

## Course Description and Outline

Course Title	Piano Keyboard Skills		
Level of Course	Improvers	Duration:	9 weeks
<b>Brief Description of the Course What will it cover?</b>	<p>This course follows the Experienced Beginners course and covers in some depth the practical skills and theoretical knowledge required to play melodies and chords for a variety of familiar western music genres (pop/rock, jazz, classical and world folk) on a piano keyboard. Learners may also choose or bring a song/piece for their individual focus during part of the course. Principles, strategies and skills for efficient and effective practising at this level and for playing with others is conveyed throughout the course.</p> <p>Practical activities include learning and playing by ear, from memory and from sheet music in various formats, common technical exercises, designing simple musical arrangements, as well as performing in class with others and individually, including (optionally) in the end of term concert. Technical exercises resemble 'real' music and are designed to develop practical skills with classic elements of melody and harmony in western music, and as needed, will include technical vocabulary and concepts related to universal elements of music and its notation.</p> <p>To foster understanding of global musicality and support diversity in learners' individual music interests, course repertoire includes a range of western music genres, some personal choice of repertoire on which to focus individually during the course and when relevant, explanation of their historical context and significance.</p>		
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	<p>To enrol on this course, you will first have to attend its related 'Find Your Level' (FYL) session that runs during the first week of term. During that session, based on an informal interview and brief piano keyboard playing assessment, the tutor will approve your enrolment on this course or a more appropriate one (Novice Beginners, Experienced Beginners or High-Level Improvers). The tutor will then give you the course code for the relevant course, to allow you to complete the enrolment process. <b>You must then enrol by no later than noon on the day of the first lesson of the recommended course.</b></p>		
<b>Minimum Learning Outcomes for All Participants</b>			
<b><i>By the end of the course you will at minimum be able to...</i></b>			
<b>1</b>	Recall and utilise specialised principles, terminology, strategies and structures for post-beginner music practise that effectively, efficiently, and consistently advance musicianship;		
<b>2</b>	Play with good technique, a steady pulse and moderate fluency, at least with one hand, the major scale in all twelve keys;		
<b>3</b>	Play with good technique, a steady pulse and moderate fluency, at least with one hand, common chord arpeggios and 'blocks' in all twelve keys;		
<b>4</b>	Play by reading notated music and from memory at least three widely familiar songs/pieces comprised of two concurrent parts, one for each hand, e.g. melody and chords;		
<b>5</b>	Discuss, organise, rehearse and perform with others a musical arrangement of a song/piece.		
<b>Equipment Required What will I need to bring to class?</b>	<p>Aside from having daily access to a piano or keyboard on which to practise...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>A metronome device or phone app</b> for practising (to aid keeping a steady musical pulse) – <i>although you do not need to bring this to lessons</i></li> <li>2) <b>A narrow A4 ring-binder</b> of two or ideally four rings (to hold music and other handouts) and containing section dividers, but please, <u>no plastic envelops!</u></li> <li>3) <b>A way to take notes</b> and a <b>pencil and eraser</b> for notating music</li> </ol>		
<b>What courses can I go on to do?</b>	<p>The related 'High Level Improvers' course or a similar one elsewhere – or other courses offered by the ISL Performing Arts department (or elsewhere). <b><i>Alternatively, this course can be repeated (which typically is a good idea).</i></b></p>		

This is a brief description of the course content and is not definitive or exhaustive. The course content may be subject to change without notice, however, the details above are intended to give a picture of the types of activities that may be included on the course. Course outlines provide a general summary of the contents and material to be covered during lessons. They are subject to change at the discretion of teachers to meet the needs of learners and should not be regarded as prescriptive lists of activities to be covered.

### What examination or assessment will there be and what will it involve?

Whilst there are no formal exams, personal and universal advice and feedback from the tutor will occur regularly in every lesson. Learners also will be instructed occasionally to evaluate themselves or their 'group' or other individuals, in which case they will be guided in how to do this effectively and sensitively. In addition, at the start, middle and end of the course, in relation to its 'minimum learning outcomes' (see the first page), learners will mark self-assessments in their Individual Learning Plan (ILP). They also will be encouraged to add up to two personal goals to those already defined for the course against which they will also self-assess. At the end of the course, the tutor will provide personal written feedback, while learners will have the opportunity to give written feedback about the tutor, the course and their learning experience, and to complete a learner feedback survey.

### How will I know I am making progress?

Throughout the course, you will be playing individually and with others – to learn, improve and rehearse – for which the tutor will frequently provide advice and feedback. The tutor will also present progressively challenging learning material, though it will not go beyond any learner's capacity to achieve and perform, at least at a slow speed. Additionally, your ILP also provides a method for tracking your progress (see the previous box).

***The rate and degree of anyone's progress is determined largely by the efficiency, duration, degree of effort and content of their practising, and only partially by their inborn talent, which anyway, cannot be changed, let alone improved.***

### Is there anything else I need to know?

To successfully complete this course and to enjoy and stay abreast of its curriculum, learners should ensure that they have...

- 1) Daily private access to a piano or keyboard of at least five octaves (i.e. sixty-one white and black keys – a full-size piano keyboard has eighty-eight keys).
- 2) **Sufficient commitment and available time to be able to practise for at least 45 minutes on most (if not all) days spanning the duration of the course.** *You must also endeavour to attend **all nine lessons** or to miss not more than one.*
- 3) A method and equipment for taking notes, particularly in relation to any information that the tutor has not provided in a handout.

At the start of the course, the tutor will provide an ISL email address through which they can be contacted to provide help with your learning, 'homework' or for any course related reason. If you need for any reason to have a conversation with the tutor outside of lesson time, send an email with convenient times to call you, which they will do as soon as possible, although without revealing their phone number.

***If you will be late or absent from a lesson, please be sure to inform the tutor at least two hours before the lesson is due to begin, including the reason for it.*** If you discover this in less than two hours before the lesson is due to start, please then also call reception at the Shadwell Centre (**020 7364 5684**) and ask the receptionist to convey the information to the tutor.

***Finally, please also inform the tutor if you need or wish to withdraw from the course and include the reason why.***

### What if I want extra support? Contact the Learner Support & Advice Team

Come and see one of our experienced and friendly advisors. For further information, email [ideastore@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:ideastore@towerhamlets.gov.uk) and a member of the team will get back to you.