

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

MUSIC 127: Class Piano 1

Estes Music Hall Room 034

Dr. Janci Bronson

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Office: Estes Music Hall 051

Office Hours: by appointment, email Dr. Bronson to schedule a time to meet.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

After completing MUS 127, non-piano music majors will be able to:

- Play the piano with proper piano technique.
- Apply music theory to the piano by playing scales, arpeggios, & chord progressions.
- Display the skills necessary to sight-read, & practice & perform piano repertoire.
- Harmonize & transpose music.
- Create & improvise accompaniments reading lead sheets.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults*, 1, 2nd Edition
- Notebook & Manuscript paper
- Pencils (only write on book & music with a pencil)
- Metronome

GRADING:

5% CLASS PARTICIPATION: stay on task & contribute to class discussions.

30% Performance Exam 1: September 18-21

30% Performance Exam 2: October 23-26

35% Performance Exam 3: December 4-7

- Expect frequent announced & unannounced quizzes throughout the semester, including during Dead Week. Quiz grades will be averaged together & factored into the current exam period.

- A minimum grade of a C- (70%) must be earned in order to pass the course.
- **Any student whose performance exam 3 grade is a D or F (69% & lower) will be assigned that grade for the course, regardless of other grades for the semester. (The 3rd exam serves as the proficiency test for the semester & must be passed in order to advance to the next level.)**

PRACTICE:

- Daily effective practice is vital in order to be successful in class piano. Students should practice a minimum of 30-45 minutes, 5-6 days per week. Practice strategies & techniques will be frequently discussed in class.
- Practice on an acoustic piano and/or an electronic piano with a full keyboard & weighted keys.
- Students wishing reserved times may sign up in the Department Office beginning the first day of classes each semester. A schedule sheet of reservations is posted on each practice room at the beginning of the semester. Reserved rooms are relinquished if not occupied within 15 minutes of the reserved time.
- Reserved practice rooms are available in Music Hall while classes are in session during the following hours: Monday – Friday 7:00 am to 12:00 midnight Saturday 9:00 am to 10:00 pm Sunday 10:00 am to 12:00 midnight When classes are not in session, the building is usually open weekdays from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm. For complete information about hours when classes are not in session, check with the Main Office.

Grand piano practice: Group Piano Students now have exclusive access to a locked grand piano room: Music Hall room 013! Obtain your key to room 013 from the music office during business hours.

- Students may also check out keys to the grand pianos in rooms 254, 256.

IN-CLASS PIANO RECITAL: November 29-30

- Students will prepare 1 piano piece *of their choice*, (max piece length of 2 minutes) to perform for other class piano students within class at the grand piano.
- *The in-class performance on November 29-30 will serve as the students final exam repertoire grade.*
- Choose your piece early and begin practicing!

ATTENDANCE:

- Your attendance is expected at all classes. Written documentation for excused absences (letters of travel from ensemble directors, etc.) must be received no later than two class periods following the absence. No documentation will be accepted once finals have begun. If you do miss for an excused reason, contact your professor within 1 day of your absence for it to be counted as excused.
- Prolonged absences due to illness (more than 2 class periods) will only be excused with documentation from a doctor.
- Quizzes & exams will not be made up for an unexcused absence. In the case of an excused absence, *it is the student's responsibility* to contact Dr. Bronson to make-up the missed quiz or exam by the next class period.
- If you do miss class, *you are responsible* for obtaining all class notes, handouts, etc. from your classmates & by consulting Canvas.

- One unexcused absence will not affect your final grade. **However, each subsequent absence will lower your final grade by one increment (i.e. A- to B+). Six unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. Two tardies equal one unexcused absence.**

CLASS PIANO ENROLLMENT

- Students are required to maintain continuous enrollment in class piano until Music 228 (level 4) is passed.
- *Students who fail the course will not be guaranteed a space in the repetition of the class in subsequent semesters.*
- Music 228 must be completed before passing the music Continuation Exam.

CANVAS & E-MAIL:

- Classroom assignments, Smart Board files, grades, exam & quiz information, & other important announcements will frequently be posted on Canvas &/or sent to students' Iowa State University e-mail address.
- Students are responsible for checking both locations regularly.
- Dr. Bronson will primarily respond to student emails during work hours.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

- Students are required to use hand sanitizer before touching their piano station area.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the piano lab. Bottles with lids may be kept at the side of the room away from the pianos.
- Only keep your required materials at your piano. Other materials should be kept away from your piano & out of the aisles.
- Cell phones & other electronic devices should only be used during class for recording class piano announcements & notes.
- At the end of every class, place headsets on hook underneath piano, turn off piano, & place bench underneath piano.

Free Expression:

Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of [freedom of speech](#) and the principle of [academic freedom](#) in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

Academic Dishonesty:

The class will follow Iowa State University's policy on academic misconduct ([5.1 in the Student Code of Conduct](#)). Students are responsible for adhering to university policy and the expectations in the course syllabus and on coursework and exams, and for following directions given by faculty, instructors, and Testing Center regulations related to coursework, assessments, and exams. Anyone suspected of academic misconduct will be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct in the Dean of Students Office](#). Information about academic integrity and the value of completing academic work honestly can be found in the [Iowa State University Academic Integrity Tutorial](#).

Accessibility Statement:

Iowa State University is committed to advancing equity, access, and inclusion for students with disabilities. Promoting these values entails providing reasonable accommodations where barriers exist to students' full participation in higher education. Students in need of accommodations or who experience accessibility-related barriers to learning should work with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to identify resources and support available to them. Staff at SAS collaborate with students and campus partners to coordinate accommodations and to further the academic excellence of students with disabilities. Information about SAS is available online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu, by email at accessibility@iastate.edu, or by phone at 515-294-7220.

Discrimination and Harassment:

Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Office of Equal Opportunity, 3410 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, Hotline 515-294-1222, email eooffice@iastate.edu

Mental Health and Well-Being Resources:

Iowa State University is committed to proactively facilitating all students' well-being. Resources are available on the [ISU Student Health and Wellness website \(https://www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu\)](https://www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu).

Religious Accommodation:

Iowa State University welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request the reasonable accommodation for religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing. The instructor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course. For students, you should first discuss the conflict and your requested accommodation with your professor at the earliest possible time. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the [Dean of Students Office](#) at 515-294-1020 or the [Office of Equal Opportunity](#) at 515-294-7612.