



Improving Quality of Life Through Music

Friendly Atmosphere | Rigorous Studies

Comfortable Studio | Flexible Summers

Competition and Exam Options | Emphasis on Classical Music

Multiple Performance Opportunities

Mr. Bruce Nolden, instructor

B.A. Piano Performance, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

M.M. Piano Pedagogy, Saint Cloud State University

Nationally Certified Teacher of Music with the Music Teachers National Association

Endorsed Judge with the Minnesota Music Teachers Association

1239 16th Avenue SE, Forest Lake / 651-334-3116 / www.noldenpiano.com / noldenpiano@gmail.com

2023-2024 School Year Lesson Dates

<u>Monday Lessons</u>	September 11 th – May 13 th	No Lessons:	December 25 th & Jan 1 st March 4 th April 1 st	Christmas Spring Break Easter
<u>Tuesday Lessons</u>	September 12 th – May 14 th	No Lessons:	October 31 st December 26 th & Jan. 2 nd March 5 th	Halloween Christmas Spring Break
<u>Wednesday Lessons</u>	September 6 th – May 15 th	No Lessons:	November 1 st November 22 nd December 27 th & Jan 3 rd March 6 th	All Saints Thanksgiving Christmas Spring Break
<u>Thursday Lessons</u>	September 7 th – May 16 th	No Lessons:	October 26 th November 23 rd December 21 st & 28 th March 7 th	MEA Break Thanksgiving Christmas Spring Break
<u>Friday Lessons</u>	September 8 th – May 17 th	No Lessons:	October 27 th November 24 th December 22 nd & 29 th March 8 th March 29 th	MEA Break Thanksgiving Christmas Spring Break Good Friday

Requirements

Families must have an acoustic piano or an 88-note weighted keyboard at home.

Students are expected to practice a minimum of five or six days each week. Students who are unable to maintain four or more days of practicing each week, may be asked to give up their spot in the schedule.

Tuition and Fees

Materials fee of \$45 per student is due with the first payment of the school year.

This fee covers all books and materials for the year.

Tuition payments for school year lessons can be made in one annual payment, two semi-annual payments, or nine monthly payments.

Tuition rates are as follows:

	<u>45-minute lessons</u>	<u>30-minutes lessons</u>	
Single Payment	\$1380	\$1050	<i>Payable in September</i>
Semi-annual Payments	\$690	\$525	<i>Payable in Sept. & Jan.</i>
9 Monthly Payments	\$155	\$117	<i>Payable monthly Sept. – May</i>

Payment is expected for all scheduled school year lessons, even if the student is unable to attend. Rescheduling of a lesson will be offered to accommodate an illness or scheduling conflict, but please understand that rescheduling is not always possible.

If Mr. Nolden is unable to attend a scheduled lesson, a credit will be offered at the next scheduled lesson or during the next payment cycle.

Families will be sent an invoice via email. Payment can be made with a credit card through the email. Payment can also be made at the lesson with check or cash. Please make checks payable to Bruce Nolden.

Summer Lessons

Students are encouraged to continue lessons during the summer.

Nine weeks of summer lessons are offered, scheduling is flexible.

Attend as many lessons as you like and pay for only those lessons that you attend.

Summer Lesson rates:

\$40 for 45-minute lessons.

\$30 for 30-minute lessons.

Performance Opportunities

Students are encouraged to participate in several performances throughout the year. Performances help increase poise and concentration. They also allow us to share our music with others.

Recitals

There will be two formal recitals offered during the year. The location will be determined later. Recital dates:

- Saturday November 18th, 2023, at 10am
- Saturday May 4th, 2024, at 10am

Performance Parties

Performance Parties are student-only events that provide an opportunity to get to know each other, play for each other, and have fun together. Performance parties are scheduled for Friday evenings at 6:00pm on the following dates:

- November 10th, 2023
- November 17th, 2023
- April 29th, 2024
- May 3rd, 2024

Music from the Parlor

Music from the parlor gives students an opportunity to perform in an intimate setting on our grand piano. Our parlor accommodates up to 5 performers plus two guests per performer. Music from the parlor recitals will be held on Saturday mornings at 10am on the following dates:

- December 16th, 2023
- March 23rd, 2024
- April 20th, 2024

MMTA Events

The Minnesota Music Teachers' Association offers students an opportunity to engage in a wide range of events. These events are excellent opportunities to inspire, challenge, and reward students for their hard work and knowledge. Below is a list of events in which your child can participate. Please speak with Mr. Nolden for more information on these events.

Piano Exams

MMTA's comprehensive piano exams focus on the interpretation of memorized piano pieces and the demonstration of related ideas and concepts. In addition to diverse repertoire, scales and sight playing skills are also evaluated. Piano Exams are a wonderful way for all students to track their achievements.

Music Theory Exams

MMTA's music theory exams evaluate analytical, written, aural, and functional keyboard skills, including the ability to transpose, harmonize, and sight-read. In Levels 1-6 students are tested on their knowledge of scales, rhythmic patterns, sight-reading, transposition, and accompaniment. These exams are available to all students.

Piano Contest

The Piano Contest provides students with an opportunity to experience the thrills and challenges of solo competition. Students who receive the highest rankings in each age group are invited to play in a spectacular concert at the end of the school year. The contest is established by the age of the students, so students need to be accomplishing at a high level to participate.

Piano Festival

The Piano Festival is offered in the same way as the Piano Contest but without the competition! Students play their piece for a judge and receive a critique. This is an excellent event to help students build poise and confidence without the competitive element.

Young Artist Contest

The Young Artist Contest for piano students offers an opportunity for exceptional performers to display their talents in a competition setting. This event is for junior high and high school students who are achieving at a very high level.

PRACTICING:

Practicing is the key to success!

Students must commit to 5 or 6 days of practice each week.

Establish a regular time each day for practicing. Make it part of your daily schedule.

Try to practice early in the day or when your child has good mental and physical energy.

Emphasize practicing in small sections; four measures at a time, repeating the section several times before practicing the next section.

Have a list of songs that you can play for fun and play one of them either at the beginning or end of every practice session (or both!).

Practice is like rain. The more it rains, the more it will sink in, and create a beautiful plant. The more we practice, the more it will sink in, and create beautiful music.

PRINCIPLES OF PIANO PLAYING

1. Work hard and listen to great music.
2. Fingering is everything.
3. Learning comes from repetition.
4. Relaxed shoulders, rubber band wrists, strong fingers.
5. Rhythm. Always rhythm.
6. Music is a language; a means of expression.
7. Let the melody be heard.
8. Think and listen.
9. Practice at the speed of no mistakes.
10. Scales and chords are the building blocks of music. Know your scales!