

## CAPE ANN PIANO STUDIO: OTHER INFORMATION

### CREDENTIALS

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

### STUDIO

Music Equipment: Yamaha G1 acoustic baby grand piano; Roland FP-90 digital piano.

Hardware/Software: iPad Pro, MacBook Pro, external microphones/speaker; extensive music library: sheet music, music teaching aids, and audio materials.

Although no longer teaching online, other than for makeups, I maintain a “Zoom” studio with external microphone; front camera, overhead, and side view cameras.

### YOUR PIANO

Your piano should be kept in tune and be well maintained (e.g., all the keys and pedals working). It should be tuned twice a year. My piano technicians/tuners are Yun Wang and Matt Dudgeon. I have their info in my studio, just ask. Please also see my Resources page on my website.

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.

The piano bench should be at the right height for the student (we will talk about this frequently in lessons). Pencils, erasers, metronome, and a playing device, if possible, such as iPhone, iPad, laptop with speakers, should be within reach of the piano (especially for younger students).

For younger students: 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!

\*\*I require all my students have an acoustic piano for my program. The technique of playing the piano and the experience of the true *feel* of a piano is not the same on an electronic digital piano. Would a violin or cello student begin on an electric violin or cello? It’s like that—wood and strings, and metal. The vibrations of the piano—which are felt at the very first lesson—are part of the learning and playing experience.

After 3-6 months of studying with me, if your child is seriously committed to learning how to play and is enjoying that experience of learning, an acoustic piano is required. (Please see also the Studio Questionnaire.)\*\*

### AT THE LESSON

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

Please don’t come in early to the lesson; please have your child 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. High school students may bring a hot/cold beverage in a proper container.

Mine is an open-door policy; although I teach children alone, you may sit in on a lesson at any time. Young beginner students (7-10) need parent attendance more frequently. 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 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, please call or email me.

## **BOOKS AND MATERIALS**

All students need to have the required books and materials for lessons, to be determined on a case-by-case basis. I will always send a link to the books/music needed from Amazon or an online dealer (for more advanced music, I recommend SheetMusicPlus and other smaller dealers).

*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, SheetMusicPlus (better), etc. this system is no longer required. It's way easier to order books online yourself! I will send you the links.

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

- **Hard-cover, 1/2-inch**, 3-ring binder with pockets; please do not bring in a bigger size, they don't lie flat on the music stand.
- iPad/iPod/Computer/Laptop 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 app in my opinion, that was brought to my attention by a young student! is Pro Metronome.
- Composition Notebook (e.g., black-and-white ones) for older students; younger students will have one that goes along with their books.

## **PRACTICE**

We will go over what works in the beginning of study but eventually the ultimate goal is the length of their lesson time daily. We'll talk all about that in the beginning lessons. Go to Kids' Lessons on my website for more info.

There are also many books on parents and practice strategies on how to help your kids practice at home, please ask for more info!

## **PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES**

Performance opportunities are scheduled throughout the year. The North Shore Piano Teachers Guild ([nspianoguild.org](http://nspianoguild.org)) holds three "formal" recitals a year—all of my students may participate in two of these recitals; some may participate in the March/April recital at the Shalin Liu Performance Center; there is a limit on how many students because teachers from all over the North Shore enter students: please ask me for more info.

We hold a Holiday Piano Party (December) and an Annual Spring Recital (June), and, hopefully, this year other casual piano parties, especially for teens, throughout the year. The Holiday Piano Party is casual and a fun 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 and is just a bit more "formal." All students are encouraged to participate in any of these events and are *expected* to perform in the Spring Recital (although no child is ever *required* to do so); after all, this is the opportunity for your child to perform a piece they have worked hard on and the culmination of all their

hard work throughout the year for family and friends. *When the date is set, please put it in your calendar!*

**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](mailto:julie@capeannpiano.com) – please add my email address to your safe list.

**Phone/Text:** (978) 491-1658 Generally I can get back to you, Monday–Friday 10–8 pm