HOFF-BARTHELSON

MUSIC SCHOOL

Junior Honors Piano Program

Description

The Junior Honors Piano Program is designed for elementary and middle school piano students who wish to set meaningful goals, gain performance experience, and prepare for future participation in the **HBMS Honors Program**.

Participants must be currently enrolled in piano lessons at HBMS. Students may enter the program at any level.

Enrollment begins with a nomination from the student's piano teacher. Before nominating a student, the teacher reviews the program requirements and confirms the student's commitment to participate fully. Enrollment is valid for one academic year, and students may continue in the program through annual re-enrollment and teacher nomination.

Student nominations are open now through November 15, 2026. Please see below for link to nomination form.

The **Junior Honors Piano Program** helps young pianists:

- Set meaningful musical goals
- Build confidence through performance opportunities
- Develop skills and experience in preparation for future participation in the **HBMS Honors Program**

Eligibility

To participate, students must:

- Be currently enrolled at HBMS in piano lessons.
- Be nominated by their piano teacher.
    - ❖ Teacher nomination occurs after reviewing the program requirements with the student and confirming the student's commitment to participate.

    - ❖ Nominated students are all accepted to the Junior Honors Piano Program.
- Students may enter the program at any level

Enrollment

- **Student nominations are now being accepted through November 15, 2026.**
    - ❖ **NOMINATION FORM HERE**.
- Enrollment is valid for **one academic year**
- **Students may continue in the program from year to year** through renewed enrollment

Program Completion

- Students must complete all program requirements and pass their end-of-year Performance Assessment with a minimum 70% score to receive their certificate.

Pathway to Honors Program

The Junior Honors Piano Program provides a structured pathway for developing pianists before pursuing participation in the **HBMS Honors Program**.

Questions?

Please contact Dr. Joan Forsyth, Chair of the Piano Department at the Hoff-Barthelson Music School.

Program Overview

Performance Requirements

Students must complete **three public performances** and an end-of-year **Performance Assessment**. Information about repertoire, technical, and sight-reading requirements is found below.

Public Performances

Public performance opportunities include:

- HBMS recitals, part of the HBMS Performance Program
- HBMS Concerts for the Community

- Other approved HBMS performance events. Please consult with the **Piano Department Chairperson**.

Spring Performance Assessment

Sunday, May 16, 2027, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

- Each student will be scheduled for a 15-minute appointment.
- Students will perform all required program elements and receive written comments from a jury comprised of HBMS piano faculty members.
- Students may opt to receive a score for their performance. Medals are awarded for the following scores:
    - 90-100 - Gold
    - 80-89 - Silver
    - 70-79 - Bronze
- Medalists will be invited to perform their highest scoring piece at the Junior Honors Piano Program Awards Concert.

Junior Honors Piano Program Awards Concert

Friday, June 4, 2027, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

- Students who earn **a medal** in their Performance Assessment will be invited to perform their highest-scoring piece at the Awards Concert.

HBMS Class or Ensemble Requirement

Students must be enrolled in **at least one additional HBMS class or ensemble** during the school year. Please consult your teacher for guidance in selecting an appropriate class or ensemble. **Please visit the HBMS Course Catalog** for a comprehensive listing of all classes and ensembles.

Examples include:

- Musicianship
- Suzuki Group Class
- Chamber Music
- Ensemble classes

Professional Musical Events Attendance Requirements

Master Class Attendance

Students must attend **one HBMS master class** during the school year. Two piano master classes are being offered this year and are listed below. Please note that **attendance at a master class in any instrument** will fulfill this requirement.

Participating in a master class outside of piano can broaden students' musical awareness by exposing them to different instruments, repertoire, and approaches to performance and technique. Many of the musical and interpretive concepts discussed in these classes are valuable for pianists as well. **Please find all masterclasses at HBMS here**.

Christian Pastorino, piano

- Friday, November 6, 2026, HBMS Auditorium
- Masterclass: 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- And please stay for Maestro Pastorino's Solo Recital: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Roberto Plano, piano

- Tuesday, November 17, 2026, HBMS Auditorium
- Masterclass: 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Professional Performance Attendance

Students must attend **one professional musical performance**, either at HBMS or another venue.

To receive credit, students must submit a copy of the concert program to the **Piano Department Chairperson**.

Repertoire Requirements

Repertoire

Over the course of the school year, students prepare:

- One etude or other technically challenging piece
- Three solo pieces representing three different musical periods

Examples of musical periods include:

- Baroque
- Classical
- Romantic
- Impressionist
- 20th or 21st Century

At least one piece must be from either the Baroque or Classical period.

Repertoire Difficulty

Students prepare music that is appropriate for their current level, ranging from **elementary through advanced repertoire**.

- As a point of reference, please consider the **Royal Conservatory of Music Piano Syllabus** or similar (e.g., Associated Boards of Royal Schools of Music) which provide repertoire suggestions by level and musical period.
- Teachers may choose alternate repertoire when appropriate.
- Substitute repertoire must be of equal or greater difficulty than the student's designated level and may require approval from the **Piano Department Chairperson**.
- More advanced repertoire may always be substituted.
- Music performed in a prior Junior Honors Piano Program year may not be repeated.
- One chamber music work or one movement of a concerto may be substituted for a solo piece.

Technical Requirements

Technical requirements are performed ONLY during the end-of-year Performance Assessments.

Students prepare scales, chords, and arpeggios in specific major and minor keys appropriate to their level.

HT = Hands Together **HS** = Hands Separate

Level	Keys	Scales	Chords	Arpeggios
Prep A	C major, A minor	Pentascales, HS	Solid triads, HS	Broken triads, HS
Prep B	C major, A minor	1 octave, HT	Solid triads, HT	Broken triads, HT
Level 1	C, G major; A, E minor	2 octaves, HS	Triads and inversions, HS	Triads and inversions, HS
Level 2	F, D major; D, G minor	2 octaves, HS	Triads and inversions, HS	Triads and inversions, HS
Level 3	A, E major; C, F minor	2 octaves, HT	Triads and inversions, HT	Triads and inversions, HT
Level 4	B-flat, E-flat major; B-flat, G minor	2 octaves, HT	Triads and inversions, HT	2-octave arpeggios, HS
Level 5	A-flat, B major; F and G-sharp minor	2 octaves, HT	Triads and inversions, HT	2-octave arpeggios, HT
Level 6	D-flat, F-sharp major; B-flat and E-flat minor	4 octaves, HT	Dominant seventh chords, HS	2-octave arpeggios, HT
Level 7	F, C-sharp major; F-sharp and C-sharp minor	4 octaves, HT	Diminished seventh chords in minor keys; Dominant seventh chords in major keys	4-octave arpeggios, HS

Additional Notes

- All minor scales must be performed in three forms:

    - Natural Minor
    - Harmonic Minor
    - Melodic Minor
- Dominant seventh chords begin on the fifth scale degree.
- Diminished seventh chords begin on the leading tone (seventh scale degree).
- All chords are performed within one octave.

Sight Reading

Sight reading is a component of the end-of-year Performance Assessment; not the recitals.

- Students will perform a short piece of music that they have not prepared in advance.
- Sight-reading material will be selected at an appropriate level for each student.
