

WSU Piano Preparatory Program

Music learning is one of the best ways to integrate the physical, mental and emotional development of human beings. The goal of our program is to provide our piano students with systematic piano instruction designed to develop well-balanced musicianship. We strive to establish a solid musical foundation through each student's piano study to enable them to become musically independent and be able to continue their lifelong learning and involvement in music.

WSU Piano Preparatory Program has a dual-mission: (1) to serve as a training lab for WSU students majoring in Keyboard Performance and Keyboard Pedagogy to develop their piano teaching skills and to gain hands-on practicum teaching experiences in both group instruction and private lesson settings under regular university piano faculty supervision; and (2) to provide high quality but affordable piano instruction for pre-college students (ages 6 to 18) and interested adult students in our community.

WSU Piano Preparatory Program supports the core mission of Weber State University by giving access and opportunity for high quality piano instruction to all interested children and adults in our community, nurturing the music potential within every individual, and broadening the knowledge and teaching competency of WSU piano intern student teachers through engaged and personalized experiences carefully structured and supervised by the university piano faculty.

WSU Piano Preparatory Program serves as an excellent national model of piano teaching and learning that fosters creativity, comprehensive piano skills, meaningful musical experiences and a sense of belonging through systematic and sequential music study given by skillful piano instructors associated with the university.

FACILITIES

The students in our program will enjoy the privilege of using the excellent teaching and learning facility of the Weber State University Electronic Piano Laboratory:

- Yamaha DC6M4PRO Disklavier PRO Grand Piano, which can be used for performance/composition playback and long-distance learning, as well as rehearsal/performance of concerti with music software instrumental accompaniment.
- MacBook Pro computer at the teacher station
- 12 Yamaha Clavinova Digital Pianos and a Teacher Station, for large or small group instruction and individual communication between the teacher and the students. (The Clavinova can record, orchestrate, and sequence musical compositions and performances. It also provides fun rhythmic background for enjoyable performances and practices.)
- State-of-the-art touch panel computer projection system, high-tech document camera for instant teacher demo playing, and Saber VDO 360 HD video recording device for class presentations and group piano teaching.

RECITALS

Each semester, all students in the program have the opportunity to perform in an end of semester recital. Fall semester recitals will be on **Dec. 4, 2025 for all 1st year students** and on **Dec. 6, 2025 for all other students in the program**. Spring semester recitals will be on **April 23, 2026 for all 1st year students** and on **April 25, 2026 for all other students in the program**. More details about the recitals will be sent to you closer to the recital date. Due to the complexity of scheduling family members and teenage partners, **if parents anticipate possible**

scheduling conflicts with any recital times, please contact Laurisa Cope (801-833-6169) by November 20, 2025 for Fall and April 10, 2026 for Spring.

PIANO OLYMPICS

At the end of Spring Semester, all students will have the opportunity to demonstrate the achievement of their piano study at the WSU annual "Piano Olympics". Students who receive 76 out of 100 total points at the Piano Olympics will be awarded a color ribbon for the level the student achieved. Students may earn Bronze, Silver, and Gold medals by receiving color ribbons at the Piano Olympics over a period of 3 years for each medal. Date: **Tuesday, Apr. 28, 2026**

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The various learning activities in our piano program include sight reading, singing, aural training, piano repertoire, transposition, harmonization, rhythmic movement, improvisation, composition, ensemble, and basic music theory. Furthermore, students will receive computer-assisted instruction and will be able to experiment with music technology designed to develop improvisational skills, composition skills, and theoretical understanding. There will also be weekly performance opportunities in each class and semester student recitals for parents and friends.

LEVELS OF PIANO INSTRUCTION

Beginning/1st year Instruction for ages 6 to 9

One first-year piano class (for up to 12 students) will be taught in Fall 2025. (No new piano class will be offered Spring Semester.) First-year students will receive two 50-minute group classes for 15 weeks in Fall 2025, and also in Spring 2026. An interview and audition to determine musical and personality readiness is necessary for admitting a child into the 1st year class.

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th year Instruction for Continuing and Transfer Students

In order to facilitate each student's progress in piano technique and repertoire to an even greater degree, instruction of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th year piano students consist of a 50-minute group lesson and a half hour private lesson each week. During the group lesson new musical concepts, rhythm drills, music theory, sight reading, aural training, singing, composition, games and performances will be emphasized. The private lesson, on the other hand, will allow the opportunity for individual development and expansion of piano techniques and various repertoire pieces at the child's own pace.

LESSONS FOR TEENAGE PIANISTS

A combination of group and private lessons will be available for teenage intermediate level pianists. There will be openings for one teenage group class. The group classes will meet once a month during the semester (see Class Schedule for the week of the month that the group will meet). The weekly private lesson (typically 45 minutes) will allow each student to expand his/her learning of solo and/or duet repertoire, piano technique, sight reading, music theory, ear training, and composition. In some rare cases, under the recommendation of the private teacher, teen students may be approved to have a 30-minute weekly private lesson. See "Payment Choices" for more information.

LESSONS FOR ADULTS

Lessons for adults at any level will be available Fall 2025-Spring 2026.

LESSON/CLASS SCHEDULE Group Class and Lesson Schedule

1st Year

- Group: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:10 – 5:00 p.m.

2nd Year

- Group: Tuesdays 5:10 – 6:00 p.m.

3rd Year

- Group: Thursdays 5:10 – 6:00 p.m.

4th Year

- Group: Mondays 5:30 – 6:20 p.m.

5th Year

- Group: Mondays 4:30 – 5:20 p.m.

6th Year

- Group: Thursdays 6:10 – 7:00 p.m.

Teenage Continuing and Transfer Students

- Teen class will be held on Wednesdays from 6:00-6:50 p.m. once per month:
- Fall semester class dates: 9/24, 10/29, 11/19, 12/03
- Spring semester class dates: 1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/22
- **Weekly Private Lessons** will be arranged by the private teacher, the student and the parents.

CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

Because a teacher must reserve a time slot for a student for the entire semester when a student is assigned, **once a semester has begun, there will be no refund of tuition already paid.**

PUNCTUALITY/ATTENDANCE POLICY

Many learning activities are planned for each lesson. Therefore, all lessons will begin promptly at the scheduled time. **If an absence is absolutely unavoidable, please notify** directly your child's private or group teacher in advance.

It is our policy that group class absences cannot be made up. If your child needs to miss a group class due to illness, please call or e-mail the teacher. An assignment sheet for the missed class will be mailed to you. It is university policy that classes and lessons that fall on the holidays will not be made up.

Private lessons missed due to severe illness or emergency may be rescheduled pending the private teacher's schedule and if the private teacher is notified in advance. In the event that an instructor cancels a lesson or class, it will be rescheduled.

Due to the teaching schedule, students who arrive late for a private lesson will only receive the remaining portion of the lesson.

AUDITION AND INTERVIEW FOR BEGINNING AND TRANSFER STUDENTS

To provide each child with a more successful music experience in piano study, a placement audition to determine the level of readiness and class placement will be given to all new and transfer students on **August 20-21, 2025**.

The first-year students will be assessed on readiness for piano study in the following areas: singing, rhythmic response, attention span, listening skills, level of physical coordination and small muscle control. The interview for transfer students will assess sight reading skills, rhythmic response, basic music theory, technique, and performance of one or two repertoire pieces.

The audition will be conducted in a friendly, informal manner. No preparation for first year students is necessary for the audition. Schedule a convenient time for your child's interview as soon as possible. For further information about the placement interview and registration, call Assistant Director, Laurisa Cope, at 801-833-6169.

FALL 2025 Calendar

Aug. 18	Fall semester tuition due
Aug. 20-21	Audition for 1 st year and transfer students
Aug. 25	All classes begin
Sept. 1	Labor Day Holiday (No class/lesson)
Oct. 15	Fall semester tuition for 2-payment
Nov. 27-28	Thanksgiving Break (No class/lesson)
Dec. 4	1 st year recital
Dec. 6	Fall semester recital 2 nd - 6 th , Teen & Adult students
Dec. 6	Classes/lessons end for all classes

INSTRUCTORS

Dr. Yu-Jane Yang (801-626-7489) yyang@weber.edu

- Director of the WSU Piano Preparatory Program
- Ph.D. in Music Education with double cognates in Piano Pedagogy and Piano Performance, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Laurisa Cope (801-833-6169) wmrkel@gmail.com

- Assistant Director of the WSU Piano Preparatory Program
- M.M. in Piano Performance/Pedagogy, BYU

Shantel Chen Dotson (801-643-0179) mama1228@gmail.com

- Staff Instructor of the WSU Piano Preparatory Program
- B.A. in Piano Performance, Weber State University

Whitney Hawker (801-628-4434) whitney@hawkerpianostudios.com

- Staff Instructor of the WSU Piano Preparatory Program
- B.M. in Keyboard Pedagogy, Weber State University
- M.M. Texas Christian University

Sharon Datuin (385-333-6430) The.Piano.Science@gmail.com

- Staff Instructor of the WSU Piano Preparatory Program
- B.M. in Keyboard Pedagogy, Weber State University

Faith Sam (505-419-0794) faith.s37@gmail.com

- Staff Instructor of the WSU Piano Preparatory Program
- B.A. in Piano Performance, Florida Gulf Coast University

Rebecca Griffin (702-884-9324) brgrif@gmail.com

- Staff Instructor of the WSU Piano Preparatory Program
- B.M. in Keyboard Performance/Pedagogy, Weber State University

PAYMENT CHOICES AND DEADLINES

1) One full payment per semester deadlines:

Fall Payment: **Aug. 18, 2025** OR

2) Two payments per semester deadlines:

Fall: 1st Payment: **Aug. 18, 2025**; 2nd Payment: **Oct. 15, 2025**

***** A late fee of \$20 will be charged for tuition paid after each due date.***

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Year Students

For students at these levels, the tuition for each semester of 15 weeks is: 1) One full payment of \$490, OR 2) Two payments of \$250.

Teenage Students

Includes (1) a weekly 45-minute private lesson, and (2) a monthly group class. The tuition for each semester of 15 weeks is: 1) One full payment of \$630, OR 2) Two payments of \$320.

In some rare cases, under the recommendation of the private teacher, teen students may have 1) a 30-minute weekly private lesson, and 2) a monthly group class. The tuition for each semester of 15 weeks is: 1) One full payment of \$490, OR 2) Two payments of \$250.

*****An additional fee of \$300 per semester will be required for students who request to study with Dr. Yang. (Please discuss this option in advance with the Program Director.)***

TUITION AND REGISTRATION

Two payment options are available for Fall Semester:

(I) One Full Payment Per Semester Due Dates:

Fall: **August 18, 2025**

- One full payment of \$490 for one semester: **1st - 6th Year OR Teen Private 30-minute lesson** (by approval only)
- One full payment of \$630 for one semester: **Teen Private 45-minute lesson**

(II) Two Payments Per Semester Due Dates:

Fall Semester: (1) **August 18, 2025** and (2) **October 15, 2025**.

- Two payments of \$250 for one semester: **1st – 6th year OR Teen Private 30-minute lesson** (by approval only)
- Two payments of \$320 for one semester: **Teen Private 45-minute lesson**

(1) To register and pay tuition with one payment, please click here:

https://secure.touchnet.com/C20249_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=178&SINGLESTORE=true

(2) To register and pay tuition with two payments please click here:

https://secure.touchnet.com/C20249_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=178&SINGLESTORE=true

WSU Piano Preparatory Program 2025-2026

<https://www.weber.edu/piano/preparatory>

Director:

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