

## Piano Studio Syllabus, 2011-2012

Welcome to another year of piano lessons! I enjoyed working with you last year and am excited about some new opportunities for all of us this coming school year.

### Lesson Schedule and Location

Lessons will be offered on **Monday and Wednesday afternoons** starting Sept. 5 as follows:

Mondays: 2pm to 5pm.

Wednesdays: 3:30pm to 5pm.

We will once more be using Christ Presbyterian Church's sanctuary and its wonderful grand piano for lessons. All groups using the sanctuary for lessons have been instructed to leave it as it is found and not touch the thermostat. Please help me comply with these rules, respecting the sanctuary space and keeping energy costs low.

We also now have a **Google Calendar** for our piano studio! Please add it to your current calendars and consult it regularly. You can also feel free to swap lesson times with other students as needed; just let me know before the lesson dates in question so I know who to expect when. I do not anticipate many deviations from our lesson schedule this fall, but I do think this calendar will be a helpful aid if we have weather-related cancellations in the winter.

### New in 2011

**Local piano activities.** I am now a member of the Music Teacher's National Association and its subsidiary CT and New Haven chapters. Stay tuned for opportunities throughout the school year for your children to meet other New Haven-area piano students and participate in local recitals and piano events!

I am also offering training toward individual piano assessments offered by the **Carnegie Hall-Royal Conservatory (Toronto) Achievement Program**. The program provides opportunities for students to receive positive feedback on progress in their listening skills, piano technique, understanding of music theory, as well as their performance of solo piano pieces. Assessments with trained piano jurors are offered twice a year for a modest fee, but there is no additional membership fee or extended commitment required. If you are interested in participating, read more about the program at [theachievementprogram.org](http://theachievementprogram.org) and talk with me soon! Regional assessments are offered between Nov. 28 and Dec. 3 this fall, and between May 13 and June 3, 2012, with registration two to three months in advance.

**Studio Newsletter.** Send any news of your child's recent accomplishments, musical or otherwise, to me at [colleen.thorburn@gmail.com](mailto:colleen.thorburn@gmail.com). I will include them in our first studio newsletter around late September/early October.

### Important Dates

I enjoyed our first piano recital in June so much that I am planning more get-togethers for our young pianists this coming year. Please let me know favored dates, especially for the Christmas party.

**Christmas Piano Party:** Saturday, Dec. 17, or an earlier Saturday in December. Time TBD, likely early afternoon.

**Spring Studio Recital:** June 2012, day TBD. May be joint with other local piano studios.

**Group Piano Outings:** Occasionally, interested piano students may be able to attend concerts in New Haven featuring piano music. This may involve a group trip to Yale's Morse Recital Hall to hear a piano recital, an orchestral concert with a piano concerto soloist, or perhaps even jazz piano!

### Payment and Policies

Lessons should be paid in monthly installments on the first lesson day of the month, for that month. There is no late fee, but try to be timely. I will remind you as best I can.

You need only cover lessons to which you are committing that month. (Example: If there are four weeks in December, but you will only be in town for two of them, let me know in advance, and your December check may only include the cost of two lessons.)

Fees for 2011-2012 are as follows:

30-minute lesson: ■■■.      45-minute lesson: ■■■.      One-hour lesson: ■■■.

If you must cancel a lesson, please do so at least 24 hours in advance of your regular lesson time. You will receive a make-up lesson at no extra cost, to be scheduled at our mutual convenience. In general, a failure to cancel 24-hours in advance is not refundable nor guaranteed a makeup lesson. A makeup lesson for a missed lesson may be scheduled for an additional fee.