

Jon Ensminger Piano Studio

Welcome to my studio manual! I trust that this manual will answer any questions you may have about taking lessons. If not, please feel free to contact me using the information listed below.



If you have access to the internet, the studio website address is www.je-studio.com. The website has all of the information in this manual, plus extra features. You may register for lessons online on the Register page.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jon Ensminger

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49913

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Private Lessons

Piano lessons are available in two formats: Traditional Private lessons and Distance Lessons. For more information about Distance Lessons, visit the [Distance Lessons page](#). Distance Lessons provide an excellent alternative when distance, time, or weather prohibit regular attendance.

If you have further questions about either option, please don't hesitate to contact me.

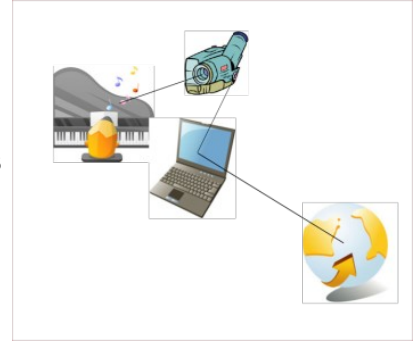


Lessons are available for beginners, intermediate, and advanced students. I also welcome adults who would like to start at the beginning, resurrect long-lost skills, or continue their studies in piano. Many materials and options are available for busy adults, including Recreational Music Making, Distance Lessons, and traditional private lessons.

- **Beginners** (less than one year of lessons, age seven or older) .
 - 30-minute weekly lessons.
 - Develop basic Rhythm, Reading, and Aural skills - form a strong foundation for musical advancement and enjoyment.
 - Elementary materials include fine methods such as *Piano Adventures*, *Alfred Premier Piano course*, *Hal Leonard Piano*, and *Piano Discoveries*.
 - Adult Methods include *Adult Piano Adventures* and Alfred's *Play Piano Now*.
 - Online games and drills to motivate, educate, and inspire progress.
- **Intermediate** (more than one year of lessons).
 - 45-minute weekly lessons.
 - Focus on technical development and repertoire building.
 - Graded repertoire such as *Masterwork Classics*, *Celebration Series*, *Keith Snell Piano Repertoire*, and *Mastering the Piano*.
 - Optional ensemble and hymn playing.
- **Advanced** (ready for important works by major composers)
 - 45-minute to one hour weekly lessons.
 - Refined technical development.
 - Advanced theory, music history, and aural skills.
 - Balanced repertoire development through various composers and style periods.
 - Improvisation, hymn playing, ensemble playing.
- **All Students**
 - Access to online resources through the [Student Pages](#) .
 - Incentive Program.
 - Participation in recitals, workshops, master classes, LSMTA Student Achievement Tests, Competitions.
 - Optional Distance Lessons (see the [Distance Lessons](#) page).

Distance Lessons

Distance Lessons are available as a convenience for students when weather or distance is a prohibiting factor. Traditional lessons are recommended for most students, but if you would like to take distance lessons, please fill out the registration form and indicate your preference.



Advantages of Distance Lessons

- Save commuting time and fuel expense!
- Visual features: whiteboard, web links, and powerpoint slides provide a rich learning environment.
- Chat and feedback features encourage greater student participation.
- Flexible scheduling.
- Focused preparation by teacher AND student.

Pre-Lesson Trial

Successful distance lessons depend upon a good connection and adequate equipment. Before agreeing to teach distance lessons, I require a trial lesson (no charge) to make sure your connection and equipment are adequate. You should plan on at least 30 minutes for the trial run.

Minimum equipment requirements for distance lessons

1. **High-speed internet** (DSL, Cable, Satellite). Distance lessons are not available for dial-up connections.
2. **Skype** account. Skype accounts are free and easy to obtain. Visit the [skype.com website](http://skype.com) to get an account if you don't already have one.
3. **Webcam or digital camcorder**. To use a digital camcorder, you will need conversion software so that it can be used as a webcam. This is an excellent option, because digital camcorders usually have better video and zoom features than webcams, and camcorders can be set up easily in any location. Recommended software: [webcamDV conversion software from orangeware.com](http://webcamDV.conversionsoftwarefromorangeware.com). The license is \$20, and the software is available in a free trial version. If you have a webcam AND a digital camcorder, both can be used in distance lessons, which allows for multiple camera angles. To use a digital camcorder as a webcam, you must be able to connect it to the computer as a camera source.

4. **Computer** (laptop or desktop) - laptop recommended but not necessary. I recommend at least 1GB of RAM as a minimum, and more if possible. The computer will need to be near your piano during the distance lesson. I recommend downloading your own version of [vroom from elluminate.com](http://vroomfromelluminate.com) and testing it with Skype loaded at the same time to make sure everything works together.
5. **Microphone** and **headphones**, or headset. Earbuds or ipod headphones and computer microphones are inexpensive, and are readily available at many retail stores such as Walmart. Computer speakers should be turned off and headphones used during distance lessons to avoid time-delay echoes, which can be distracting during a lesson.
6. **Piano**. The piano should be in a room that will be relatively free from distractions (vacuum cleaners, noisy televisions or stereos, etc.)

Distance Lessons are available for all students. You may register for Distance Lessons exclusively, or choose to have traditional lessons and opt for occasional Distance Lessons when needed. All that I require is that adequate advance notice is given when requesting Distance Lessons.

The Studio

My studio is equipped with two pianos: a Kawai KG-2C grand piano, and a Young Chang Pramberger 48" upright piano. The studio contains a large collection of music books and sheet music, recordings, and other books and equipment to aid in providing the best possible learning experience.



I also use computer software, MIDI keyboards, and various audio interfaces, including Sibelius notation software, Cubase LE DAW software, Tascam Gigastudio 3.0 software sampler, M-Audio Keystation Pro 88 MIDI keyboard / controller, and E-MU 1616 audio interface.

I use a Sony HandyCam digital camcorder and a smaller webcam for [Distance Lessons](#) . Software for Distance Lessons includes Elluminate vroom and Skype.

The studio is located in Laurium, MI, about 12 miles north of Hancock. Take US 41 N out of Hancock, turn right at Depot St., left on Tamarack St.

Calendar

2008-2009 Calendar

Not shown - LSM TA student recitals. This calendar will be updated as more information becomes available.

2008 Fall Term

Monday, September 1 Labor Day
September 2 - 5
First Week of Lessons
Saturday, September 13
Master Class Saturday, September 27 Master Class
Saturday, October 11 Master Class
Saturday, October 25 Master Class
Saturday, November 8 Master Class
Saturday, November 22 Master Class
November 24-28
Thanksgiving Week - No Lessons
Saturday, December 6
Master Class
December 15 - 19 Last week of lessons for Fall Term
Saturday, December 20
Christmas Recital

2009 Spring Term

January 12 -16
First Week of Lessons
Saturday, January 24
Master Class
Saturday, February 7 Master Class
Saturday, February 21 Master Class
Saturday, March 7
Master Class
March 9-13 Spring Break - No Lessons Saturday, March 21(?) LSM TA Student Achievement
Tests Saturday, April 4 Master Class Saturday, April 18 Master Class April 27 - May 1 Last
week of lessons for Spring Term Saturday, May 9
Spring Recital

Incentive Program

“Race to the Peak”

Inspired by the yearly "Race to the Clouds" Pike Peak hillclimb, "Race to the Peak" is an incentive program to encourage every student to excel. Accumulate points to reach new levels of accomplishment. All points are available to all students regardless of advancement level. Awards will be given for both Fall and Spring Terms. Point totals will be completely reset in January, so every student has a fresh start at the beginning of each term. Prizes will be awarded at the end-of-term Recitals.

The following table shows the point categories and levels. Prizes and awards will be given for students reaching each new level, and for the top students in each category (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, and Adult).

Point Categories

Points are awarded every week for Assigned Goals.

Additional points will be awarded for Optional Goals.

Assigned Goals	Weekly Points
Practice	25
Attendance	10
Performance / Technique	15
Theory Book / Virtual Theory Lab	10
Optional Goals	
Duets / Ensembles	10
Listening	10
SATs / Competitions / Auditions	15
Concert / Recital Attendance	10
Composition / Creative Work	10

Award Levels

All students begin at the Novice level.

Level	Minimum Points	Prize
Novice	0	No Prize
Rookie	450	Certificate & Medallion
Semi-Pro	550	Certificate, Medallion, & CD or Gift Certificate
Pro	650	Certificate, Medallion, & metronome or Gift Certificate
Champion	750	Certificate, Medallion, & Cakewalk Music Creator 4.0 or Gift Certificate

Bio

I have been teaching piano in the upper Midwest since 1987. I taught for 21 years at Northland Baptist Bible College in Dunbar, WI before moving to Laurium, MI in the summer of 2008. I plan to maintain my piano studio teaching part-time while attending Michigan Technological University, pursuing a "second degree" in Computer Science.

My educational background includes a B.A. in Piano from Bob Jones University, a M.M. in Piano Performance from the University of South Carolina, and a DMA in Piano Pedagogy from the University of South Carolina. I also studied piano while working on the summer staff at National Music Camp, Interlochen, MI.

Many of my pre-college students have gone on to major in music in college, and a number of my college students have gone on to pursue graduate degrees in music, including such well-respected schools as Miami University, FL, and James Madison University. A good number of Pedagogy Major graduates currently teach in their own private studios.

While in graduate school I participated in a number of Master Classes with such teachers as Jacob Lateiner and Alfonse Montecino. I regularly attend professional conferences and seminars, and have attended events including the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy in Chicago, IL, the Group Piano and Pedagogy Forum at the University of Oklahoma, the Evelyn Swarthout Hayes Piano Institute at the University of Kansas, and the Summer Piano Pedagogy Institute at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN.

I love teaching students of all ages and ability levels, from beginners through advanced levels. I also enjoy the technological aspects of music teaching and music making, from computer- and internet-based instruction, to MIDI keyboards and software instruments, webcams and distance-based teaching.

My teaching career at Northland included overseeing the piano pedagogy program and directing student interns, teaching various music history, music theory, and arranging classes, and teaching a course in hymn arranging for pianists.



Tuition

Tuition is based on a fifteen-week term (Fall 2008 and Spring 2009). Discounts apply for multiple family members, and for term payment in advance. These rates apply for both traditional private lessons and for distance lessons.

Beginner - 30-minute lesson + Master Class + Distance Option

Term	\$280.00
Monthly (Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec)	\$70.00

Intermediate or Advanced- 45-minute lesson + Master Class + Distance Option

Term	\$400.00
Monthly (Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec)	\$100.00

Advanced - 60-minute lesson + Master Class + Distance Option

Term	\$480.00
Monthly (Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec)	\$120.00

Discounts

5% discount for each additional family member.

10% discount if term paid in full by September 30 (Fall) or January 31 (Spring).

10% discount also applies if monthly payment is made online by subscription for the term.

Payment is due in full by the end of each month. I will accept cash or check. You may also pay for the term online using credit card or electronic check through the secure paypal service (see links on the tuition page at www.je-studio.com).

Registration Form

Please complete and mail the form below to register for lessons or classes. If you are registering more than one person in a family, please fill out a separate form for each person.

All information is kept completely confidential and will not be released to any third parties.

Mail to:

Jon Ensminger Piano Studio

210 Tamarack St.

Laurium, MI 49913

(copy or detach below dotted line)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Age: _____ Number of years of piano lessons: _____

Street Address 1: _____

Street Address 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

List any other instruments you play: _____

Check the services in which you are interested:

- Traditional lessons
- Distance lessons
- Computer and Digital Music
- Recreational Music

I have read and agree to the policies and descriptions of lessons and services as set forth in this manual.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's (if student under 18): _____