

2024

Welcome Package

Everything you need to know!



Happy Keys Music Academy

Ages 4.5 to adult

WELCOME



Hi there!

Welcome to the Happy Keys Music Academy family!

We are absolutely delighted to have you on board. Our commitment is to provide your child with the highest quality education that we can imagine. We specialize in beginner's piano lessons for all ages, offering innovative, accelerative, and personalized programs. Our focus is on guiding students toward a transformative growth mindset that extends beyond their well-being.

You can expect us to maintain an “above-and-beyond” approach in everything we do. We are proud to be the first to offer effective and innovative piano programs in Canada that have been widely successful across the US, Australia, and the UK.

With over 17 years of expertise in teaching beginner's piano for all ages, we have your needs covered – from our dedicated teaching staff and cutting-edge teaching tools to our flexible scheduling policies. We are a business that provides a service, so we genuinely and whole-heartedly go out of our way to serve. Thank you, and a warm welcome aboard to Happy Keys Music Academy!



Young Beginner (Pre-K to K)

Begin a magical musical adventure for your little one with our Young Beginner's (Ages 4.5 to 5) Program! Enjoy 30-minute weekly lessons with the KeyNotes Group Piano Program, tailored to engage your child's curiosity through storytelling, movement, singing, and playful key exploration—both on and off the piano.

Our lessons are a breeze, full of fun, structure, and perfect for the developmental stage of preschool to kindergarten-aged kiddos. Imagine the joy as your child proudly performs in a piano ensemble for you on their 12th lesson—a special musical moment just for you!

Watch your little musician progress through levelled challenges, mastering letters A-G, finger numbers 1-5, and basic counting and rhythms with confidence in both hands.

Getting ready for our Elementary Piano Program? Anticipate completing 3 to 4 vibrant workbooks, tailored to your child's age, abilities, and readiness to focus, be independent, and self-regulate. Potty-trained kids are all set for this musical journey! Let's create melodious memories together!



Elementary Beginner (6+)

Envision a harmonious journey for your child and yourself with our Elementary Beginner's (Ages 6 to adults) Program! Immerse in enriching 60-minute weekly lessons driven by the captivating Piano Express Program.

Picture 30 minutes of delightful discovery—exploring sight reading, technique, ear training, and composition—focused on specific learning goals. Then, experience 30 minutes of assessment using our innovative Piano Express web application. Your child gets the best of both worlds: the camaraderie of group learning and the tailored pace of individualized learning.

Our program expands your child's knowledge and creativity through their natural senses, reinforcing learning through singing, rhythm making, and note reading. Lessons are a joyous journey, step-by-step, and personalized, allowing students to progress at their own pace within a supportive group setting.

PIANO PROGRAMS



Elementary Beginner (6+)

PIANO PROGRAMS



Picture special 'recital' weeks, where in-class performances shine on the 12th week of lessons. Plus, your child gains access to our accelerative program 'Supersonics Plus' online for sight-reading reinforcements and the sheer joy of playing music.

Students are encouraged to learn songs of their interest such as pop songs and to participate in yearly recitals, festivals or exams after completion of Level 4. All students will be invited to join Performance Prep sessions prior to their upcoming festival or exam. Students continuing into the Summer Term have complimentary access to the Piano Maestro (or, Simply Piano) app found on Apple iOS.

When a student completes Level 1 to 6, they will have mastered impeccable steady rhythm, scales, technique, dynamics, sight reading, and articulations thus allowing them to smoothly transition into Grade 1 or 2 RCM. We recommend students to start private piano lessons or to apply to join our Intermediate Piano Program.



PIANO PROGRAMS



Intermediate Levels (8 to 14)

The Intermediate Piano Program (Ages 8 to 14) is similar to the Elementary Beginner's Program, with the exception of an extra 30-minutes of focus on repertoire for festivals and exams and group ensembles. This makes the program 90-minutes long each week. Students are encouraged to learn fun songs or focus on a genre of music (e.g., classical, Disney, Ghibli Studio, jazz, etc...) or engage in a composer study.

Students will perform with others through ensembles and duets thus making learning the piano enjoyable and sociable. When a student completes Grade 4 RCM, they will move onto private piano lessons. Students are expected to perform at all recitals and to elect one: RCM exam or Piano festival.



PIANO PROGRAMS



Intermediate Levels (8 to 14)

Students who complete this program will experience peer motivation through playing ensembles with others, socialization and team work, and further developing performance skills and technique. In the classroom, this indirectly inspires and motivates the students as those in the lead love to be recognized and those who are learning at their own pace may become inspired to move up to the next challenge level simply by seeing that someone can do it too! This type of synergistic environment is different from just having parents, teachers, and events as their main source of motivation.

Beyond the Intermediate Levels, students can continue into our Advanced Levels (Grade 5 RCM to 7 RCM). Students who complete these levels will have a chance to apply to work as a teaching assistant in our program. Students who proceed onto our Leadership Levels (Grade 8 to 9 RCM) will have a chance to be mentored to take in their own private beginner's students. How exciting!



PRACTICING AT HOME



Student Practice Expectations

Young Beginner's students (age 4.5 to 5.5) are set up for a win at home. The video-recordings and audio clips are amazing tools to assist with practice at home. We recommend that you watch the Parent Practice videos and have your child practice along with the audio clips at home found in the Member's Portal. We will send you the login and links once you are onboarded!

Students are expected to practise the piano for 5 to 10 minutes per a day. Daily practice is encouraged and a parent must be available to guide practice at home.

Elementary Beginner's students (age 6 to adults) are set up for a win at home. The Piano Express Program web-app is one of the best practice tools in the world. We recommend that you connect your piano to our software and have your child practice with it at home. We will send you the login and links once you are onboarded!

Students are expected to practice the piano for 15 minutes to 30 minutes per a day. Daily practice is encouraged for progress to be seen. Parents are expected to set-up an effective practice routine for maximum progress.

Intermediate Levels students (age 8 to 14) are set up for a win at home through meeting with their virtual buddies during practice times at home.

Students are expected to practice the piano for 30 minutes to 45 minutes per a day. Daily practice is encouraged. Parents are expected keep up with their child's progress, goals, and perhaps look into further piano programs or private lessons in the future.

PRACTICING AT HOME



Effective Practice for Success

Setting up a successful and motivating practice space for your child is the best thing you can do to ensure long term success. We want our students to get into a positive cycle that keeps them motivated to keep going!

Students will receive stickers or points when completing challenges in class. Awards and prizes will acknowledge student success and persistence.

Students who have ineffective practice routines in the Elementary Piano Program will take 2 terms to complete each level confidently and successfully.

Positive Cycle



Effective practice routine at home



Sense of pride and accomplishment

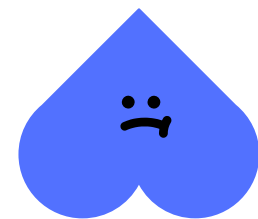


"I like learning piano!"



Motivated students continue to practice effectively

Negative Cycle



Ineffective practice routine at home



Feeling "stuck" and discouraged



"I don't like learning piano!"



Discouraged students struggle do stay motivated by practice

MEMBERSHIP PERKS



Annual Membership Fee

We have curated a unique set of programs and applications to help us fulfil our studio's mission and goal. Our piano academy goes beyond weekly lessons and as members, you receive the perks of accessing additional activities and resources to make your experience worthwhile!

Monthly Membership Programs

- Piano Express (Piano Curriculum Software)
- Piano Maestro (Sight Reading Application)
- MuseScore (Music Score Software)
- KeyNotes Group Piano (Piano Program)
- Supersonics Plus (Piano Curriculum Software)

Special Events, Workshops, & Clubs

- 2 - Recitals or Concerts
- 3 - Watching Weeks (In-Class Mini Recitals)
- 6 - Performance Workshops
- Themed Studio Events (ie., Halloween, Christmas, Valentines)
- Summer Piano Club, 60 Seconds Club, Summer Piano Camps

Prizes & Awards Program

- 2 - Shopping Weeks (Trade sticker points collected for prizes)
- 1 - Piano Party (Festival and Exam students)
- Award for completion of Elementary Piano Program
- Trophy for completion of 60 Second Club and more!
- Medals for Gold Standing Piano Festival

Add-On Piano Programs (for Elementary Beginner Piano Program)

- 12 - Exam Preparation Package (Group Sessions)
- 6 - Festival Preparation Package (Private Lessons)
- Piano for Parents "Learn along with your child" Piano Program
- Private Piano Lessons

MEMBERSHIP PERKS



Annual Membership Fee

Member's Portal

- My Music Staff CRM Software
- Keeps track of invoicing, calendar, online resources, lesson notes, quick news updates, and email communication log.

Complimentary Student Workbooks for Additional Songs/Resources

- Creating new materials, binding supplies, and more!
- Young Beginner's Piano: Complimentary Lesson Workbooks
- Elementary Beginner's Piano: Complimentary Notebook
- Intermediate Beginner's Piano: Complimentary Binder

Unlimited In-Home Access to Programs

- Piano Express Software
- KeyNotes Piano for Parents
- Supersonics Plus & Piano Maestro

Equipment & School Supply Maintenance

- Laptops, digital pianos, photocopying, pens, papers, and more!
- Website, phone, internet, and Canva
- Piano Tuning or upgrades, benches, cables, and more!

Personalized Piano Progress Plans

- Schedule a complimentary meeting with Miss Donna
- Direct communication with Miss Donna via WhatsApp

- **Get to Know Your Child Human Design Session**

- Learn more: <https://www.meetyourinnergy.com/>
- Receive \$10 Giftcard from Happy Keys Music

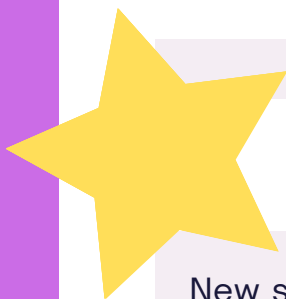
And much more!

INITIAL INVESTMENT

Initial Investment & Set-Up Fees

No.	Piano Program	Elementary Beginners	Young Beginners
1.	Levels	1 to 8	A to E
2.	Duration Weekly	60 mins	30 mins

No.	Initial Investment	Per Student	Per Student
1.	Monthly Investment	Inquire	Inquire
2.	First-Time Joiner Fee	\$30	\$30
3.	Annual Membership Fee	\$150	\$150
Total		\$ -	\$ -



New students and transfer students can join anytime during the year as long as there is space available. All fees will be pro-rated.

Your Annual Membership Fee will automatically renew for the following school year. Membership fees will be pro-rated throughout the year.

What is not included? Method books, additional materials, add-on lessons or packages, and recital fees.

By enrolling in our studio, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to these policies and terms and conditions in the next few pages.



POLICIES & RULES



Billing Policies

- Billing occurs once a month, but it is important to understand that our studio operates in 3-month terms. There are four terms/year (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer), and every term will have exactly 12 classes. Monthly payments will always cover four classes from the 3-month term, rather than the actual number of classes attended in the calendar month.
- All monthly payments are automatically processed on the first day of every month through our Member's Portal. An additional fee of 3.5% will be included for all credit card / debit card processing. We accept cash, cheques, and E-Transfers.
- We provide a \$75 discount for a full year's worth of tuition paid in advanced.
- A \$25 fee per a student, per a recital, will automatically be billed for students who wish to join.
- A \$25 Late Payment Fee, will automatically be billed if payment is not received the first day of every month.
- For families with siblings, there is a discounted rate. The first child will be charged our regular rate, and all other siblings will be receive \$20 off their monthly investment fees.
- If your child joins our studio part-way through a month, the tuition for that month will be adjusted to reflect the percentage of classes attended.
- A 3.5% to 5% percent increase on monthly payments is automatically added annually (October 1) invoices.

POLICIES & RULES



Missed Lesson Policies

- We will close our studio if road conditions are poor, due to snowy weather. We do not follow the VSB in regard to snow day closings. We make all of our decisions by 12 noon on days of snowy weather. If we decide to close, all families scheduled for that day will be notified via email. If we are closed, we will make sure every student is given the opportunity to make the missed class up on another day. We are not able to refund on the days we close because of snow.
- If your child misses a lesson for any reason, please send us an email, we will help you reschedule it for another day as soon as possible within the week or two. Make up lessons are offered only to students who are currently enrolled in our program with no outstanding payment due. We are not able to refund, transfer, or give credit because of missed lessons. If a teacher is away and a substitute cannot be found, we will reschedule your class and help you find a make up lesson as soon as possible.
- Enrolment will automatically continue until the family wishes to discontinue. If a family wishes to discontinue, the family must provide a written request. The request must be made at least seven days prior to the termination date. Upon termination, the student will be removed from our schedule, any apps provided to the student will become inactive, and the family will no longer need to make payments to our studio.
- If your child discontinues classes part of the way through the month, your account will be adjusted to reflect the percentage of classes attended, and a refund will be issued.

POLICIES & RULES

Curriculum & Media Release

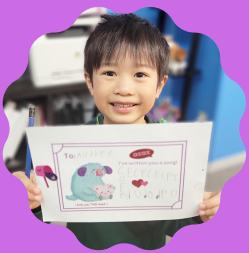
- Our piano lessons are designed for a maximum of 1 teacher per six students. This ensures that each student receives individual attention and has ample time to ask questions and engage in activities.
- Each student will be invited to participate in piano recitals when they are ready to play. All students who complete Level 4 are invited to add-on an additional set of 12 classes that focuses on the upcoming piano festival and exam requirements.
- Parents and students are encouraged to communicate regularly with the instructor to discuss progress, concerns, and goals. The teacher will communicate regularly with parents and students regarding lesson schedules, assignments, and progress.
- If a student is not making sufficient progress, not practicing regularly, or not attending lessons regularly, we reserve the right to discontinue lessons with the family.
- By enrolling in our school, parents and students give the piano studio school permission to use photographs, videos, and audio recordings of students for promotional purposes. If this is not your preference, please send us an email and we will ask you on a case by case basis.
- Students and their parents/guardians are responsible for any damage caused to school property, including the piano.
- The studio and its instructors are not liable for any injuries or damages sustained by students while on studio premises or during lessons.



POLICIES & RULES

Communication & Conduct

- The Member's Portal is where parents and students can find their weekly schedule, member's events, notes from the teacher, online resources, outstanding fees, payment records, and calendar.
- Students are expected to arrive promptly for their scheduled lessons and to have all their books and materials required for lessons, including workbooks.
- Students should come to class with clean hands and trimmed fingernails. All pre-k and kindergarten students must be potty-trained to attend lessons.
- Students are expected to follow 3 classroom rules:
 - Listen to the teacher without interrupting with words or notes.
 - Show respect to everyone and everything, including myself.
 - Choose a positive mindset and a coachable attitude.
- We have a guideline infraction form for students who need support in following classroom rules.
 - A student will be given 1 "Yellow" card silently for any disruptive behaviour or guideline infraction. This is a first warning sign and a visual reminder to not repeat this again.
 - A student will be given 1 "Red" card silently if they repeat the behaviour or break a new classroom guideline the second time. The student will be given a Guideline Infraction Form to complete at home with their parents and the teacher will discuss with the parents on how to remedy this by next class.
 - Repeated guideline infractions may result in the termination of lessons.



BUYING A PIANO

What piano should I buy?



If you buy something that looks like this...
This is a 61-key keyboard. Not a piano.

Pros

- They are really affordable!
- \$99 - \$149
- They are portable and small.

Cons

- Poorest sound quality of all choices.
- The “feel” of the keys are not the same as a real piano. They are “unweighted.”
- The student will always be bothered by how heavy the keys of a real piano feel
- if they are used to a the feel of a small keyboard.

Why buy?

If you are looking for an inexpensive keyboard to get your child started with, this will work. However, it is only a temporary purchase. You will need to upgrade after your child progresses to a more responsive instrument.

Popular Brands: Yamaha, Casio



BUYING A PIANO

What piano should I buy?



If you buy something that looks like this...
This is a basic digital piano.

Pros

- You get the sound and feel of a real piano at good price. \$650-\$1000
- "Weighted keys" and "hammer action" are features that almost always come with these types of pianos. Please make sure your model does!
- You can control the volume, use headphones, and connect to a computer.

Cons

- Less reliable than acoustic pianos. They might break or malfunction after a few years.
- The sound quality of a digital instrument will never match the responsive sound of an acoustic instrument. The sound quality is often very good, but not the best.

Why buy?

If your student is committed to piano for years to come, this is a great choice. It will meet all the needs of a piano student who is learning the basics of the instrument.

Popular Brands: Alesis, Casio, Korg, Yamaha



BUYING A PIANO

What piano should I buy?



If you buy something that looks like one of these... these are acoustic (not electronic) pianos, and high-end digital pianos.

Pros

- The very best sound quality and “feel” on the keys.
- Best resale values. These pianos will not lose value as quickly. Some high-end acoustic pianos have been known to appreciate over time!
- Very durable. Acoustic pianos can last up to 100 years. Good digital pianos can last 10 - 20 years.
- High end digital pianos have expansive sound banks (they can sound like lots of other instruments), recording capabilities, and many interactive applications with computers.
- Acoustic pianos do not need electricity to operate.

Cons

- They are expensive. \$2000 and up for digital pianos. \$5000 and up for acoustic pianos. \$10000 and up for acoustic grand pianos. Acoustic pianos will need to be tuned regularly. \$250 - \$350/year.
- Acoustic pianos can not connect with headphones or computers.



BUYING A PIANO



Upright
Piano



Digital
Piano



Grand Piano

Why buy?

If your child is serious about piano, these instruments can handle the subtle nuances of different touches (louder, softer, longer, shorter) to create a more responsive, expressive sound. Music is an art form, and these instruments do the songs the most justice. The student will connect with the music on a more personal level, if the sound is rich and vibrant. These instruments will deliver that kind of sound.

These instruments are also the more visually attractive option. You can put them in a prominent place in your house and it will make the whole room look great!

Popular Brands:

Acoustic: Kawai, Yamaha, Baldwin, Steinway.

Digital: Roland, Yamaha, Kawai.



BENEFITS OF LEARNING



Increased Self-Confidence



Increased Attention Span & Focus



Increased Emotional Resilience



Increased Empathy



Improved Language Abilities



...add to the list: Creativity, Logic, Coordination, Reading Skills, Concentration, Memory, Cultural Awareness, Problem Solving and Listening Skills

We are honoured to be a part of your child's education and holistic development. We do not take our role for granted. Thank you for choosing Happy Keys Music Academy!

Inquiry Email: info@happykeysmusic.ca

Text/WhatsApp:  604-340-8120

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