

Hoff-Barthelson Music School

WESTCHESTER'S PREMIER COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

25 School Lane • Scarsdale, New York 10583 • 914-723-1169 • hb@hbms.org • www.hbms.org

PIANO, PIANO, AND MORE PIANO — ... AND A NEW KEYBOARD LAB!



Hoff-Barthelson Music School was founded in 1944 by Virginia Hoff and Joyce Barthelson, two gifted pianists who believed that music and the skills needed to perform it should be available to everyone. As you might imagine, the piano played a large role in the establishment of the School. To this day, piano instruction remains central to how we accomplish our mission.

Our commitment to the piano, and to pianists at the School – students and faculty – has led to the development of new classes, new approaches to teaching, and new ‘tools’ for helping pianists to grow in their love, knowledge, and practice of the piano.

Whether you are a parent of a pianist, a developing pianist, an adult who always wanted to play the piano, or an amateur pianist seeking to develop professional-level skills, Hoff-Barthelson has opportunities and experienced, professional faculty for you.

[Learn more about our Piano Program and request a placement meeting here.](#)

CLASSES IN THE HOFF-BARTHELSON KEYBOARD LAB

Class Piano

Grades 6-12

One 55-minute class per week

Class size: 4-8 students

Instructor: Delana Thomsen

This group class provides an opportunity for students new to the piano to develop skills that will support their study of music theory and development of their overall musicianship. It is also ideal for vocalists who wish to learn to accompany themselves, and for students who play other instruments. Students learn the fundamentals of piano playing – reading, technique, scale study, harmonic progressions, elementary repertoire, and basic accompaniment in this year-long class. Students who have completed two semesters of this class are encouraged to continue their studies via private piano instruction. Students wishing to repeat this class after completing two semesters must obtain first obtain permission from the Dean. The class will occur in the School's new keyboard lab.

Keyboard Skills

Grades 9-12

One 40-minute class per week

Class size: 4-8 students

Instructor: Kathy Jones

Learn the skills necessary for collaboration with instrumentalists, vocalists, and ensembles. These include sight-reading, reading of clefs, transposition, and accompaniment skills. This class is an important complement to any advanced pianists' studies, particularly those who plan to study music in college or aspire to musical collaboration. This class is suitable for teens and adults who are advanced players. The class will occur in the School's new keyboard lab.

Group Piano Class for Adults

Adults

One 55-minute class per week

Class size: 4-8 students

Instructor: Delana Thomsen

Specially designed for adult learners new to the piano and to the elements of music, this course teaches foundational and continuing skills in piano technique, music reading, music theory, and listening. Students wishing to continue their study of the piano following completion of this class are invited to register for private piano lessons at the School.

WEEKLY PIANO CLASSES

Piano Together – Group Piano Classes

Four-and-five-year-olds

One 40-minute class per week (child only)

Class size: 4-6 students

Instructors: Mindy Kay Smith and Dominic Meiman

This small-group offering is designed for children preparing for private piano instruction.

Class time is divided between learning the basics of technique at the piano and activities away from the piano that develop children's sensitivity to pitch, rhythm, and musical expression. Students play on acoustic pianos and participate in an end-of-course, in-class recital. Students completing one semester of this class may be invited into our Private Lesson Program or may be encouraged to continue for a second semester. Students should have a keyboard at home on which they can practice. A placement meeting is required for families wishing to register.

Piano History & Literature

One 40-minute class per week for Upper Elementary (Grades 4-6) and Junior (Grades 6-9) students

One 55-minute class per week for Senior (Grades 9-12)

Class size: 5-12 students

Instructors: Helene Jeanney, and Katsura Tanakawa

This seminar-style class brings piano students together to learn about the piano's history, literature, and performance traditions. A central aim of this class is to deepen a student's love of music – the piano and its repertoire in particular. Students develop critical listening skills, knowledge of repertoire, and the ability to communicate about music. Piano faculty lead discussions about in-class and at-home listening assignments and make connections between the piano's repertoire, society, and other art forms. Special projects encourage individual exploration and discovery that lead students to find their own favorite aspects of the piano's repertoire.

Improvisation for Pianists

Grades 2-6

Level 1: One 40-minute class per week

Level 2: One 55-minute class per week – (Level 2 is new this year)

Class size: 5-8 students

Instructor: Thomas Feng

Children love to experiment at the piano, a perfect instrument for imaginative exploration. Through improvising, students will have the opportunity to create and explore melody, harmony, and rhythm in action. Students may repeat Level 1 until they are ready to advance to Level 2.

**For additional
information contact**

Laura Kay

Registrar

914-723-1169

lkay@hbms.org

Enrollment ongoing
throughout the year

Tuition pro-rated based upon
time of enrollment

www.hbms.org

OFFERINGS TO SUPPORT STUDENT GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

Piano Parent Support Meetings

60-minute long meeting in September, October, February, and March

Chaired by the Dean of Programs or the Associate Dean and a member of the School's Piano Department

These meetings are designed to guide parents in how best to support their child's piano study at home and at Hoff-Barthelson; to set expectations for student growth; to educate as to how achievement is attained; and to build awareness of strategies for resolving challenges working with their instructor and the school. Students may attend with their parents. Parent Q&A in a round-table format forms an integral part of these meetings.

Harpsichord Workshop

Offered once per semester in each format: Informal, Teen Workshop, and Adult Workshop

Pianists learning music from the Baroque era will have a unique opportunity to gain a new perspective on articulation, fingering, phrasing, tempo, and dynamics by trying out their pieces on the harpsichord. Performances come alive as students experience playing on the harpsichord, gain new insights into Baroque musical style, and learn to incorporate this detail into their own interpretations on the piano.

IS THERE PROGRAM THAT YOU WISH TO BE DEVELOPED AT HB?

Please email your ideas for new programming to Christopher Kenniff, ckenniff@hbms.org.

Ensembles, classes, enhancements to existing programs, and thoughts about how we might foster a more vibrant sense of community for learners of all ages are welcome!



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Enriching lives and creating community through music