

PIANO PEDAGOGY – BASIC TRAINING, CERTIFICATES & DIPLOMA OPTIONS

- *Why should a student consider pedagogy training?*

Piano students often teach 'on the side' once they have completed grade 8, 9, or 10 piano examinations. Perhaps they are asked to teach a neighbour's child, or receive a referral through church or a sports organization. This is why RCM offers the Elementary Pedagogy Certificate program, which may be all that a young student teacher needs to learn if they plan to go on to university and focus on a different career. Teaching may be a part-time job while attending college or even finishing high school. A certificate gives a young teacher credibility with prospective students and parents and shows that they have training in understanding and teaching beginner to Grade 2 pupils. Grade 9 piano is required to complete this Elementary Certificate and the pedagogy portion takes 6-10 months. Conservatory Canada also offers teacher assessment examinations which can be a useful tool in the development of a student teacher's career.

Even if a student teacher does not plan to pursue certification, several months of introductory pedagogy lessons would be very beneficial to help them get started, to learn about different method books, and to give them more confidence when talking to parents about expectations, collecting lesson fees, and practicing tips for their child.

- *What about those students who do want to become fully qualified?*

Now that RCM has a three-tier Certificate program in order to obtain a full Diploma, this involves six written and aural examinations. There are other options which include the BCCM Teacher's Diploma with its unique 'Study Essay' alternative to the three-hour written examination. For those students who plan on pedagogy certification, there are few university options in Canada so a conservatory diploma is usually pursued at the local level.

- *Why study pedagogy with Linda Sheppard at her studio?*

Ms Sheppard has experience preparing student teachers for the RCM and BCCM Teaching Diplomas (*references available upon request*), both of which allow the successful candidate to become an RMT. Linda also has experience teaching all three RCM Certificate levels (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced) with sample papers for each. Those who take the Performer's Diploma must wait a further five years to become an RMT (while gaining teaching experience and mentoring during this time) and this mentorship is another service she offers. **Ms Sheppard has observed that there are very few opportunities for student teachers who wish for short-term pedagogy lessons and introductory training in a structured manner which can then apply if the student does eventually decide to continue and complete a certificate or diploma. Each student is therefore given a course outline specific to their individual needs.**

Ms Sheppard has been preparing students for pedagogy exams for some years, has two teaching diplomas, and has been teaching private piano, rudiments, harmony and music history lessons for 20 years. Linda is the guest author in the best selling pedagogy text in Canada, *Piano Pedagogy: A Practical Approach* (by Edward Parker) and the author of three acclaimed music history textbooks through her company, Longbow Publishing Ltd. Ms Sheppard's unique perspective as an author, publisher, clinician, administrator and teacher plus her constant exposure to new teaching materials and technology means that pedagogy lessons are continually evolving to ensure the latest resources are incorporated. Her library of resources and all review materials are available to all pedagogy students and Linda arranges observation lessons, attendance at local festivals, recording lessons, business card, website and brochure preparation for student teachers.

Private pedagogy lessons are offered at Ms Sheppard's studio as this allows her to tailor the examination preparations to each student's specific requirements such as focusing on the written and/or the viva voce examinations in whatever time frame is established by the teacher and student.

Space is often available - contact Linda Sheppard for more information. Thank you!

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Ms Sheppard teaches music history three different ways: **groups** (maximum of five to ensure everyone learns at the same pace), **private lessons** (45 minutes per week) and **history via correspondence** (weekly assignments are emailed and essays marked, with the schedule tailored to each student's needs).
- Rudiments, written Harmony and keyboard Harmony courses are also available in a private lesson format.
- Longbow Publishing sells more than history products, such as the original Pattern Play™ books by Forrest Kinney, a full range of graded piano repertoire books by BCCM, Ultimate Theory™ books and much more!