

CAPE ANN PIANO STUDIO: OTHER INFORMATION

CREDENTIALS

Please visit my ABOUT page on my website: <https://wp.me/P2ktnP-3un>

STUDIO

Equipment: Yamaha G1 acoustic baby grand piano; Roland FP-4 digital piano

Hardware/Software: iPad Pro, apps used for audio/video recordings (student/parent reference, teaching example clips) and note/rhythm etc. drills; extensive music library: sheet music, music teaching aids, and audio materials.

YOUR PIANO

Your piano should not only be kept in tune it should also be well maintained (e.g., all the keys and pedals working, etc.). It should be tuned twice a year. My piano technician/tuner is Yun Swanson; I also highly recommend Ben Webster, I have their info in my studio, just ask.

The practice area should be well lit; it is imperative for music-reading skills that students have direct light on their music as well as ambient light in the room. Piano lamps are necessary in most homes (if you need info on what type to purchase, just ask).

Bench should be at the right height for the student (we will talk about this frequently in lessons). If your child's feet do not yet touch the floor, please place a footstool (or similar) under their feet.

Pencils, erasers, and a playing device, e.g., iPhone, iPad, laptop with speakers, should be within reach of the piano.

Please make sure your piano is away from distractions—TV, siblings/friends, pets, video games—but (ideally) situated where you can hear your child playing!

See also the Resources page on my site for links to info on the care of your piano: <http://wp.me/P2ktnP-6m>

AT THE LESSON

Please have your child ready (hands washed, bathroom trips done, if possible) before the lesson.

Please don't come early to the lesson; kids: please walk in when it's your lesson time, no need to knock or wait for the previous student to come out.

Please have books open and ready to go at the time of your lesson. Every minute counts!

Fingernails need to be trimmed short, even with the end of the fingertips. If they are not, lesson time may be spent trimming them. Absolutely no food, drinks, or gum during lessons!

Mine is an open-door policy; although I teach children alone, you may sit in on a lesson at any time.

Very young students (5–6) need parent attendance for each lesson at the very beginning of study.

Please observe silently without interruption and take note of my suggestions regarding practice, technique, etc. I encourage all parents to come in for at least the last 5 minutes as much as they can to review the assignment for the week, especially elementary-age students. I'm happy to briefly answer a quick question or two at the *beginning* of the lesson, so that it's on the student's time and doesn't take up the time of the next student; if you need more than a few minutes, call me during my office hours (see below) or email me about anything at all regarding lessons.

BOOKS AND MATERIALS

All students need to have the required books and materials for lessons, to be determined on a case-by-case basis. You may use the Book Deposit system for me to purchase books and materials for you, or purchase yourself on Amazon, etc.

Please ask about the Book Deposit system if it's easier for you that I purchase materials.

If you find you are unable to purchase materials in a timely fashion for use in lessons, you will be asked to set up a Book Deposit with me. Please see below.

Book Deposit:

Since the arrival of Amazon Prime, etc. this system is no longer required. See above paragraph!

But here's how it works if you'd like to use it:

I purchase method and other piano books for younger students. A book deposit in the amount of \$50 is made; you will receive a book deposit account sheet, which is placed in the back of the student's assignment binder. When the deposit is depleted, another book deposit in the amount of \$50 will be added via check or cash in the studio.

In addition to their piano lesson books, all school-age students will need:

- **Hard-cover, 1/2-inch**, 3-ring binder with pockets
- iPad/iPod/Computer connected to speakers for better volume if needed and within easy reach of student, preferably with a remote
- Metronome: Being old-fashioned I prefer the nice loud battery-operated ones, but apps work too. Best one in my opinion, that was brought to my attention by a young student! is Pro Metronome
- Composition Notebook (e.g., black-and-white ones)

PRACTICE

I have many sources of information on practice requirements/guidelines.

On my website go to Kids' Lessons for a start.

If you don't find what you're looking for, just ask me; I have handouts about practice tips in the studio.

***I blog post on my website about articles or links to books or other blogs about how to practice, and how to help your children practice. You can follow my blog here: www.capeannpiano.com.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Performance opportunities are scheduled throughout the year. The North Shore Piano Teachers Guild holds three "formal" recitals a year—all of my students may participate in two of these recitals; one in March/April is held at the Shalin Liu Performance Center; ask me for more info. These include students from all over the North Shore. We hold a Holiday Piano Party (December) and an Annual Spring Recital (June), and other casual, when possible to schedule, piano parties and group lessons throughout the year. There is also a fun event in which students can play whatever they like at the Topsfield Fair in October. The Holiday Piano Party is casual and a wonderful chance for students to play for each other and their parents in a relaxed, festive atmosphere. The Spring Recital (June) is held at the First Universalist Church in Essex on usually the second weekend in June and is just a bit more "formal." All students are encouraged to participate in any of these events. *All students are expected to perform in the Spring Recital, when set, please put this date in your calendars!*

CONTACT ME

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at all, including how your child is doing, practice strategies, etc.

Email: julie@capeannpiano.com – please add my email address to your safe list.

Phone: (978) 491-1658 (call or text).

Office Hours for calls: Monday – Friday 10–8, if I don't answer, please leave a message, I will get back to you as soon as I can. Monday I am "open" but not teaching but may be out of town and unable to reply by email that day. If it's urgent or you must contact me on your lesson day, please only text or call, sometimes I can't get to my email!

PLEASE NOTE: I am done working for the day at 8 pm and take the weekends off: *please do not text me during those hours as my phone is also for personal use*, thank you. You can email or call my voicemail and I'll get back to you promptly the next day during the week or Monday if it's a weekend.