



## TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

All students, whether they can verbalize it or not, desire to play the piano well because, simply put, it makes them feel both accomplished at a difficult task and connected to something larger than themselves. As a teacher, I believe it is my job to help students come as close to this musical goal as possible; to be proud of the sound they are producing and the story they are telling at the instrument.

To achieve this, I believe in providing a structured and safe environment for the student to be able to fully express themselves. Students feel comfortable trying new and difficult concepts in their lessons because of this environment; their vulnerability instills a deep relationship between student and teacher and helps them be able to succeed in communicating their ideas to an audience. My responsibilities as a music educator are to find out what motivates and encourages each individual student, and what their specific strengths and weakness are as a musician and a student.

My lesson structure is highly goal-oriented and centered around the student, which means that each student's lesson looks different in a variety of ways. I work hard to ensure that students 1) know what kind of sound they are looking to create and 2) they know what kind of physical motion is needed to achieve this sound. Each student and family have their own idea of what piano lessons should achieve, but I believe that all students have the most fun when they are confident practicing, playing, and performing in a variety of settings. Ultimately, my goal is for students to leave their lessons happier and more fulfilled than when they arrived and to show them how music can be a lifelong exploration. I want students to be able to think about music independently from me and begin to make artistic decisions for themselves; I try to encourage a curious and excited approach to a variety of repertoire in lessons.

A teacher who is committed to understanding both the psychology and motivation of each of their students helps ensure that all students are performing at a high level in both formal and casual settings. I choose to set a good example for my students by performing regularly, as well as coming to their lessons prepared and excited by the music before them. I believe that education serves the purpose to grow the person, not just as a musician. With the nourishing learning environment, students can play at a high level artistically and physically and thrive in piano lessons and beyond.