

# In Their Own Words: Student Beliefs About Group-Piano Activities That Improved Their Technique, Musicianship & Communication Skills

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## During Guided Peer-Learning Activities:

1. Students Learn With & From One Another (Collective Meaning Making)
2. Each Student Has An Assigned Role Within the Group (Remain Focused & On-Task)
3. Each Student Is Responsible for the Group Outcome (Encourages Preparation Before Class)

## Activities may be:

- Elaborative
- Generative
- Distributive (Over Time)

## And Include:

- Sight Reading
- Harmonization/Improvisation
- Repertoire (Solo & Ensemble)

## Quotes from the Group-Piano Students (Piano 1 – Piano 6):

When we know we'll work with a partner during class, it definitely makes us prepare it better!

I've definitely taken away a number of ideas from my partners that are now part of my toolbox. It definitely helps!

Sometimes we want to go at different speeds, but we work it out!

When it's just me working by myself, I get off-task very easily.

It's more fun than playing by myself.

When I missed something another person would get it when we played together & I could figure it out. After we'd talk about it so I learned some tricks.

It can be really awkward at first, in social terms. It makes you breakdown barriers, so you learn how to talk others.

For me, it's a little intimidating but it forces you to turn on your brain.

We are more creative together.

We feel freer to try different sounds based on the style of the piece that we are working on.

When I work with someone who is organized, I stay on task much better and I get more done.

Sometimes we want to go at different speeds, but we work it out!

It's helped me learn how to explain concepts and communicate. I'll apply these skills in the classroom

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When I missed something another person would get it when we played together & I could figure it out. After we'd talk about it so I learned some tricks.

My partner always accommodated if I wasn't quite ready.

## Quote of the Day:



“We don’t get to work independently in small groups in our studios. That’s always led by a grad student, but we meet outside of rehearsals...it’s good to see different ideas and stuff like that and fun to get to do it during class time - even if it’s piano!”