

**University of Miami**

Frost School of Music

*Piano Preparatory Program*



*Parent Handbook*

2007-2008

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Dear Parents,

Welcome! Congratulations on choosing to enrich your child's life with the power of music! We are happy to have you in our program. The Piano Preparatory Program's goal is to develop your child's individual interests and abilities in music from music appreciation to preparation for music conservatories.

The Parent Handbook will assist you with our program's guidelines, information regarding tuition and payment, important dates, and some helpful information on where to buy a piano and music.

Our Newsletter, *The Music Note*, will be mailed out twice this year. There will be a fall and spring issue. *The Music Note* will keep you informed of upcoming events along with a listing of achievements made by our students.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year with you and your child!

Sincerely,

*Megan Walsh*

Director, Piano Preparatory Program

## *Parent Guidelines and Helpful Information*

### **Class Assignments**

Class times and day are assigned at the beginning of the fall semester and remain the same throughout the academic year. Teacher or class time change requests must be made in writing and submitted to the Director.

### **Student Conduct**

Disruptions in the class hinder the progress of the class. Parents will be notified by the instructor if a child is misbehaving. In many cases, the teacher may have the parent attend the class. Repeated misconduct may result in the dismissal of the student from the program.

### **Practice Guidelines**

Parents are asked to monitor their child's practice schedule to ensure positive musical growth. A helpful solution to consistent practicing is to schedule a practice time that is the same everyday. For example, first thing in the morning, right after dinner or right after school. Below is a sample of how long a child may practice given their age. Of course, the practice times will vary depending on the student.

6-8 YearsOld	25 min.
8-10 Years Old	30 min.
10-12 Years Old	40 min.
12-14 Years Old	60 min.
High school student	60+ min.

### **Cancellations**

Group Piano, Music Theory and Ensemble/Sight-reading classes cannot be made up. If a student must miss a class, the student is responsible for notifying the teacher and collecting all assignments. If an instructor must cancel a lesson, a substitute teacher will be assigned or the class will be rescheduled.

The Piano Preparatory Program is a University of Miami program and follows all University closings due to inclement weather and holidays. If a Hurricane warning has been issued in South Miami please visit the University's website, [www.miami.edu](http://www.miami.edu), to verify if the school is open. Classes that are cancelled due to a University closing cannot be made up.

### **Food and Drink**

We ask that you please do not bring food or drinks in the classrooms. Please also make sure your child's hands are clean before they play on the keyboards.

### **Drop offs and Pick-ups**

Please have your child arrive on time for class. We also ask that you arrive on time for your child's pick-up. Instructors may have a class following your child's class and will not be able to monitor your child.

### **Piano Purchases**

All students enrolled in the Piano Preparatory Program must have either a digital keyboard or an acoustic piano at home to practice on. Below is a list of music stores in the area that sell pianos and keyboards:

Steinway Piano Gallery	305-774-9878
Yamaha Music Center	305-663-4450
Piano and Art Galeria	305-665-0009

### **Piano Tuners in the Miami Area**

Ron Huneycutt	305-323-0838
Bob Mishkin	305-947-9030

### **Music Stores**

Sheet Music, Metronomes, Music Gifts and many other musical items can be found in these music stores:

Allegro Music Center	305-740-9400
Guitar Center	305-271-2600
Miami Music Works	305-256-1655

## *Course Offerings*

- Group Piano (Children, Ages 6+)
- Group Piano (Visually Impaired)
- Group Piano (Adults)
- Private Lessons
- Jazz Group Piano
- Music Theory
- Ensemble/Sight-reading
- Master Classes w/ UM Faculty
- Frequent Recitals



Classes and Recitals are held on the University of Miami-Frost School of Music Campus

## *Tuition and Billing*

### **Group Piano Classes with Theory Class: \$1280.00\***

Students enrolled in the Group Piano Course will participate in one 60 minute group piano lesson per week and one group theory class per week. (Theory classes meet on Saturdays). Students are required to attend both the group piano lesson and the theory class to participate.

\$640.00      First Payment due with application  
\$640.00      Second Payment due December 15<sup>th</sup>

### **Adult Group Piano Classes: \$800.00\***

Classes meet once a week for 60 minutes. Level one is for the beginning adult student, while Level two is a continuation of Level one or a refresher course for students who have had piano in the past. Classes will cover note reading, rhythms, harmonization, sight-reading, basic music theory, ensemble playing and solo repertoire.

\$400.00      First Payment due with application  
\$400.00      Second Payment due December 15<sup>th</sup>

### **Group Piano Classes for the Visually Impaired: \$1280.00\***

This new class will be held exclusively for the visually impaired children who wish to learn to play piano by reading music Braille notation. The goal of this class is to make available and assist visually impaired children in learning basic piano keyboard skills. Since all students will be taught how to read music, they will be held to the same standards of the sighted Preparatory students.

\$640.00      First Payment due with application  
\$640.00      Second Payment due December 15<sup>th</sup>

### **Music Theory: \$595.00\***

Theory classes (without Group Piano Instruction) are available to eligible students who are currently taking piano lessons with a private teacher. Classes cover the fundamentals of music theory which include: note reading, rhythm reading, composition, improvisation, theory games, harmonization, and score analysis. The Theory Course culminates in a spring composition recital where the students perform their own original compositions.

\$595.00      Payment due with application

### **Ensemble/Sight-reading: \$125.00 per semester**

Ensemble/Sight-reading class meets once-a-week for 60 minutes. This course is tailored to improve students' ensemble playing abilities and sight-reading skills. The course helps students improve their skills through ensemble playing of duets with two or more players, and incorporates rhythm reading and sight-reading drills. Placement Auditions will take place on Saturday September 8th at 11:00a.m. in the Weeks Music Library and Technology Center.

\$125.00      First Payment due with application  
\$125.00      Second Payment due December 15<sup>th</sup>

### **Jazz Group Piano: \$400.00 per semester**

Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Jazz Classes are now being offered. Students will learn chord progressions, improvisation, different popular & jazz styles and jazz musicianship/theory. Classes meet once a week for 60 minutes. Placement Auditions will take place on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in the Weeks Music Library and Technology Center.

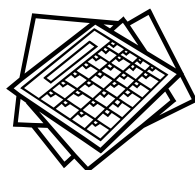
\$400.00      First Payment due with application  
\$400.00      Second Payment due December 15<sup>th</sup>

**\* Tuition for Group Piano Classes, and Theory Classes includes: cost of materials, studio classes followed by pizza parties, master classes, and a formal recital. Separate fees may apply for participation in the Federation of Music Clubs. (optional)**

## *Billing and Payments*

The initial payment is due with the application. An invoice will be mailed for the second semester payment, due no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>. (Theory Only Classes must be paid for the year in full at the beginning of the fall semester). Payments received after the due date will be subject to a late fee of \$25.00. Non payments will result in the student's dismissal from the Piano Preparatory Program.

## *Academic Year Calendar*



The Piano Preparatory Program follows the University of Miami academic calendar.

### **Fall 2006**

August 15	*Orientation
September 4	Fall Semester Begins
October 12	Studio Class
October 13	No Theory Classes
November 20-25	Thanksgiving Break
December 13	Last Class Day-Fall Semester
December 14	Holiday Studio Class

December 15-January 13      Winter Recess

### **Spring 2007**

January 14	Spring Semester Begins
January 21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day- No class
February 22	Studio Class
February 23	No Theory Classes
March 10-16	UM Spring Break- No Classes
April 18	Studio Class
April 19	No Theory Classes
May 15	Last Class Day-Spring Semester
May 17	Final Recital- Gusman Concert Hall

\*Parent Orientation will be held on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Clarke Recital Hall. All new and returning families are asked to attend.

## *Contact Information*

### **Phone:**

Dr. Megan Walsh, Director  
786-853-4041

### **Postal Mail:**

Attention: Dr. Megan Walsh  
Piano Preparatory Program  
P.O. Box 248165  
Coral Gables, FL 33146-7610

### **Fax:**

305-284-2290

### **Email:**

Keyboardforkids@miami.edu

### **Website:**

[www.umpianoprep.org](http://www.umpianoprep.org)