

Chaminade University Syllabus
MU 185-03, MU 285-03, MU 385-03, MU 485-03

Private Instruction: Piano

Instructor: Susan Purnell

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Course Description: Twelve lessons of 45 minutes in length. Individual instruction in the art of piano performance. Course content will include technique, music reading, sight-reading, ear training, interpretation, performance techniques, and repertoire. Course for Beginning (MU 185) and Early Intermediate Level (MU 285) students: No Prerequisite Course required. Includes review of music fundamentals as needed. Course for Intermediate (MU 385) and Advanced Level (MU 485) requires prerequisite course or consent of the instructor.

Individual study and course content – the design of the course depends on student skill and music reading ability from any previous background in music, and desired style of music (i.e. classical, pop, rock, jazz, etc.) Classical repertoire for Intermediate and Advanced Levels required, with the addition of selections from other desired styles of music.

Course Objectives: To develop artistic and technical skills used in the performing arts in a hands-on, practical experience within a learning community in music, specifically in piano performance. To build knowledge of standard piano literature and the basic terminology and techniques used in the performing arts.

Practice: In order to receive the full benefit of lessons, regular practice is essential to make progress. Students will prepare for lessons by rehearsing on their own during the week to review new concepts and develop personal performance skills through repetition. Daily practice of assigned pieces and technical requirements is highly recommended. Suggestions of places and times for private rehearsal during the week will be available from the instructor.

Attendance: No missed lessons are allowed unless you are ill with written notice in a doctor's certificate, or have an official school conflict with a note from another professor or sports coach. If you miss your lesson for any other reason, no make-up lesson will be given. Four or more unexcused absences may result in “no credit” for the course.

Recital: Students are required to attend and perform in the end of semester recital. (Exceptions may be made on an individual basis for Beginning Level students.) Date of recital to be determined. Two weeks before the recital date, the instructor will assess the readiness of the student to perform and make a decision accordingly. If not performance ready, the student is still required to attend the recital for course credit. Failure to attend and remain for the entire recital may result in “no credit” for the course.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated by progress made over the semester in skill development, music reading accuracy, musical artistry, and by effort and achievement in recital performance, receiving one credit for the course.

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