rhythms in Music*
- *Song Sheet: Lord Most High*

Lesson 19: Jazz Rhythms—Part 1

- *Right Hand Rhythm, Bass line*

Lesson 20: Jazz Rhythms—Part 2

- *Advanced Bass Part, Putting the Right & Left Hand Together*

Lesson 21: Jazz Rhythms—Part 3

- *Additional Rhythms*

Lesson 22: Syncopated Rhythms—Part 1

- *Overview of Syncopated Rhythms*
- *Song Sheet: Great is the Lord, Almighty*

Lesson 23: Syncopated Rhythms—Part 2

- *Integrating Syncopated Rhythms into Music*

Lesson 24: Chord Progression Analysis

- *Chords that go with a Key Chord*
- *Common Chord Progressions*

Lesson 25: Playing by Ear—Part 1

- *Detection of Major & Minor Chords by listening*
- *Detection of 2's & Suspended Chords by listening*
- *Detection of 7th type Chords by listening*

Lesson 26: Playing by Ear—Part 2

- *Scales*
- *Detection of Note Patterns by listening*
- *Detection of Basic Chord Progressions by listening*

Lesson 27: Playing by Ear—Part 3

- *Detection of Intermediate Chord Progressions by listening*

Lesson 28: Playing by Ear—Part 4

- *Detection of Chord Progressions from listening to a CD*

Unit 4: Playing with a Band, Modern Chord Progressions & Rhythms, & Songwriting

Lesson 29: Playing with a Band

- *Adjusting your playing to blend with other instruments*
- *Maintaining consistent tempo*

Lesson 30: Techniques in Playing backup Keyboard

- *Sound selections for slow songs & fast songs*
- *Playing styles & guidelines for slow & fast songs*
- *Song Sheets: Hungry & My Redeemer Lives*

Lesson 31: Transitions

- *Methods in starting and ending songs*
- *Methods in transitioning from one song to another*

Lesson 32: Chord Alterations—Part 2

- *Putting chord pieces together in unique ways to create new variations*
- *Integrating them into music*
- *Song Sheet: Beautiful*

Lesson 33: Accents—Part 3

- *Major 7 & suspended accents*
- *Tripping on notes & Inversion piece accents*
- *Integrating them into music*

Lesson 34: Creative Rhythms

- *A look at various creative and modern rhythms*
- *Song Sheet: Every Knee Shall Bow*

Lesson 35: Dynamics—Part 2

- *New dynamic techniques for mellow sections of a song*
- *New dynamic techniques for building intensity*

Lesson 36: Modern Chord Progressions

- *A look at various creative and modern chord progressions*
- *Transposing Methods*

Lesson 37: Techniques in Leading Worship

- *How to increase the impact of people's worship experience*

Lesson 38: Songwriting

- *Song Analysis*
- *Techniques in Writing Chord Progressions, Melody Lines, & Lyrics*