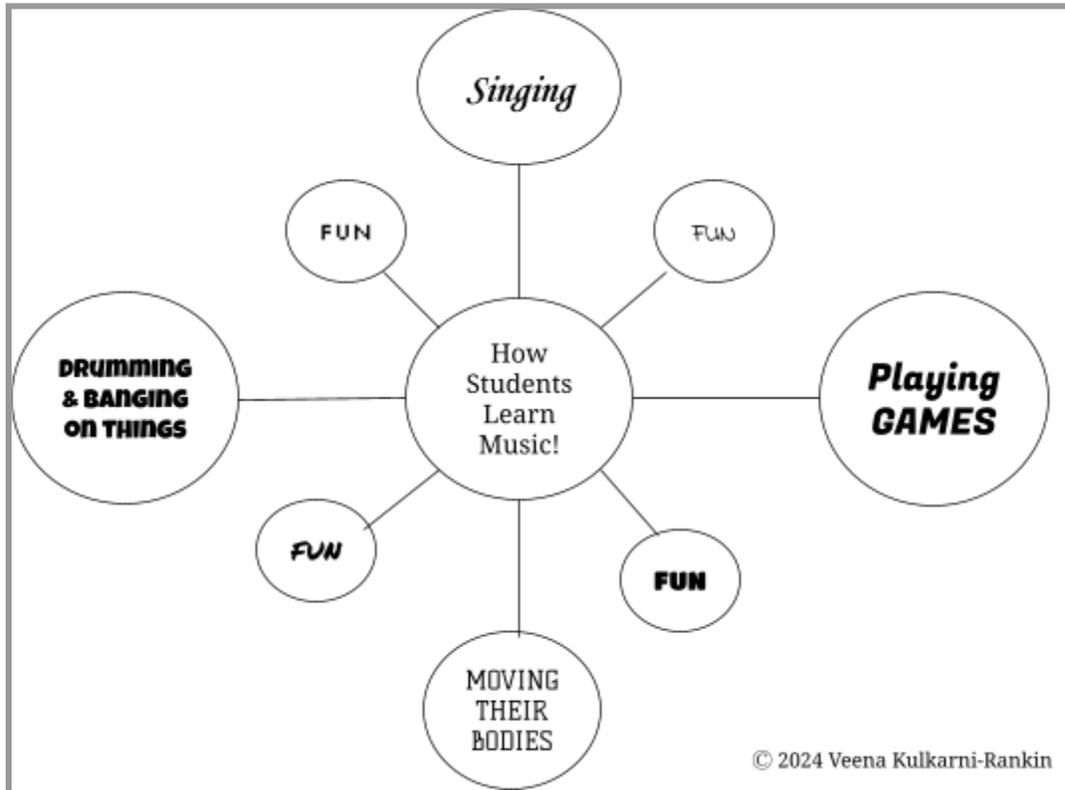


Real Piano Friends:

Transitioning from Private to Group Piano Classes



Group Teaching is:

refreshing! *more effective* more lucrative *more affordable*

TAKE THE DIVE!

Decision: use your current method of choice, or purchase a group method out there - see page 2. (I use Faber Piano Adventures: Lesson, Theory, Technique & Artistry, and an extra fun book from the extensive Piano Adventures’ catalog.)

Assessments: give a short, 20-minute assessment of students on your waiting list. I charge \$25 for this. See my **20-Minute New Student Assessment** on page 3.

Reflection: take some time to review your current students and students on your waiting list. Group students according to:

- similar level/ book age-similar perhaps, strengths or weaknesses
- personality - similar, or complementary

Assignment Sheet: I have a new one filled out before every class - see page 4 for template

Lesson-planning: Here's how I organize most of my **60-minute**, once-a-week classes:

- Quickly check practice sheets, give compliments/ encouragement
- **Welcome** - I think of a fun ice-breaker question, such as "What do you like about this season - autumn?" Be sure, as the teacher, to have an answer ready, too!
- Choose from 5 of the following:
 - Check Theory -OR- make a Theory Answer Sheet
 - Fun Activity: often rhythmic or physical in nature
 - Performance Time: musical Show n' Tell!
 - New Concepts and Pieces: the place to get creative as the teacher
 - Craft/Game! Another place for creativity. Or, use my Resource List below
 - Stations: sometimes I create different areas of the room, with signage for students to rotate through, with different activities. "Theory" "Flashcards" "Craft"

Room set-up: objects and materials you'll need

- practical - multiple keyboards. Headphones. Facebook marketplace
- DRUMS!!! Buy new or used, or make your own to start!
- a large dice - amazing how fun students find this!
- floor grand staff (\$39.95) with large letter discs (\$9.50) - both at TheoryTime.com
- scrapbook paper, construction paper, so that you can make stuff
- good markers/Sharpies of varying thickness - I make large rhythm cards
- color printer/scanner - so you can make answer sheets for Theory, or enlarge useful teaching pages from your method book of choice
- 3-ring binder for weekly Assignment Sheets (families purchase from you or store)

Games & Activities I like - both competitive and collaborative:

- Keys to Imagination. We've played Noteworthy. But there are a LOT more
- Piano Detectives Club
- TCW Card Games at Kjos.com. My students love Musical Spoons!
- Vibrant Music Teaching - low monthly subscription with TONS of games and resources

Group Teaching Methods I like:

- Piano Express
- Piano Pyramid - multi-level arrangements and supporting materials!
- Piano Teaching Success. I am very inspired by the founders, Gillian Erskine & Paul Myatt. Most of their materials seem to be centered around ABRSM, RCM and other well-known exams, but the technique skills covered are universal.

How Much I Charge for a 60-minute Group Class:

I charge the same rate as my 45-minute private lessons - \$50, which is reasonable where I live. For my every-other-week Piano Circles class, to attract current private students to a group experience, I charge each student just \$43 - a discount, but not too low. I am able to use my discretion to charge families a lower rate if they need it.

20-Minute New Student Assessment

Introductions

“Hi, _____! My name is _____. I’ve been teaching about ___ years. You can call me ___[Ms. Veena]. We’re here to get to know each other a little, to prepare for piano classes.”

“How do you like to be called? What are some of your favorite things to do?”
[Teacher, be prepared to share about yourself, to get the conversation going.]

“What do you know about the piano?” [now, looking at the piano] What are some things that you notice?” [guide student in exploring keys, pedals, inside]

“Let’s have fun with rhythm!” [hand them the drum]

1. Beat along with a My First, Primer track or commercial recording
2. Have them copy your rhythms. Let them be the teacher, too!

“I’m curious how you write or sign your name! Here’s how I write mine. What about you?” (This allows you to learn which is their dominant hand!)

[have different colored crayons to choose from, scrap paper, pens]

“What are some of your favorite songs, types of music, or shows?”

[share some of yours, as the teacher]

“Now we’re going to do a little singing:

1. Twinkle, Twinkle (I do this a few times, with body motions to show pitch, like Nancy Faber does online for My First Piano Adventures, Book A.)
2. Happy Birthday (if they sing really well!)

Depending on time left and age, teach these things!

1. Teach finger numbers
2. How to find all the C’s
3. Hot Cross Buns [on the black keys]

Finally, show them the book(s) they’ll be using.

From the Studio of _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Goal: practice 5 days or more for at least _____ minutes a day

Assignments	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Exploring/Creating On Your Own:						Write it →	On back →
Practice Time: In minutes							

Write down any questions or requests you have here: