



MATT JOHNSON MUSIC STUDIO



PIANO LESSONS ~ COMPOSITION STUDIES
THEORY TUTORING ~ PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS



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LEARN MUSICAL SKILLS FOR A LIFETIME*

MTNA

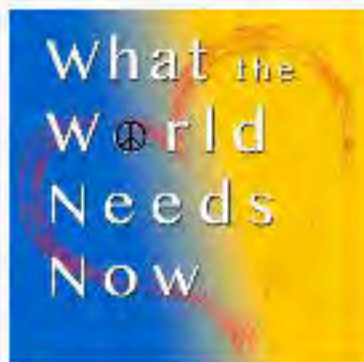


Matt is an innovative
Nationally Certified
Teacher of Music [NCTM]
with 45+ years experience...

offering music lessons
in his
Cooper City studio and
streaming video lessons
ONLINE



Photo: JBlautPhoto



EMINENT MUSICIAN
in Broward County*



WHY STUDY WITH MATT ?

LESSONS



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WHY STUDY WITH MATT ?

LESSONS

TESTIMONIALS ~ Lessons

SERVICES

WORKSHOPS *(on hiatus)*

TESTIMONIALS ~ Workshops

BIOGRAPHY
TEACHING PHILOSOPHY
STUDIO POLICY
VIDEOS • ARTICLES

Check out Matt's
original music and recordings

www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

~ Web3 ~

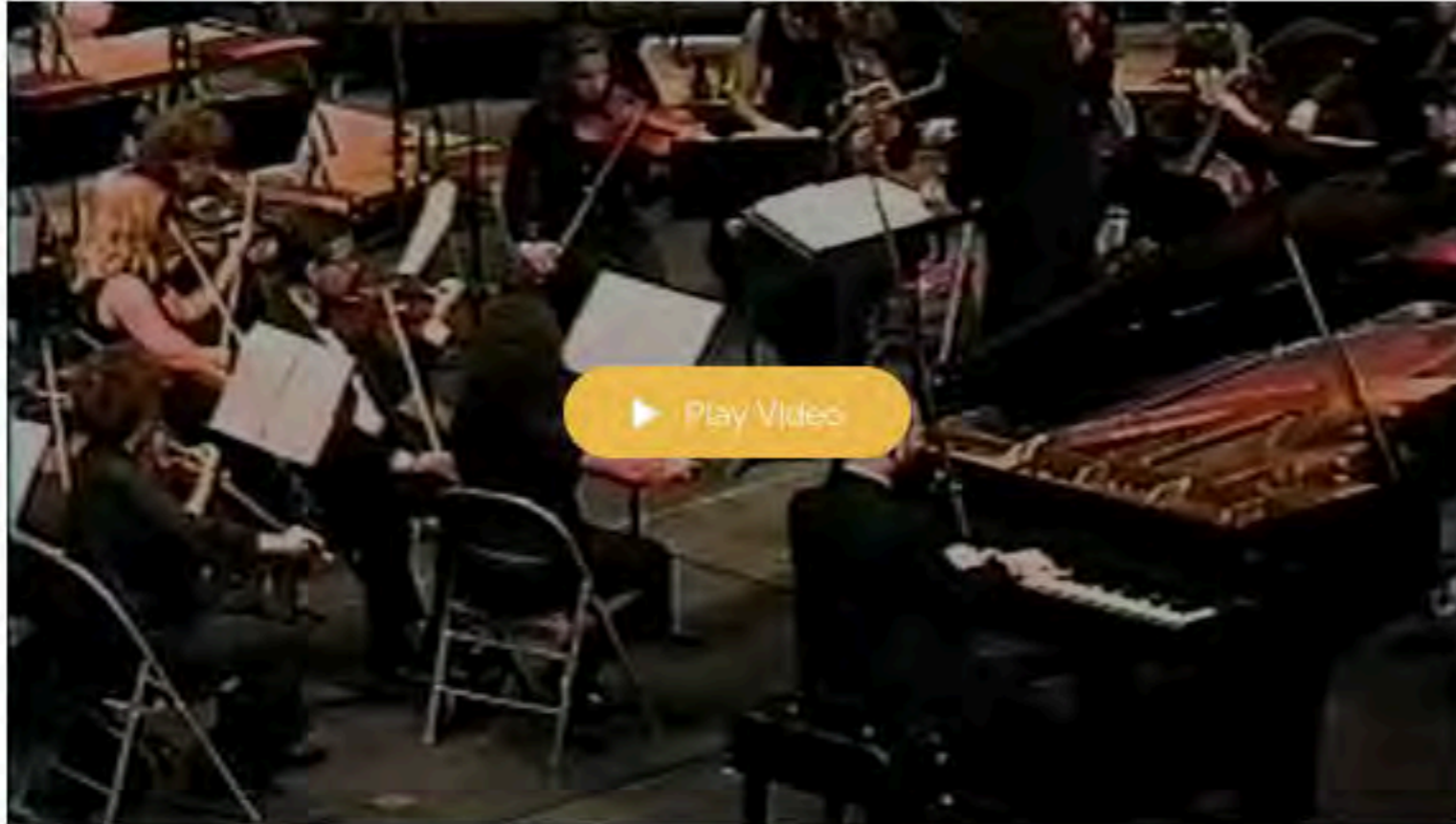
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Matt...a few performances



Luke's Theme - Orchestral PREMIERE_10.19.97 •...

Matt Johnson and Friends in Concert • 2016 •...



Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring_ARR. - 2002 • Troy...

Remarkable • Mechanics Hall •...



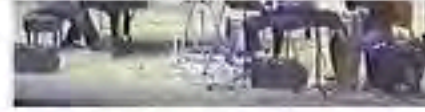
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Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring_ARR. - 2002 • Troy...



Remarkable • Mechanics Hall •...



Matt Johnson • Who IS this guy? •...



Prokofiev's Toccata, Opus 11_Matt Johnson •...

Lǎo shī

*No man can reveal to you aught but that which already lies half asleep in the dawning of your knowledge. The teacher who walks in the shadow of the temple, among his followers, gives not of his wisdom but rather of his faith and his lovingness. If he is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind. **[Kahlil Gibran]***

* *Read the featured article:*

[At Matt Johnson Music Studio, Students Learn Musical Skills For A Lifetime.](#)





At Matt Johnson Music Studio, Students Learn Musical Skills For A Lifetime

By S. Mathur

He is Cooper City's eminent musician, a composer of original works and an innovative teacher. Matt Johnson has been giving piano lessons since 1977, but his musical journey started much earlier.

"Growing up listening to my father play the piano peaked my musical interest," he said. "He taught me several pieces and then I began formal piano lessons when I was six years old. After 10 years of musical studies, I began teaching my friends and family and I've been teaching ever since."

Johnson trained as a classical pianist and has won many awards as a performer. He made the transition to composing his own pieces and performing them in various venues including large concert halls, jazz clubs and soirées. From his studio in Cooper City, FL, he now uses the new technology to make his work available as CD recordings, and also as written scores available as pdf files. His music is also available on his YouTube channel.



Matt Johnson

Johnson teaches piano, theory, composition and the art of music notation or engraving, beginning with students as young as six years old. Giving students musical skills and understanding allows them to learn and play any kind of music. To this end, Johnson teaches students not only to read the written notational language of music, but also chordal and rhythmic understanding in the literature.

"Additionally, after learning to play the score exactly as written, I teach students how to supplement the music by adding notes and changing up the rhythms," he said. "With these goals in mind, I embrace the traditional Classical literature, but am also inclusive of other styles as well such as Pop, Jazz, Gospel, etc. Students are encouraged to bring in pieces they want to learn, thus sharing in the ownership of the literature selected for study."

Johnson enjoys working with beginners as much as advanced students.



"While each student's preferred learning style is embraced and utilized, focus is also given to the development and combination of a variety of learning characteristics, as further aids to learn and play more musically," he said. "My global educational goal for my students is to teach and empower them to learn for themselves. I aim to create new masters, musicians that are knowledgeable and functional, rather than simple Followers who are forever dependent on musical assistance."

Students are expected to practice daily to hone the skills that will be most beneficial through their lifetimes. Johnson's musical skills and experience also help students to see the bigger musical picture and the real world applications of their music.

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BIOGRAPHY

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STUDIO POLICY

VIDEOS



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MUSIC LESSONS WITH MATT JOHNSON 954.701.1518

Beginners - Advanced • Children and Adults

*Learn the basics of reading and playing music
while building a solid technical foundation*

Contact Matt for a (free) Evaluation lesson
to begin your musical journey.

Matt makes his living as a musician by utilizing his various musical skills. Teaching up-and-coming musicians is one skill he quite enjoys. Having previously taught in the University and Performing Arts School settings, he now teaches primarily from his Cooper City studio and worldwide through ONLINE LESSONS.

Matt teaches private one-on-one lessons in **piano, composition, theory** and the art of **notation/engraving**. Having **taught private lessons since 1977**, Matt's teaching encompasses the **classical, jazz** and **popular** music literature. From **beginners** to **advanced**, he uses a multiple-key approach, as well as traditional middle-C method books.

Matt says: *"My philosophy of teaching music embraces the classical literature, but is more inclusive of other styles as well—jazz, popular, gospel, etc. I like to teach my*



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Matt says: *"My philosophy of teaching music embraces the classical literature, but is more inclusive of other styles as well—jazz, popular, gospel, etc. I like to teach my students to be 'functional' musicians. It is important that the student not only learn to read the written language of music, but also that they not be limited by it. I teach chordal understanding in whatever literature we're working on. In addition, learning to play EXACTLY what's written is then supplemented by ADDING notes or rhythms."*

[View Testimonials...](#)



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WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT LESSONS WITH MATT JOHNSON 954.701.1518

*"**Matt is fantastic!!** My daughter just started taking lessons and Matt was the perfect choice. Our first meeting he sat and talked to my daughter, asked her questions, had her play and made it fun to learn.*

He has a unique approach to teaching and makes it fun and at the same time he challenges her, which she likes. He makes her think....

When we left our meeting with him we were both smiling ear to ear and I asked her, so what do you think? She said, mom, he was awesome. I love how he is going to challenge me. That will make me work harder. Not long after we left we called Matt to thank him for taking the time to meet us and how much my daughter enjoyed talking to him.

*Thank you Matt—you teach with your heart and you're a wonderful teacher and so happy you were referred to us. **We highly recommend Matt Johnson.**"*

Tina K.

~ ~ ~

"Matt's solid academic credentials, lifetime body of inspiring work and passion for his calling make him a superior musician and teacher. Matt is an insightful and patient teacher who will challenge piano students at any level to excel. Matt's style is relaxed yet engaging, with just the right amount of intensity to keep you on your toes. If you're serious about learning piano, you owe it to yourself to give him a call. I'm glad I did."

Dan F



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~ ~ ~

"I've had the pleasure to study piano with Matt, and I can say that he literally changed the way I approach the piano. I'll never be the same, and that's a great thing! Matt taught me how to bring out the melody on whatever I'm trying to play, and I couldn't be happier with the results. I've definitely become a better musician! I've started playing the piano when I was 6, and I wish I could travel back in time and learn those valuable lessons from Matt instead.

Matt Johnson is not your average piano teacher—he is the real deal!"

Doug C.

~ ~ ~

"As an adult returning to the piano after many years, I am so glad to have found Matt. Maestro Matt (as I call him) is a music professional in every sense of the word. He's brought a sense of 'I can do this!' to this student. While a perfectionist, Matt patiently listens with understanding and freely shares his knowledge. I come prepared to each lesson and ready for piano because I want to, not because I have to. His lovely studio is a study in harmony itself. I recommend Matt Johnson to all who want to experience the joy of playing piano...at any age."

Diane J.

~ ~ ~

"Matt is a caring teacher. He is always attentive and makes music learning fun. My kids enjoyed the class time and couldn't believe the hour had passed. I would recommend Matt to any family."

Simone D.

~ ~ ~

"My daughter's lessons are absolutely fantastic, Matt. Wow! We are still amazed that you are able to fit so much piano info into an hour. Seriously. She now understands and is playing from lead sheets. Thank you so, so very much."



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M. D.

~ ~ ~

"Matt started teaching my daughter at the age of 5 and instilled in her a love for music and playing the piano. He challenged her and to this day she remembers his words when she has a recital. We were sad when we had to leave the area knowing that as a piano teacher, Matt would be irreplaceable. I highly recommend Matt for all levels of piano students."

Sally H.

~ ~ ~

"I'm very grateful for Mr. Johnson because he helped me tremendously on passing my music theory course in my last semester of graduate school. He kept me focused and help me through my multiple mini-tantrums throughout my music theory class when I didn't have a clue sometimes of what my professor was trying to explain. I'm very grateful and appreciative for all Matt's taught me."

Daisy G.

~ ~ ~

"Matt is a wonderful piano teacher—proficient, talented, and good with students. He has high expectations, but that is not meant to sound intimidating. Instead, it's a comment on the way he challenges students to meet their full potential."

Kristen Y.

~ ~ ~

"Matt has instructed both of my children, who are now both in the top jazz class in high school. He has a profound knowledge of music techniques and theory, but



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"Matt has instructed both of my children, who are now both in the top jazz class in high school. He has a profound knowledge of music techniques and theory, but most importantly is able to teach in an inspiring way. We would highly recommend his professional service."

Pat M.

~ ~ ~

"We highly recommend Matt Johnson for piano lessons. His knowledge of music and music theory, along with his encouraging teaching style is a perfect match for my son. We couldn't be happier to have found Matt."

Bonnie S.

~ ~ ~

"Matt has been teaching my daughter for almost 2 years now and his dedication and patience has been outstanding. He has been a great mentor to her not only in music but in her discipline to accomplish tasks. Thank you Matt!"

Mary M.

~ ~ ~

"I came into piano lessons...as an adult novice...with a lot of confused ideas as to what I wanted to accomplish, and how. Matt's patience and versatile teaching style showed me how best to express the music that's been stuck in my head for years. Thanks Matt!"

Jared B.

~ ~ ~

"Studying music with Matt is a great experience for me. He is professional, knowledgeable and an inspiring piano teacher. My pianistic and compositional skills have improved significantly since I started studying with him. I would definitely recommend Matt Johnson to anyone looking for a piano teacher."



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Noir N.

~ ~ ~

"Mr. Johnson was my first piano teacher and he got me off to a great start. He is great and dedicated. He has inspired me a lot so it kept me playing piano until now."

Bryan L.

~ ~ ~

"My child takes piano lessons with Matt Johnson and I must say, I am totally satisfied with his work. Mr. Johnson is very detailed and meticulous, and I recommend his classes to my friends."

Michelle J.

~ ~ ~

*"Honestly, **Matt Johnson is the best piano teacher in the world!** I've been learning to read notes my whole piano learning life, but ever since I had Mr. Matt as my teacher, I've learned so much theories, tips, patterns and everything else in the music world. As I've spent my years with Mr. Matt, he isn't one of those strict piano teachers that scares kids, instead he teaches kids in a funny and joyful way that motivates students to progress their playing in music. I highly recommend Mr. Matt to beginners or advance kids. There is always so much to learn from Mr. Matt!"*

Espee W.

~ ~ ~

"Matt Johnson is a fantastic teacher who not only cares about excellence in music, but also about the student as a person. I took lessons for only nine months in high



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~ ~ ~

"Matt Johnson is a fantastic teacher who not only cares about excellence in music, but also about the student as a person. I took lessons for only nine months in high school, but still consider him a good friend who I have gone to for advice. His desire is to develop the student's skills as a musician, but also develop him/her as a person, prepared for whatever career the future holds. I highly recommend Matt."

Josiah J.

~ ~ ~

"I highly recommend Matt for piano lessons. His amazing academic qualifications, lifetime body of inspirational work and enthusiasm for his profession make him a better artist and trainer. Matt's understanding of music and composition, along with his motivational teaching manner is a wonderful match for kids and adults who want to learn music. He is a perceptive and patient teacher who will challenge piano students at any level to shine."

Arthur M.

~ ~ ~

"Matt has been a very professional and patient teacher for both kids. He has a solid foundation in the skills and theory of music and was able to transfer this knowledge on a pleasant and individual method. We are glad to have had Matt as a teacher at the beginning of the musical journey of our kids. Thank you Matt!"

Eve X.

~ ~ ~

"Since I was young, I've always wanted to learn how to play the piano. Now as an adult, I've taken the plunge. I tried learning on my own but wasn't getting very far. I spent a year looking around for a piano teacher in my area I could feel comfortable with. Finding Matt was either sheer luck or God's grace.

Matt is patient, caring and honest with me. He makes learning fun and he always



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Matt is patient, caring and honest with me. He makes learning fun and he always knows just the right amount to push me beyond my comfort zone. My technique and understanding have improved considerably in the time I've been working with him. I am sight reading, my rhythm (which I thought would be hopeless) is slowly improving and I have more confidence in my studies. I've gone from knowing absolutely nothing to "late elementary" in a short time. I've also gained a greater appreciation for music, music theory and my own abilities.

The best thing is that each week when I conclude my lesson time, I always walk away feeling happy and motivated to continue learning and practicing."

Doug G.

~ ~ ~
*"In the words of my daughter, **'he has opened my eyes to a whole new world about how to play the piano.'***

I want to thank you for renewing her interest in the piano. I appreciate your flexible and insightful instructional style, able to get inside of your student's head and find ways to help them overcome their personal hurdles. You are what we were looking for. Additionally, the music which flows from your fingers is inspiring and coupled with the way you help my daughter relate to what you play for her, reveals what an outstanding musician you are.

Your introductory four pronged approach (finger substitution, rhythm, chops, and goal piece/chords) is what she needed to actually make her earlier studies finally come together. Six weeks ago she would not/could not tackle a piece by herself,



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I think she enjoys the time she spends with you...and the intellectual exchange...as much as she enjoys the music."

Mark R.

~ ~ ~
"We are happy to have found a great and patient teacher for our kids! Thanks, Matt"

Patrick W.

~ ~ ~
"Thank you for helping me grow as a musician and as a person these past few years. You have pushed me in a loving way, and I am grateful for that. You are a wonderful friend and mentor. Thank you for all that you do."



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Kerry N.

~ ~ ~
"We are moving. Do you know any piano teachers in the Ohio area?"

I need someone like you! Great musician from a playing and theory point, but also makes it fun for the kids and is able to tap into their talent. I have some big shoes to fill when it comes to a teacher for (my daughter).

There are no words that are adequate enough to describe how thankful I feel that she began her musical journey with you as her teacher. You made her fall in love with playing the piano. You were able to impart your musical knowledge on a level that she was able to grasp as well as providing her with a foundation that she will carry with her for years to come.

There have been many tears on her part regarding, and I quote, 'There will never be another teacher like Mr. Matt.'"

Harmony S.

~ ~ ~
"You seem to have a way of tapping into your students inner potential that they don't know is there yet and bring it out in the most amazing ways. Too bad I didn't have a teacher like you when I was studying piano. Hopefully my daughter will continue to love the piano as she does now...and you won't retire."

Stephanie H.

~ ~ ~
"Thank you for all you have done to nurture our daughter's love of music and the piano. You are an amazing teacher and I will miss watching and listening to you on



~ ~ ~

"Thank you for all you have done to nurture our daughter's love of music and the piano. You are an amazing teacher and I will miss watching and listening to you on the piano."

Rodney H.

~ ~ ~

"I worked with Matt throughout high school and know it was one of the best decisions I ever made! Before studying piano with Matt, I could only play basic songs, didn't know anything about dynamics, was not really interested in learning music and was literally dragged to lessons every week.

Thankfully, that all changed when I began working with Mr. Johnson—I actually looked forward to our weekly lessons! I now have many classical and popular pieces under my belt...songs I never dreamed I could play.

His relaxed style of teaching kept me motivated and eliminated that 'ughhh...I have piano today' attitude that I had with previous teachers. I loved the musical challenges I received while working with Matt and would definitely recommend him to anyone looking for a knowledgeable and fun teacher to learn from."

Stephanie L.

~ ~ ~

"Thanks, Matt! You really 'hit the spot' for my daughter. She loved your laid back (yet serious) teaching style and giving her the freedom to explore the world of music with her own interests. You are obviously quite qualified to teach any style or any level of piano, but I appreciated the fact that you cared more about your student's interest than your own."

Sheree S.

~ ~ ~

"As a beginning adult student, Matt made me feel comfortable from day one. His



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~ ~ ~
"As a beginning adult student, Matt made me feel comfortable from day one. His enthusiasm and teaching style are contagious. I highly recommend Matt for students of any age."

Jay C.

~ ~ ~
"After not having played for twenty years, taking lessons with Matt helped rekindle my love for the piano. I appreciated his willingness to let me choose my own music—usually a mix of classical and New Age. He also challenged me to stretch beyond my perceived limit. I never dreamed, for instance, that I'd master a Beethoven Sonata, but I did."

Grace D.

~ ~ ~
"Matt taught me to look deeper into the meaning of music so that the sound of the music itself became an expression of my emotions."

Andrew D.

~ ~ ~
"I've worked with Mr. Johnson, both as a parent of his music students and as a musician who is active in church and community organizations.

What I have come to value most about Matt is his ability to sense how far an individual can reach as a musician and then to create an environment in which that goal can be achieved. For me, at least, I had no idea I could perform at the level he knew I could reach. If you had told me ten years ago that I would feel comfortable playing keyboards for church services, singing in small ensembles (including solos), and directing handbell choirs, I'd have laughed."

Jo-Dee G.

~ ~ ~



"I began taking private lessons with Mr. Johnson in 2004. For the previous 10 years, my training focused on obtaining certain levels of achievement and preparing for piano competitions. I become bored and frustrated—ready to quit piano! I wanted to play more modern sounding music and wanted a fuller sound when I played.

My parents sought out Matt for lessons after they heard him play several church Christmas programs and were very impressed with his use of dynamics and how emotional his playing was. During our initial interview, he explained his philosophy of teaching his students to be thinking, performing and functional musicians, not just key pushers. He stressed the importance of looking past the written music and making it your own.

Matt's method is to have students learn to play a piece just as it is written first. Then after he is satisfied that they understand the piece as it was written and can play it that way, he works with them to instill techniques to make the music their own and add their personal style to the piece through improvisation. He teaches his students how to apply what they have learned about theory to improvise, change keys, reharmonize chord progressions, add arpeggios, implement various rhythms, carefully use dynamics and voicing, etc.

One of the most valuable things Matt taught me was to 'fill in' areas of a song where there are rests. When the music leaves one hand resting for two or three beats, improvise and fill in that dead space with some notes! This is where a fuller sound comes from. All of this makes the music more modern sounding, fuller and more rewarding because you are creating your own personalized version of the song—the way you like it.

His teaching style brought back the challenge, the joy, the sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. I didn't even know these were the things I was missing at the time.

Matt has given me the confidence to express myself on the piano, and even as an adult, I will be forever grateful to him for giving me that ability."

Elizabeth R.



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Elizabeth R.

~ ~ ~

"At the age of 62, I decided to begin learning how to play the piano. With good fortune, I became a student of Matt Johnson. Matt's consistent patience, sincerity and obvious concern for my success created a positive environment. Having Mr. Johnson as an instructor and guide is the primary reason why I still love this new learning experience."

Betsy C.

~ ~ ~

"Although I have not remained a pianist by trade, Matt's first-rate musicianship and teaching skills not only educated me as a child, but continue to be the inspiration that drives me as a student of music throughout my adult life."

Andrew P.



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SERVICES OFFERED

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As a musician, Matt makes his living by utilizing his various musical skills. Please contact him for assistance with your musical needs.

- ~ Music Lessons—*private one-on-one music instruction*
- ~ Accompanying—*any instrument, any voice, any style*
- ~ Accompaniment Tracks—*for auditions or rehearsals*
- ~ Elegant Cocktail Piano Music—*for your special event*
- ~ Wedding Ceremonies—*organ or piano*
- ~ Wedding Receptions—*cocktail piano music, or with an ensemble*
- ~ Music Notation, Engraving and Transcriptions
- ~ Adjudicating—*judging for Festivals and Competitions*
- ~ Performance Preparation—*evaluations / critiques **before** your event*
- ~ Commissioned Works

MUSIC LESSONS

Matt teaches private one-on-one lessons in **piano, composition, theory** and the art of **notation/engraving**. Having **taught private lessons since 1977**, Matt's teaching encompasses the **classical, jazz and popular** music literature. From **beginners to advanced**, he uses a multiple key



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[More information...](#)

ACCOMPANYING

Matt is well-known as a sensitive and expert accompanist! He can read from either traditional scores or lead sheets.

- ~ Classical, Popular or Jazz
- ~ Professional or Amateur
- ~ Recitals, Concerts or Private Performances
- ~ Vocalists, Instrumentalists and Choirs
- ~ Church Services—Traditional and Contemporary
- ~ Adjudicated Competitions

If you need an accompanist, [contact](#) Matt.



MATT JOHNSON MUSIC STUDIO



PIANO LESSONS ~ COMPOSITION STUDIES
THEORY TUTORING ~ PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS



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ACCOMPANIMENT TRACKS

Singers and **Instrumentalists**: If you need an accompaniment track made for your next audition or performance, Matt can custom record whatever you need. Transposing as needed—shortening or lengthening pieces as needed.

This is ideal for rehearsals prior to your performance or for auditions when a "live" accompanist is not available.

Contact Matt for accompaniment tracks.

ELEGANT COCKTAIL PIANO MUSIC

Having been the "house pianist" at a Hilton in Boston for 12 years, Matt has developed a unique mix of Standard and Original tunes that he seamlessly weaves together to create very elegant cocktail music.

As a working musician, he has played numerous functions (gigs)—as a solo pianist or with a small ensemble—i.e., private house parties, wedding receptions, corporate functions, etc. Contact Matt if you need background music for your event.

CONTACT

WEDDING CEREMONIES

In his capacity as Director of Music for the last 30 years at multiple churches, Matt's played close to 500 wedding ceremonies on organ or piano, per the preference of the bride. If you need an organist or pianist for YOUR special date, contact Matt.



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WEDDING RECEPTIONS

Matt can play elegant cocktail music for your guests while the wedding party is taking pictures or before guests are seated for dinner..before the DJ or Band begins.

If you are looking for something different for your wedding reception—instead of a band—Matt often plays receptions with a small ensemble. NOT Top 40 music and not heavy dance music, but very "classy" instrumental renditions of Standards and Originals.

CONTACT

MUSIC NOTATION

Turn your music into a professional laser-printed score, complete with an encapsulated pdf score for online sharing and promotion.

- ~ Would you like to have your music written out in traditional music notation?
- ~ Have you written some music but don't know how to write it out?
- ~ Would you like to sit down to play the piano, have every note recorded and then turned into a score you could give to friends or send to a publisher?



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- Would you like to sit down to play the piano, have every note recorded and then turned into a score you could give to friends or send to a publisher?
- Do you already have a great MIDI studio, but don't have the notation skills to do the lead sheet or full score? Matt can create:
 - Lead Sheets
 - from an audio recording of your performance
 - from your hand-written scores
 - from a standard MIDI file
 - Piano Scores
 - Vocal and Choral Scores
 - Full Orchestral Scores and Parts

CONTACT

ENGRAVING

Matt has done computer-based musical notation and engraving work for many publishers, including:

- FJH Music Company
- Crown & Covenant Publications
- National Music Publishers



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- FJH Music Company
- Crown & Covenant Publications
- National Music Publishers
- Dolce & Nuit Productions
- Great Commission Publications
- Lifeway Christian Resources

TRANSCRIBE YOUR PERFORMANCE

If you've composed a piece and can play it on the piano, Matt can record your performance via his MIDI keyboard directly into the computer and "capture" every note you play. Or simply email him a MIDI file you've recorded on your own keyboard. He can then transcribe your music into a brilliant, ready to publish score.

CONTACT

ADJUDICATING

[judging Festivals and Competitions]

Matt is kept very busy judging various music Festivals and Competitions throughout the United States. His musical objectivity and encouraging comments has kept him sought after each season. Let Matt adjudicate your next event



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CONTACT

PERFORMANCE PREPARATION

Performers now have the possibility to be heard, evaluated and critiqued by someone other than their primary teacher. Online sessions provides a wonderful opportunity to have a "dress rehearsal" and glean helpful insights from another set of ears—a performer and teacher who regularly adjudicates Competitions and Festivals.

A great solution for students to gain a second opinion. Keep your primary teacher and book an ONLINE Performance Evaluation. Invite your teacher to be present...for additional insights.

RECEIVE A CRITIQUE BEFORE
YOU "GET JUDGED."

Contact Matt for an ONLINE Performance Evaluation
~ also available at Matt's Studio location ~



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COMMISSIONED WORKS

Throughout his career as a composer, Matt has received numerous "commissions" to create musical works—orchestral, small ensemble, solo piano, vocal and choral works. He continues to enjoy creating specific music to meet your personal requests.

Commission Matt to create a special piece of music for you.



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Connecting the *(Musical)* Dots...™

WORKSHOPS

954.701.1518

Matt has developed a series of Workshops that help bridge the gap between a student's existing musical knowledge and real world application. The information provided within each Workshop has proven beneficial for intermediate through advanced music students. Read the [testimonials](#).

~ ~ ~

WORKSHOPS on HIATUS

~ ~ ~

SCHEDULE: Workshops take place at Matt's studio location once a week on [TBD] evenings at 6pm over an eight (8) week period.

TUITION: \$600 for all eight (8) Workshops, or \$75/Workshop...à la carte.



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TUITION: \$600 for all eight (8) Workshops, or \$75/Workshop...à la carte.

[Music teachers may book private Workshop presentations at their studio location for their students.]

Connecting the *(Musical) Dots...*TM Workshops topics include:

- ~ **Chords**—*How to make them, see and use them to your advantage*
- ~ **Theory**—*How to use what you already know in the pieces you play*
- ~ **Lead Sheets**—*What are they and how to make music with them*
- ~ **Playing Musically**—*Going past the written notes*
- ~ **Practice Techniques**—*Working Smarter, Not Harder*
- ~ **Memory Work**—*Tricks and Tips*
- ~ **Notation**—*Seeing the Limitation of the Notation*
- ~ **Church Music**—*Hymn playing, plus how to play in a worship band*

Contact Matt for more details.



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PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT
Connecting the *(Musical)* Dots...™
WORKSHOPS
954.701.1518

*"Thank you for presenting your workshop **Lead Sheets...Connecting the Dots** at the 2013 TMTA Convention! The feedback about your session was very specific—it was one of the most helpful sessions presented!"*

Karen Wallace, TMTA President

2013 TMTA Convention

Texas Music Teachers Association

~ ~ ~

*"It was unanimously agreed that your presentation **The Limits of Musical Notation –Think Like a Composer** was a highly professional event, well organized and well presented. Attendees came away from the session with valuable information that they could incorporate in their teaching. Thanks for being a part of the big show and every best wish for the coming year."*

Donald Waxman, Chair

2012 FSMTA Annual Conference

Florida State Music Teachers Association

~ ~ ~

"We wanted to thank you again for giving such a wonderful presentation to the



~ ~ ~
"We wanted to thank you again for giving such a wonderful presentation to the Miami Music Teacher's Association...we all enjoyed it so much. We are looking forward to trying out some of your ideas with our students!"

Miami Music Teachers Association

~ ~ ~
"I wanted to let you know that both my kids were very excited after your Lead Sheet workshop. My daughter, who had not done a workshop with you before, was very impressed and amazed at how much she learned. She said you were very knowledgeable, and a great teacher. Thanks!"

Joe T.

~ ~ ~
"Many thanks for a very engaging and insightful program! Something to offer the seasoned as well as the less experienced teacher...a satisfying and quality accomplishment."

Palm Beach County Music Teachers Association

~ ~ ~
"A million thanks for your presentation (to the Palm Beach County Music Teachers Association). Love your sense of humor—and, I'm taking home lots of 'golden nuggets!'

It was a great morning! I heard many compliments on your presentation and I took lots of notes...shared a few things with my students already! Looking forward to seeing and hearing you again, very soon!"

Rhonda D.



~ ~ ~

"I am truly grateful for your presentation. You made the information we all know more useful and appealing! Thanks to your presentation, my students have a different view at theory—it is a rewarding combination of theory knowledge and piano playing."

Irena K.

~ ~ ~

"An important concept that I learned in Matt's workshop was the reharmonization of chords. Understanding the process of selecting which chords to use makes helping students learn to accompany a melodic line more effective!"

Mary Beth P.

~ ~ ~

*"I really enjoyed your workshop! You did a wonderful job leading everyone through the lead sheets information and how to improvise. **Many great improvisers are horrible at teaching how it is done, but you manage to do it all!!!***

Congratulations!"

Joy B.

~ ~ ~

*"I'm 49 years old and have been taking piano lessons for around 10 years. I just completed the **Connecting the (Musical) Dots...™ Workshops** and voilà—the light went on. While these workshops are geared towards intermediate to advanced music students, I wish this material was presented to me years ago. I feel I would be much further along in my studies.*

Matt's understanding and ability to teach musical concepts lifted the mystery for



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Matt's understanding and ability to teach musical concepts lifted the mystery for me. Let's face it—I'm no spring chicken—and can only spare so much time a day to practice, so it's essential I make the most out of each time I sit down at the piano. No more just going through the motions.

I now have quality, thoughtful practice sessions. I know my progress has exponentially increased...and so has my inspiration. Thank You, Matt"

Joe V.

~ ~ ~

"While I was only able to study with Matt for a short time, what I learned was far more than what I would have ever expected. He opened up new worlds for me. I found his style of teaching to be both effective and motivational. As a result of what I learned from Matt, I was the only freshmen accepted for my high school jazz band—which is one of the best in the state. I am the lead pianist and more musically educated than anyone else in the band. With Matt's lessons, I have become more advanced than many older and more experienced musicians."

Tony T.

~ ~ ~

"We both loved the classes! It provided a different perspective which we thought was very beneficial. (My student) looked forward to all of the workshops! Thanks so



~ ~ ~

"We both loved the classes! It provided a different perspective which we thought was very beneficial. (My student) looked forward to all of the workshops! Thanks so much."

Kit M.

~ ~ ~

"(My daughter) enjoyed your workshops. She said it was fun and interesting. I feel that you have helped her to make some connections between the theory that she knows and the 'how to apply it' to make her own music."

Carole R.

~ ~ ~

"Your Workshop was the bridge to a higher level for my daughter in her musical studies. She now is practicing her chords and trying to use them more in the songs she plays. I thought the instruction was well-planned and taken to a new level for my daughter to understand. The colorful and eye-catching charts helped keep my daughters attention. You did an excellent job explaining the subject matter and we hope to participate in another one of your workshops again."

Dan S.

~ ~ ~

*"I enjoyed your **Connecting the (Musical) Dots...™ Workshops** last summer. I loved the presentation with the graphics!! As a pianist in my 7th year of classical training, I never fully 'connected the dots' until I attended your workshops. You've taught me how to recognize chord patterns in my classical music and how to practice smarter not harder! You also taught me to think outside the box and improvise. You*



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THEORY TUTORING ~ PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS



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Jordan M.

~ ~ ~

"I especially liked the Lead Sheets Workshop because it helped me to understand and read chords better. I learned a lot of different chords that I didn't know even existed. The Lead Sheets Workshop 'connected the dots' for me because now I can read chords and make music with them. The presentation was definitely not boring and the neon colored graphics kept my attention the whole time."

Jessica R.



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WHY STUDY WITH MATT?

*There are so many piano teachers...
why should you trust your
musical education to Matt?*



MATT BEGAN MUSICAL STUDIES IN 1967

Studying under his tutelage allows students to benefit from the wealth of his knowledge. His instruction draws from a wide range of musical expertise, as a pianist • composer • arranger • engraver • accompanist • adjudicator • recording artist • church music director • vocal choir conductor • worship band leader • handbell choir director • studio musician • concert promoter • publisher, etc.

Being such a versatile and organized musician, **Matt brings more than simply learning to play the piano to the teaching experience**—he also helps students see the bigger musical picture, including real world applications with their music.

Additionally, Matt offers several unique areas of study:

TUTORING SERVICES

Matt Johnson Music Studio is a non-profit organization. All proceeds from the studio go to support the studio and Matt's



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TUTORING SERVICES

Many students enrolled in high school or college level courses seek out Matt's help for their classes in:

- ~ Theory
- ~ Ear Training
- ~ Harmonic Analysis
- ~ Part Writing
- ~ Rhythmic Understanding

Matt's approach in explaining not only the technical stuff, but also what's REALLY going on has proven beneficial to many students through the years. Let Matt help you in your understanding and application in these areas.

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC

Most current Contemporary Christian music is written in a "lead sheet" format... which leaves many traditionally trained musicians unclear how to utilize the score.

As Director of Music Ministries, Matt leads the church Worship Band from the keyboard, playing from those lead sheets. Matt teaches students how to translate the minimally outlined scores into functional playing.

Whether playing with a Worship Band or leading these songs from a keyboard or piano, the style of playing is different. Let Matt help train you in this skill set.



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CHURCH HYMNS

The art of playing traditional hymns for church services is a valuable skill set to develop. As a preacher's kid, Matt grew up playing hymns for church.

Matt now teaches students how to not just read and play the four part harmony written in a hymnal, but to see and embellish the chords being used. This will lead to "thickening up" the harmonies...helping to lead the congregational singing.

Eventually, seeing and thinking the chords will lead to a greater ability to do "fills"...then secondary melodic lines...and, eventually much more comfort to "improvise" on top of the written notes.

TEACHING OLDER ADULTS

Students who fall into the more "mature" category have a special opportunity to finally learn to play the piano and play the songs they want to learn.

Many parents and grandparents of younger students say *"I wish I hadn't*



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TEACHING OLDER ADULTS

Students who fall into the more "mature" category have a special opportunity to finally learn to play the piano and play the songs they want to learn.

Many parents and grandparents of younger students say, *"I wish I hadn't stopped lessons when I was a kid"* or *"I've always wanted to learn to play."*

Thankfully, learning to play the piano is not an age-related skill.

Matt teaches students of ALL ages, so consider letting him help YOU fulfill your lifelong dream!

RECREATIONAL MUSIC MAKING

Students of all ages can explore music lessons as more of a hobbyist...with less emphasis on performance...often called "Recreational Music Making." Placing an emphasis on personal goals and literature, the benefits often improve their quality of life by building self-esteem, reducing loneliness and encouraging creative expression.

Consider letting Matt guide you fulfill your lifelong dream of playing the piano!

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS include:

- Nationally Certified Teacher of Music [NCTM]
- Music Teacher's National Association [MTNA]
- Florida State Music Teacher's Association [FSMTA]
- Broward County Music Teacher's Association [BCMTA]
- American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers [ASCAP]



TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

My teaching philosophy and educational goals for my music students has evolved considerably since I began in 1977. While each student's preferred learning style is embraced and utilized—i.e., visual, auditory or kinesthetic—focus is also given to the development and combination of a variety of learning characteristics, as further aids to learn and play more musically.

My global educational goal for my students is to teach and empower them to learn for themselves. I aim to create new Masters—musicians that are knowledgeable and functional—rather than simple Followers who are forever dependent on musical assistance.

I believe it is important that students not only learn to read the written notational language of music, but also that they not be limited by it. Therefore, I teach chordal and rhythmic understanding in whatever literature we're working on. Additionally, after learning to play the score exactly as written, I teach students how to supplement the music by adding notes and changing up the rhythms.

With these goals in mind, I embrace the traditional Classical literature, but am also inclusive of other styles as well—i.e., Popular, Jazz, Gospel, etc. Students are encouraged to bring in pieces they want to learn, thus sharing in the ownership of the literature selected for study.

I teach **piano, composition, theory** and the art of **music notation/engraving**. While I enjoy working with my advanced students, I also delight in introducing beginners to the joys of musical study. A multiple-key approach for beginning students is my preference, but I often utilize the traditional middle-C method



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In order to develop artistic and expressive performance skills, students are expected to practice daily—spending as much time as is necessary to conquer their weekly musical goals and assignments. Since most students are involved with multiple extracurricular activities—and sufficient practice time is hard to come by—they are introduced to the concept of clearly defined and deliberate practice in order to meet their short and long term goals. While the skill will be developed and honed within a musical context, it should prove most beneficial throughout the student's lifetime.

By gifting students with musical skills and understanding, they learn how to learn any music they want, thus providing a lifetime of enjoyment in making music.



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BIOGRAPHY

Matt Johnson is a dynamic, classically trained pianist who received his Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Oklahoma Baptist University. As a graduate student at New England Conservatory of Music, he formally expanded his talents in the area of composition. Studying under William Thomas McKinley, he received his Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies and Composition with a Distinction in Performance.

A prolific writer and performer, Matt has performed extensively in venues from Boston to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His music is Neo-Romantic, employing a unique blend of contemporary jazz, new age, popular and classical elements.

Matt's complete discography of original compositions (*and a few arrangements*) may be found [here](#) or on the [MusicBrainz](#) database.

Additionally, Matt has composed and arranged for many mediums. His choral, vocal, instrumental, handbell and piano scores are available as free PDF downloads from his site.

Matt has been studying/playing the piano since the age of six...there's a picture of him practicing on the cover of his Origins recording. His classical training has included numerous piano performance competitions and orchestral appearances.

Matt is a writer member of A.S.C.A.P. and his publishing company, Dolce & Nuit Productions, is a publisher member as well.



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Born in Sherman, Texas, Matt currently resides in Florida. His versatility allows him to teach piano, theory and composition...play piano, organ and keyboards for both Contemporary and Traditional services at his local church...as well as accompany and adjudicate music festivals and competitions.



MATT JOHNSON MUSIC STUDIO



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STUDIO POLICY

Welcome to the **Matt Johnson Music Studio**, featuring private one-on-one instruction for piano, keyboard, composition, theory and music notation/engraving. Lessons take place in my sunny South Florida studio location or **ONLINE LESSONS** are available. The following will serve as a basic guideline during our work together. If you *ever* have questions, please speak with me directly to avoid miscommunications.

You may always reach me at: MattJohnsonMusicStudio@gmail.com

ADMISSION

Once accepted into the Studio, I will reserve a mutually agreed upon lesson time for you for the entire Session. I use a two Session system...School Session and Summer Session...with breaks in-between Sessions and during the December holidays.

LESSONS

In fairness to all students, lessons begin and end on time. Please **ARRIVE** *no earlier* than five (5) minutes before your lesson time. Upon arrival, please **knock** and enter quietly, take off your shoes, **silence your phones**, wash your hands and sit on the front bench until your lesson. **PARK** in the driveway or around the cul-de-sac, making sure to not block another driveway. *Do not park on the street immediately in front of the house, since that creates a bottleneck situation for the neighbors.* Also, please keep your fingernails short by cutting them weekly...you



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PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

Students should be **prepared for each lesson**, putting in as much practice time as needed to accomplish the assignments and musical goals set at lessons.

TUITION

You are responsible for the entire Session, which will be divided into monthly payments—*due at the first lesson each month.* I'll send an invoice at the end of each month that will be due the following week (*first lesson of the month*).

Lessons are one hour each.

MISSED LESSONS

No refund or credit is given for missed or cancelled lessons. I reserve your lesson time in my teaching schedule, so please make it a priority to be there. If an advance conflict arises in your schedule, please let me know and I will *try* to swap lesson times with another student within the same week. Please remember that you are financially responsible for all scheduled lessons during a Session.



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PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

Students should be **prepared for each lesson**, putting in as much practice time as needed to accomplish the assignments and musical goals set at lessons.

TUITION

You are responsible for the entire Session, which will be divided into monthly payments—*due at the first lesson each month*. I'll send an invoice at the end of each month that will be due the following week (*first lesson of the month*). Lessons are one hour each.

MISSED LESSONS

No refund or credit is given for missed or cancelled lessons. I reserve your lesson time in my teaching schedule, so please make it a priority to be there. If an advance conflict arises in your schedule, please let me know and I will *try* to swap lesson times with another student within the same week. Please remember that you are financially responsible for all scheduled lessons during a Session. Any instructor cancelled lessons will be rescheduled.

RECITALS

Biannually, i.e., a Holiday Recital and an End-of-School Recital.
All music must be memorized and participation is mandatory.



STUDIO POLICY

Welcome to the **Matt Johnson Music Studio**, featuring private one-on-one instruction for piano, keyboard, composition, theory and music notation/engraving. Lessons take place in my sunny South Florida studio location or **ONLINE LESSONS** are available. The following will serve as a basic guideline during our work together. If you *ever* have questions, please speak with me directly to avoid miscommunications.

You may always reach me at: MattJohnsonMusicStudio@gmail.com

ADMISSION

Once accepted into the Studio, I will reserve a mutually agreed upon lesson time for you for the entire Session. I use a two Session system...School Session and Summer Session...with breaks in-between Sessions and during the December holidays.

LESSONS

In fairness to all students, lessons begin and end on time. Please **ARRIVE** *no earlier* than five (5) minutes before your lesson time. Upon arrival, please **knock** and enter quietly, take off your shoes, **silence your phones**, wash your hands and sit on the front bench until your lesson. **PARK** in the driveway or around the cul-de-sac, making sure to not block another driveway. *Do not park on the street immediately in front of the house, since that creates a bottleneck situation for the neighbors.* Also, please keep your fingernails short by cutting them weekly...you play on the tips of your fingers!

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MATT JOHNSON MUSIC STUDIO



PIANO LESSONS ~ COMPOSITION STUDIES
THEORY TUTORING ~ PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS



PHONE
or
EMAIL

A background image of a piano, showing the keyboard at the bottom and the internal mechanism in the upper half.

PIANO LESSONS
COMPOSITION
THEORY

954.701.1518

MATTJOHNSONMUSICSTUDIO.COM

MTNA

The logo for the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), featuring a circular emblem with a lyre and the text "NATIONALLY MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION CERTIFIED TEACHER".

MATT JOHNSON MUSIC STUDIO

PIANO LESSONS ~ COMPOSITION STUDIES
THEORY TUTORING ~ PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS



PHONE
OR
EMAIL

At Matt Johnson Music Studio, Students Learn Musical Skills For A Lifetime

By S. Mathur

He is Cooper City's eminent musician, a composer of original works and an innovative teacher. Matt Johnson has been giving piano lessons since 1977, but his musical journey started much earlier.

"Growing up listening to my father play the piano peaked my musical interest," he said. "He taught me several pieces and then I began formal piano lessons when I was six years old. After 10 years of musical studies, I began teaching my friends and family and I've been teaching ever since."

Johnson trained as a classical pianist and has won many awards as a performer. He made the transition to composing his own pieces and performing them in various venues including large concert halls, jazz clubs and bars. From his studio in Cooper City, FL, he now uses the new technology to make his work available as CD recordings, and also as written scores available as pdf files. His music is also available on his YouTube channel.

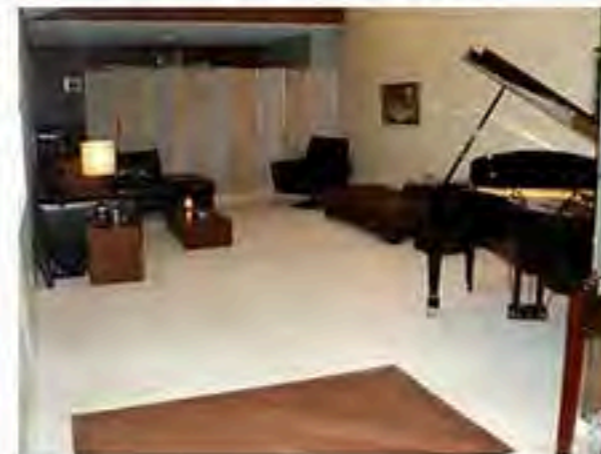


Matt Johnson

Johnson teaches piano, theory, composition and the art of music notation or engraving, beginning with students as young as six years old. Giving students musical skills and understanding allows them to learn and play any kind of music. To this end, Johnson teaches students not only to read the written notational language of music, but also chordal and rhythmic understanding in the literature.

"Additionally, after learning to play the score exactly as written, I teach students how to supplement the music by adding notes and changing up the rhythms," he said. "With these goals in mind, I embrace the traditional Classical literature, but am also inclusive of other styles as well such as Pop, Jazz, Gospel, etc. Students are encouraged to bring in pieces they want to learn, thus sharing in the ownership of the literature selected for study."

Johnson enjoys working with beginners as much as advanced students.



"While each student's preferred learning style is embraced and utilized, focus is also given to the development and combination of a variety of learning characteristics, as further aids to learn and play more musically," he said. "My global educational goal for my students is to teach and empower them to learn for themselves. I aim to create new masters, musicians that are knowledgeable and functional, rather than simple Followers who are forever dependent on musical assistance."

Students are expected to practice daily to hone the skills that will be most beneficial through their lifetimes. Johnson's musical skills and experience also help students to see the bigger musical picture and the real-world applications of their music.

Share this:

PIANO LESSONS ~ COMPOSITION STUDIES
THEORY TUTORING ~ PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS



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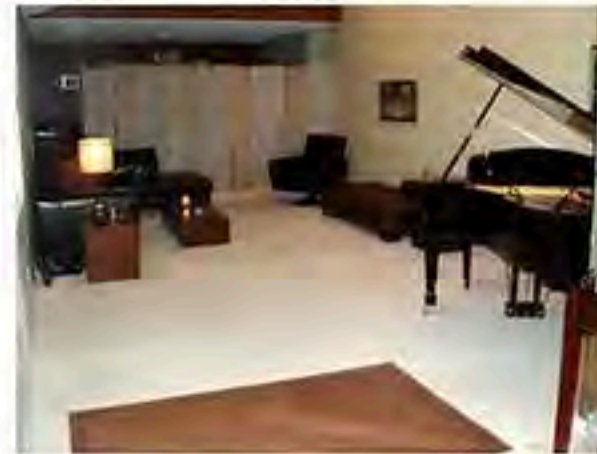


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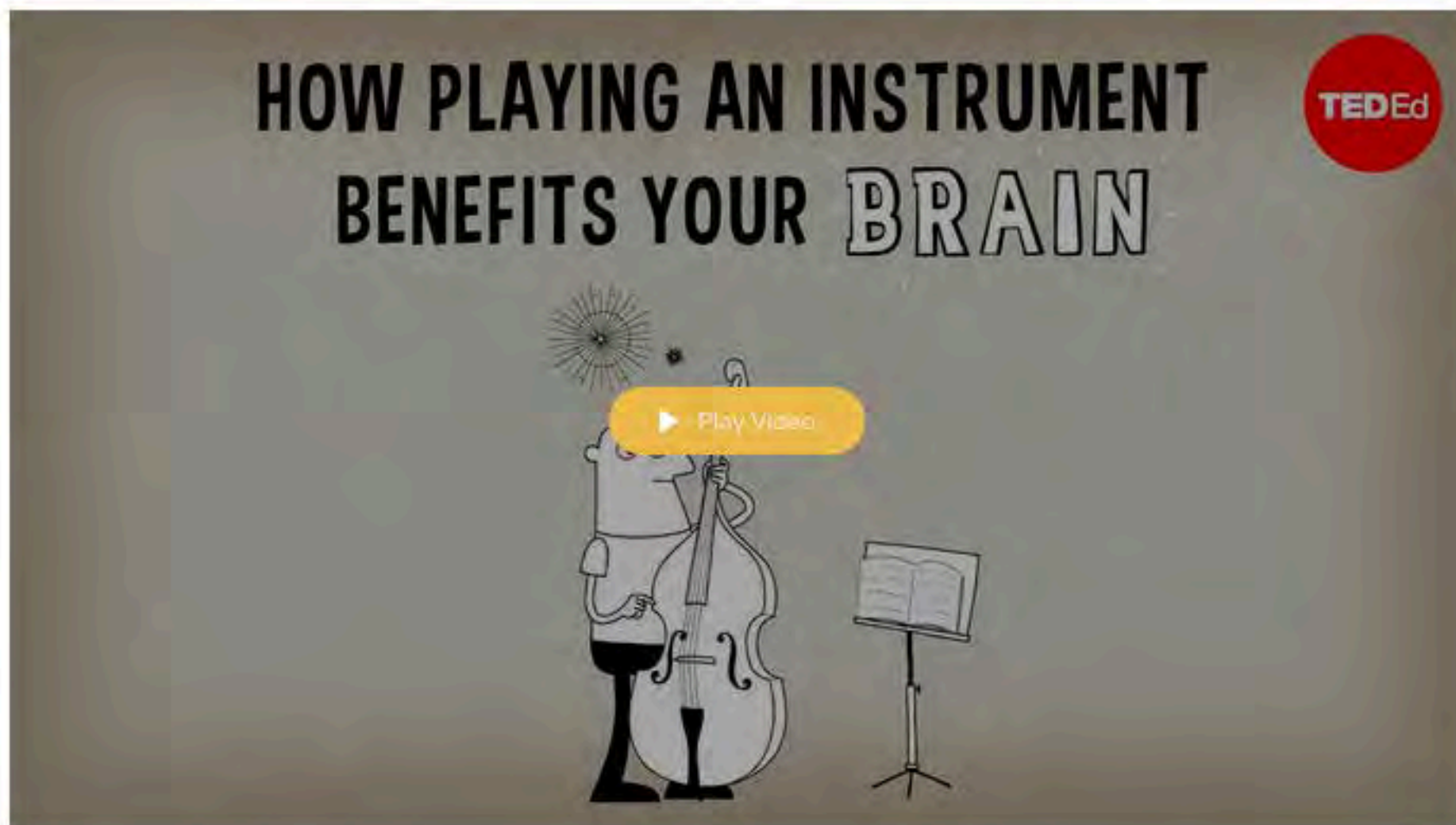
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Check out these INSPIRING
videos and articles

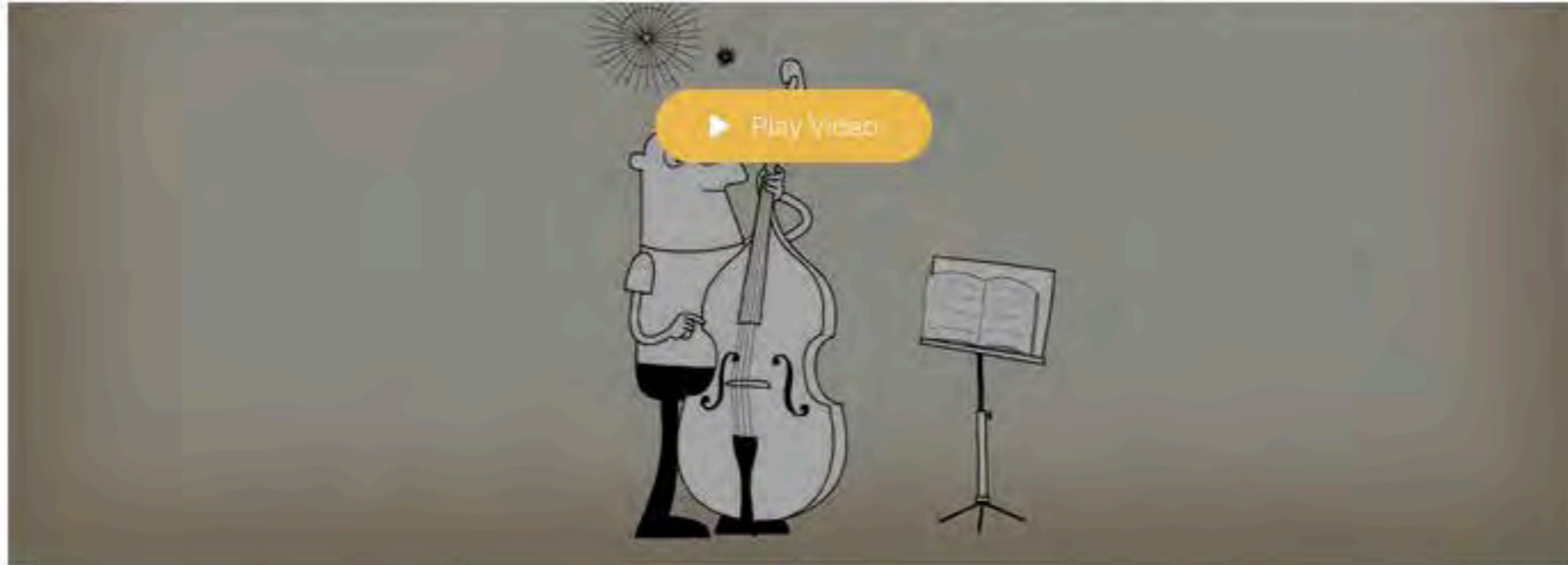


How playing an instrument benefits your brain - Anita Collins



How to read music - Tim Hansen





How playing an instrument benefits your brain - Anita Collins



How to read music - Tim Hansen



How to practice effectively...for just about anything - Annie Bosler..



A different way to visualize rhythm - John Varney



PIANO LESSONS ~ COMPOSITION STUDIES
THEORY TUTORING ~ PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS



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or
[EMAIL](#)

CONTACT
MATT JOHNSON
954.701.1518

What would you like to learn?

How may I help you?

Name *

Email *

Subject

Message

Send

~ Studio located in Cooper City, Florida ~
Worldwide ONLINE lessons available.



www.MattJohnsonMusicStudio.com
(ARCHIVED Site and Wording, as of June 12, 2024)

Splash/Index PAGE

PIANO LESSONS ~ COMPOSITION STUDIES
THEORY TUTORING ~ PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS
MATT JOHNSON MUSIC STUDIO

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PIANO LESSONS ~ COMPOSITION STUDIES
THEORY TUTORING ~ PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

LEARN MUSICAL SKILLS FOR A LIFETIME*

Matt is an innovative
Nationally Certified
Teacher of Music [NCTM]
with 45+ years experience...

offering music lessons
in his
Cooper City studio and
streaming video lessons
ONLINE

Photo: JBlautPhoto

EMINENT MUSICIAN
in Broward County*

WHY STUDY WITH MATT ?

LESSONS
TESTIMONIALS ~ Lessons

SERVICES

WORKSHOPS (on hiatus)
TESTIMONIALS ~ Workshops

BIOGRAPHY
TEACHING PHILOSOPHY
STUDIO POLICY
VIDEOS • ARTICLES

Check out Matt's
original music and recordings
www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

~ Web3 ~
MattJohnsonMusic.x

Lǎo shī

No man can reveal to you aught but that which already lies half asleep in the dawning of your knowledge. The teacher who walks in the shadow of the temple, among his followers, gives not of his wisdom but rather of his faith and his lovingness. If he is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind. [Kahlil Gibran]

* Read the featured article:
At Matt Johnson Music Studio, Students Learn Musical Skills For A Lifetime.

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www.MattJohnsonMusic.com • Have a suggestion? CONTACT

LESSONS PAGE

Beginners – Advanced • Children and Adults

Learn the basics of reading and playing music

while building a solid technical foundation

Contact Matt for a (free) Evaluation lesson

to begin your musical journey.

Matt makes his living as a musician by utilizing his various musical skills. Teaching up-and-coming musicians is one skill he quite enjoys. Having previously taught in the University and Performing Arts School settings, he now teaches primarily from his Cooper City studio and worldwide through ONLINE LESSONS.

Matt teaches private one-on-one lessons in piano, composition, theory and the art of notation/engraving. Having taught private lessons since 1977, Matt's teaching encompasses the classical, jazz and popular music literature. From beginners to advanced, he uses a multiple-key approach, as well as traditional middle-C method books.

Matt says: "My philosophy of teaching music embraces the classical literature, but is more inclusive of other styles as well—jazz, popular, gospel, etc. I like to teach my students to be 'functional' musicians. It is important that the student not only learn to read the written language of music, but also that they not be limited by it. I teach chordal understanding in whatever literature we're working on. In addition, learning to play EXACTLY what's written is then supplemented by ADDING notes or rhythms."

[View Testimonials...](#)

WHY STUDY WITH MATT?

There are so many piano teachers...
why should you trust your
musical education to Matt?

MATT BEGAN MUSICAL STUDIES IN 1967

Studying under his tutelage allows students to benefit from the wealth of his knowledge. His instruction draws from a wide range of musical expertise, as a pianist • composer • arranger • engraver • accompanist • adjudicator • recording artist • church music director • vocal choir conductor • worship band leader • handbell choir director • studio musician • concert promoter • publisher, etc.

Being such a versatile and organized musician, Matt brings more than simply learning to play the piano to the teaching experience—he also helps students see the bigger musical picture, including real world applications with their music.

Additionally, Matt offers several unique areas of study:

TUTORING SERVICES

Many students enrolled in high school or college level courses seek out Matt's help for their classes in:

- ~ Theory
- ~ Ear Training
- ~ Harmonic Analysis
- ~ Part Writing
- ~ Rhythmic Understanding

Matt's approach in explaining not only the technical stuff, but also what's REALLY going on has proven beneficial to many students through the years. Let Matt help you in your understanding and application in

these areas.

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC

Most current Contemporary Christian music is written in a "lead sheet" format... which leaves many traditionally trained musicians unclear how to utilize the score.

As Director of Music Ministries, Matt leads the church Worship Band from the keyboard, playing from those lead sheets. Matt teaches students how to translate the minimally outlined scores into functional playing.

Whether playing with a Worship Band or leading these songs from a keyboard or piano, the style of playing is different. Let Matt help train you in this skill set.

CHURCH HYMNS

The art of playing traditional hymns for church services is a valuable skill set to develop. As a preacher's kid, Matt grew up playing hymns for church.

Matt now teaches students how to not just read and play the four part harmony written in a hymnal, but to see and embellish the chords being used. This will lead to "thickening up" the harmonies...helping to lead the congregational singing.

Eventually, seeing and thinking the chords will lead to a greater ability to do "fills"...then secondary melodic lines...and, eventually much more comfort to "improvise" on top of the written notes.

TEACHING OLDER ADULTS

Students who fall into the more "mature" category have a special opportunity to finally learn to play the piano and play the songs they want to learn.

Many parents and grandparents of younger students say, "I wish I hadn't stopped lessons when I was a kid" or "I've always wanted to learn to play." Thankfully, learning to play the piano is not an age-related skill.

Matt teaches students of ALL ages, so consider letting him help YOU fulfill your lifelong dream!

RECREATIONAL MUSIC MAKING

Students of all ages can explore music lessons as more of a hobbyist...with less emphasis on performance...often called

“Recreational Music Making.” Placing an emphasis on personal goals and literature, the benefits often improve their quality of life by building self-esteem, reducing loneliness and encouraging creative expression.

Consider letting Matt guide you fulfill your lifelong dream of playing the piano!

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS include:

- ~ Nationally Certified Teacher of Music [NCTM]
- ~ Music Teacher’s National Association [MTNA]
- ~ Florida State Music Teacher’s Association [FSMTA]
- ~ Broward County Music Teacher’s Association [BCMTA]
- ~ American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers [ASCAP]

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

My teaching philosophy and educational goals for my music students has evolved considerably since I began in 1977. While each student’s preferred learning style is embraced and utilized—i.e., visual, auditory or kinesthetic—focus is also given to the development and combination of a variety of learning characteristics, as further aids to learn and play more musically.

My global educational goal for my students is to teach and empower them to learn for themselves. I aim to create new Masters—musicians that are knowledgeable and functional—rather than simple Followers who are forever dependent on musical assistance.

I believe it is important that students not only learn to read the written notational language of music, but also that they not be limited by it. Therefore, I teach chordal and rhythmic understanding in whatever literature we're working on. Additionally, after learning to play the score exactly as written, I teach students how to supplement the music by adding notes and changing up the rhythms.

With these goals in mind, I embrace the traditional Classical literature, but am also inclusive of other styles as well—i.e., Popular, Jazz, Gospel, etc. Students are encouraged to bring in pieces they want to learn, thus sharing in the ownership of the literature selected for study.

I teach piano, composition, theory and the art of music notation/engraving. While I enjoy working with my advanced students, I also delight in introducing beginners to the joys of musical study. A multiple-key approach for beginning students is my preference, but I often utilize the traditional middle-C method books as well.

In order to develop artistic and expressive performance skills, students are expected to practice daily—spending as much time as is necessary to conquer their weekly musical goals and assignments. Since most students are involved with multiple extracurricular activities—and sufficient practice time is hard to come by—they are introduced to the concept of clearly defined and deliberate practice in order to meet their short and long term goals. While the skill will be developed and honed within a musical context, it should prove most beneficial throughout the student's lifetime.

By gifting students with musical skills and understanding, they learn how to learn any music they want, thus providing a lifetime of enjoyment in making music.

BIOGRAPHY

Matt Johnson is a dynamic, classically trained pianist who received his Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Oklahoma Baptist University. As a graduate student at New England Conservatory of Music, he formally expanded his talents in the area of composition. Studying under William Thomas McKinley, he received his Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies and Composition with a Distinction in Performance.

A prolific writer and performer, Matt has performed extensively in venues from Boston to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His music is Neo-Romantic, employing a unique blend of contemporary jazz, new age, popular and classical elements.

Matt's complete discography of original compositions (and a few arrangements) may be found here or on the MusicBrainz database.

Additionally, Matt has composed and arranged for many mediums. His choral, vocal, instrumental, handbell and piano scores are available as free PDF downloads from his site.

Matt has been studying/playing the piano since the age of six...there's a picture of him practicing on the cover of his Origins recording. His classical training has included numerous piano performance competitions and orchestral appearances.

Matt is a writer member of A.S.C.A.P. and his publishing company, Dolce & Nuit Productions, is a publisher member as well.

Born in Sherman, Texas, Matt currently resides in Florida. His versatility allows him to teach piano, theory and composition...play piano, organ and keyboards for both Contemporary and Traditional services at his local church...as well as accompany and adjudicate music festivals and competitions.

STUDIO POLICY

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TESTIMONIALS ~ Lessons

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT

LESSONS WITH MATT JOHNSON

954.701.1518

"Matt is fantastic!! My daughter just started taking lessons and Matt was the perfect choice. Our first meeting he sat and talked to my daughter, asked her questions, had her play and made it fun to learn. He has a unique approach to teaching and makes it fun and at the same time he challenges her, which she likes. He makes her think.... When we left our meeting with him we were both smiling ear to ear and I asked her, so what do you think? She said, mom, he was awesome. I love how he is going to challenge me. That will make me work harder. Not long after we left we called Matt to thank him for taking the time to meet us and how much my daughter enjoyed talking to him. Thank you Matt—you teach with your heart and you're a wonderful teacher and so happy you were referred to us. We highly recommend Matt Johnson."

Tina K.

~ ~ ~

"Matt's solid academic credentials, lifetime body of inspiring work and passion for his calling make him a superior musician and teacher. Matt is an insightful and patient teacher who will challenge piano students at any level to excel. Matt's style is relaxed yet engaging, with just the right amount of intensity to keep you on your toes. If you're serious about learning piano, you owe it to yourself to give him a call. I'm glad I did."

Dan F.

~ ~ ~

"I've had the pleasure to study piano with Matt, and I can say that he literally changed the way I approach the piano. I'll never be the same, and that's a great thing! Matt taught me how to bring out the melody on whatever I'm trying to play, and I couldn't be happier with the results. I've definitely become a better musician! I've started playing the piano when I was 6, and I wish I could travel back in time and learn those valuable lessons from Matt instead.

Matt Johnson is not your average piano teacher—he is the real deal!"

Doug C.

~ ~ ~

"As an adult returning to the piano after many years, I am so glad to have found Matt. Maestro Matt (as I call him) is a music professional in every sense of the word. He's brought a sense of 'I can do this!' to this student. While a perfectionist, Matt patiently listens with understanding and freely shares his knowledge. I come prepared to each

lesson and ready for piano because I want to, not because I have to. His lovely studio is a study in harmony itself. I recommend Matt Johnson to all who want to experience the joy of playing piano...at any age."

Diane J.

~ ~ ~

"Matt is a caring teacher. He is always attentive and makes music learning fun. My kids enjoyed the class time and couldn't believe the hour had passed. I would recommend Matt to any family."

Simone D.

~ ~ ~

"My daughter's lessons are absolutely fantastic, Matt. Wow! We are still amazed that you are able to fit so much piano info into an hour. Seriously. She now understands and is playing from lead sheets. Thank you so, so very much.

You are a gifted teacher."

M. D.

~ ~ ~

"Matt started teaching my daughter at the age of 5 and instilled in her a love for music and playing the piano. He challenged her and to this day she remembers his words when she has a recital. We were sad when we had to leave the area knowing that as a piano teacher, Matt would be irreplaceable. I highly recommend Matt for all levels of piano students."

Sally H.

~ ~ ~

"I'm very grateful for Mr. Johnson because he helped me tremendously on passing my music theory course in my last semester of graduate school. He kept me focused and help me through my multiple mini-tantrums throughout my music theory class when I didn't have a clue sometimes of what my professor was trying to explain. I'm very grateful and appreciative for all Matt's taught me."

Daisy G.

~ ~ ~

"Matt is a wonderful piano teacher—proficient, talented, and good with students. He has high expectations, but that is not meant to sound intimidating. Instead, it's a comment on the way he challenges students to meet their full potential."

Kristen Y.

~ ~ ~

"Matt has instructed both of my children, who are now both in the top jazz class in high school. He has a profound knowledge of music techniques and theory, but most importantly is able to teach in an inspiring way. We would highly recommend his professional service."

Pat M.

~ ~ ~

"We highly recommend Matt Johnson for piano lessons. His knowledge of music and music theory, along with his encouraging teaching style is a perfect match for my son. We couldn't be happier to have found Matt."

Bonnie S.

~ ~ ~

"Matt has been teaching my daughter for almost 2 years now and his dedication and patience has been outstanding. He has been a great mentor to her not only in music but in her discipline to accomplish tasks. Thank you Matt!"

Mary M.

~ ~ ~

"I came into piano lessons...as an adult novice...with a lot of confused ideas as to what I wanted to accomplish, and how. Matt's patience and versatile teaching style showed me how best to express the music that's been stuck in my head for years. Thanks Matt!"

Jared B.

~ ~ ~

"Studying music with Matt is a great experience for me. He is professional, knowledgeable and an inspiring piano teacher. My pianistic and compositional skills have improved significantly since I started studying with him. I would definitely recommend Matt Johnson to anyone looking for a piano teacher."

Noir N.

~ ~ ~

"Mr. Johnson was my first piano teacher and he got me off to a great start. He is great and dedicated. He has inspired me a lot so it kept me playing piano until now."

Bryan L.

~ ~ ~

"My child takes piano lessons with Matt Johnson and I must say, I am totally satisfied with his work. Mr. Johnson is very detailed and meticulous, and I recommend his classes to my friends."

Michelle J.

~ ~ ~

"Honestly, Matt Johnson is the best piano teacher in the world! I've been learning to read notes my whole piano learning life, but ever since I had Mr. Matt as my teacher, I've learned so much theories, tips, patterns and everything else in the music world. As I've spent my years with Mr. Matt, he isn't one of those strict piano teachers that scares kids, instead he teaches kids in a funny and joyful way that motivates students to progress their playing in music. I highly recommend Mr. Matt to beginners or advance kids. There is always so much to learn from Mr. Matt!"

Espee W.

~ ~ ~

"Matt Johnson is a fantastic teacher who not only cares about excellence in music, but also about the student as a person. I took lessons for only nine months in high school, but still consider him a good friend who I have gone to for advice. His desire is to develop the student's skills as a musician, but also develop him/her as a person, prepared for whatever career the future holds. I highly recommend Matt."

Josiah J.

~ ~ ~

"I highly recommend Matt for piano lessons. His amazing academic qualifications, lifetime body of inspirational work and enthusiasm for his profession make him a better artist and trainer. Matt's understanding of music and composition, along with his motivational teaching manner is a wonderful match for kids and adults who want to learn music. He is a perceptive and patient teacher who will challenge piano students at any level to shine."

Arthur M.

~ ~ ~

"Matt has been a very professional and patient teacher for both kids. He has a solid foundation in the skills and theory of music and was able to transfer this knowledge on a pleasant and individual method. We are glad to have had Matt as a teacher at the beginning of the musical journey of our kids. Thank you Matt!"

Eve X.

~ ~ ~

"Since I was young, I've always wanted to learn how to play the piano. Now as an adult, I've taken the plunge. I tried learning on my own but wasn't getting very far. I spent a year looking around for a piano teacher in my area I could feel comfortable with. Finding Matt was either sheer luck or God's grace.

Matt is patient, caring and honest with me. He makes learning fun and he always knows just the right amount to push me beyond my comfort zone. My technique and understanding have improved considerably in the time I've been working with him. I am sight reading, my rhythm (which I thought would be hopeless) is slowly improving and I have more confidence in my studies. I've gone from knowing absolutely nothing to "late elementary" in a short time. I've also gained a greater appreciation for music, music theory and my own abilities.

The best thing is that each week when I conclude my lesson time, I always walk away feeling happy and motivated to continue learning and practicing."

Doug G.

~ ~ ~

"In the words of my daughter, 'he has opened my eyes to a whole new world about how to play the piano.'

I want to thank you for renewing her interest in the piano. I appreciate your flexible and insightful instructional style, able to get inside of your student's head and find ways to help them overcome their personal hurdles. You are what we were looking for.

Additionally, the music which flows from your fingers is inspiring and coupled with the way you help my daughter relate to what you play for her, reveals what an outstanding musician you are.

Your introductory four pronged approach (finger substitution, rhythm, chops, and goal piece/chords) is what she needed to actually make her earlier studies finally come together. Six weeks ago she would not/could not tackle a piece by herself, but last week, in just five days, she conquered two new pieces on her own. While like most kids her age, she gets impatient, frustrated, and even bored with the very passages which would make her advance, she is now learning how to become an

independent learner at the keyboard and developing the (physical and mental) stamina and playing technique by which to do so. I think she enjoys the time she spends with you...and the intellectual exchange...as much as she enjoys the music."

Mark R.

~ ~ ~

"We are happy to have found a great and patient teacher for our kids! Thanks, Matt"

Patrick W.

~ ~ ~

"Thank you for helping me grow as a musician and as a person these past few years. You have pushed me in a loving way, and I am grateful for that. You are a wonderful friend and mentor. Thank you for all that you do."

Kerry N.

~ ~ ~

"We are moving. Do you know any piano teachers in the Ohio area? I need someone like you! Great musician from a playing and theory point, but also makes it fun for the kids and is able to tap into their talent. I have some big shoes to fill when it comes to a teacher for (my daughter).

There are no words that are adequate enough to describe how thankful I feel that she began her musical journey with you as her teacher. You made her fall in love with playing the piano. You were able to impart your musical knowledge on a level that she was able to grasp as well as providing her with a foundation that she will carry with her for years to come.

There have been many tears on her part regarding, and I quote, 'There will never be another teacher like Mr. Matt.'

Harmony S.

~ ~ ~

"You seem to have a way of tapping into your students inner potential that they don't know is there yet and bring it out in the most amazing ways. Too bad I didn't have a teacher like you when I was studying piano. Hopefully my daughter will continue to love the piano as she does now...and you won't retire."

Stephanie H.

~ ~ ~

"Thank you for all you have done to nurture our daughter's love of music and the piano. You are an amazing teacher and I will miss watching and listening to you on the piano."

Rodney H.

~ ~ ~

"I worked with Matt throughout high school and know it was one of the best decisions I ever made! Before studying piano with Matt, I could only play basic songs, didn't know anything about dynamics, was not really interested in learning music and was literally dragged to lessons every week.

Thankfully, that all changed when I began working with Mr. Johnson—I actually looked forward to our weekly lessons! I now have many

classical and popular pieces under my belt...songs I never dreamed I could play.

His relaxed style of teaching kept me motivated and eliminated that 'ughhh...I have piano today' attitude that I had with previous teachers. I loved the musical challenges I received while working with Matt and would definitely recommend him to anyone looking for a knowledgeable and fun teacher to learn from."

Stephanie L.

~ ~ ~

"Thanks, Matt! You really 'hit the spot' for my daughter. She loved your laid back (yet serious) teaching style and giving her the freedom to explore the world of music with her own interests. You are obviously quite qualified to teach any style or any level of piano, but I appreciated the fact that you cared more about your student's interest than your own."

Sheree S.

~ ~ ~

"As a beginning adult student, Matt made me feel comfortable from day one. His enthusiasm and teaching style are contagious. I highly recommend Matt for students of any age."

Jay C.

~ ~ ~

"After not having played for twenty years, taking lessons with Matt helped rekindle my love for the piano. I appreciated his willingness to let me choose my own music—usually a mix of classical and New Age. He also challenged me to stretch beyond my perceived limit. I never dreamed, for instance, that I'd master a Beethoven Sonata, but I did."

Grace D.

~ ~ ~

"Matt taught me to look deeper into the meaning of music so that the sound of the music itself became an expression of my emotions."

Andrew D.

~ ~ ~

"I've worked with Mr. Johnson, both as a parent of his music students and as a musician who is active in church and community organizations. What I have come to value most about Matt is his ability to sense how far an individual can reach as a musician and then to create an environment in which that goal can be achieved. For me, at least, I had no idea I could perform at the level he knew I could reach. If you had told me ten years ago that I would feel comfortable playing keyboards for church services, singing in small ensembles (including solos), and directing handbell choirs, I'd have laughed."

Jo-Dee G.

~ ~ ~

"I began taking private lessons with Mr. Johnson in 2004. For the previous 10 years, my training focused on obtaining certain levels of achievement and preparing for piano competitions. I become bored and frustrated—ready to quit piano! I wanted to play more modern sounding music and wanted a fuller sound when I played.

My parents sought out Matt for lessons after they heard him play

several church Christmas programs and were very impressed with his use of dynamics and how emotional his playing was. During our initial interview, he explained his philosophy of teaching his students to be thinking, performing and functional musicians, not just key pushers. He stressed the importance of looking past the written music and making it your own.

Matt's method is to have students learn to play a piece just as it is written first. Then after he is satisfied that they understand the piece as it was written and can play it that way, he works with them to instill techniques to make the music their own and add their personal style to the piece through improvisation. He teaches his students how to apply what they have learned about theory to improvise, change keys, reharmonize chord progressions, add arpeggios, implement various rhythms, carefully use dynamics and voicing, etc. One of the most valuable things Matt taught me was to 'fill in' areas of a song where there are rests. When the music leaves one hand resting for two or three beats, improvise and fill in that dead space with some notes! This is where a fuller sound comes from. All of this makes the music more modern sounding, fuller and more rewarding because you are creating your own personalized version of the song—the way you like it.

His teaching style brought back the challenge, the joy, the sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. I didn't even know these were the things I was missing at the time.

Matt has given me the confidence to express myself on the piano, and even as an adult, I will be forever grateful to him for giving me that ability."

Elizabeth R.

~ ~ ~

"At the age of 62, I decided to begin learning how to play the piano. With good fortune, I became a student of Matt Johnson. Matt's consistent patience, sincerity and obvious concern for my success created a positive environment. Having Mr. Johnson as an instructor and guide is the primary reason why I still love this new learning experience."

Betsy C.

~ ~ ~

"Although I have not remained a pianist by trade, Matt's first-rate musicianship and teaching skills not only educated me as a child, but continue to be the inspiration that drives me as a student of music throughout my adult life."

Andrew P.

SERVICES OFFERED

954.701.1518

As a musician, Matt makes his living by utilizing his various musical skills.

Please contact him for assistance with your musical needs.

- ~ Music Lessons—private one-on-one music instruction
- ~ Accompanying—any instrument, any voice, any style
- ~ Accompaniment Tracks—for auditions or rehearsals
- ~ Elegant Cocktail Piano Music—for your special event
- ~ Wedding Ceremonies—organ or piano
- ~ Wedding Receptions—cocktail piano music, or with an ensemble
- ~ Music Notation, Engraving and Transcriptions
- ~ Adjudicating—judging for Festivals and Competitions
- ~ Performance Preparation—evaluations / critiques before your event
- ~ Commissioned Works

MUSIC LESSONS

Matt teaches private one-on-one lessons in piano, composition, theory and the art of notation/engraving. Having taught private lessons since 1977, Matt's teaching encompasses the classical, jazz and popular music literature. From beginners to advanced, he uses a multiple-key approach, as well as traditional middle-C method books.

Matt says: "My philosophy of teaching music embraces the classical literature, but is more inclusive of other styles as well—jazz, popular, gospel, etc. I like to teach my students to be 'functional' musicians. It is important that the student not only learn to read the written language of music, but also that they not be limited by it. I teach chordal understanding in whatever literature we're working on. In addition, learning to play EXACTLY what's written is then supplemented by ADDING notes or rhythms."

ACCOMPANYING

Matt is well-known as a sensitive and expert accompanist! He can read from either traditional scores or lead sheets.

- ~ Classical, Popular or Jazz
- ~ Professional or Amateur
- ~ Recitals, Concerts or Private Performances
- ~ Vocalists, Instrumentalists and Choirs
- ~ Church Services—Traditional and Contemporary
- ~ Adjudicated Competitions

ACCOMPANIMENT TRACKS

Singers and Instrumentalists: If you need an accompaniment track made for your next audition or performance, Matt can custom record whatever you need. Transposing as needed—shortening or lengthening pieces as needed.

This is ideal for rehearsals prior to your performance or for auditions when a "live" accompanist is not available.

ELEGANT COCKTAIL PIANO MUSIC

Having been the "house pianist" at a Hilton in Boston for 12 years,

Matt has developed a unique mix of Standard and Original tunes that he seamlessly weaves together to create very elegant cocktail music. As a working musician, he has played numerous functions (gigs)—as a solo pianist or with a small ensemble—i.e., private house parties, wedding receptions, corporate functions, etc. Contact Matt if you need background music for your event.

WEDDING CEREMONIES

In his capacity as Director of Music for the last 30 years at multiple churches, Matt's played close to 500 wedding ceremonies on organ or piano, per the preference of the bride. If you need an organist or pianist for YOUR special date, contact Matt.

WEDDING RECEPTIONS

Matt can play elegant cocktail music for your guests while the wedding party is taking pictures or before guests are seated for dinner...before the DJ or Band begins.

If you are looking for something different for your wedding reception—instead of a band—Matt often plays receptions with a small ensemble. NOT Top 40 music and not heavy dance music, but very "classy" instrumental renditions of Standards and Originals.

MUSIC NOTATION

Turn your music into a professional laser-printed score, complete with an encapsulated pdf score for online sharing and promotion.

~ Would you like to have your music written out in traditional music notation?

~ Have you written some music but don't know how to write it out?

~ Would you like to sit down to play the piano, have every note recorded and then turned into a score you could give to friends or send to a publisher?

~ Do you already have a great MIDI studio, but don't have the notation skills to do the lead sheet or full score? Matt can create:

~ Lead Sheets

- from an audio recording of your performance
- from your hand-written scores
- from a standard MIDI file

~ Piano Scores

~ Vocal and Choral Scores

~ Full Orchestral Scores and Parts

ENGRAVING

Matt has done computer-based musical notation and engraving work for many publishers, including:

~ FJH Music Company

~ Crown & Covenant Publications

~ National Music Publishers

~ Dolce & Nuit Productions

~ Great Commission Publications

~ Lifeway Christian Resources

TRANSCRIBE YOUR PERFORMANCE

If you've composed a piece and can play it on the piano, Matt can record your performance via his MIDI keyboard directly into the computer and "capture" every note you play. Or simply email him a MIDI file you've recorded on your own keyboard. He can then transcribe your music into a brilliant, ready to publish score.

ADJUDICATING [judging Festivals and Competitions]

Matt is kept very busy judging various music Festivals and Competitions throughout the United States. His musical objectivity and encouraging comments has kept him sought after each season. Let Matt adjudicate your next event.

PERFORMANCE PREPARATION

Performers now have the possibility to be heard, evaluated and critiqued by someone other than their primary teacher. Online sessions provides a wonderful opportunity to have a "dress rehearsal" and glean helpful insights from another set of ears—a performer and teacher who regularly adjudicates Competitions and Festivals.

A great solution for students to gain a second opinion. Keep your primary teacher and book an ONLINE Performance Evaluation. Invite your teacher to be present...for additional insights.

RECEIVE A CRITIQUE BEFORE YOU "GET JUDGED."

COMMISSIONED WORKS

Throughout his career as a composer, Matt has received numerous "commissions" to create musical works—orchestral, small ensemble, solo piano, vocal and choral works. He continues to enjoy creating specific music to meet your personal requests.

Connecting the (Musical) Dots...™ WORKSHOPS

Matt has developed a series of Workshops that help bridge the gap between a student's existing musical knowledge and real world application. The information provided within each Workshop has proven beneficial for intermediate through advanced music students. Read the testimonials.

~ ~ ~

WORKSHOPS

on HIATUS

~ ~ ~

SCHEDULE: Workshops take place at Matt's studio location once a week on [TBD] evenings at 6pm over an eight (8) week period.

TUITION: \$xxx for all eight (8) Workshops, or \$75/Workshop...à la carte.

[Music teachers may book private Workshop presentations at their studio location for their students.]

Connecting the (Musical) Dots...™ Workshops topics include:

- ~ Chords—How to make them, see and use them to your advantage
- ~ Theory—How to use what you already know in the pieces you play
- ~ Lead Sheets—What are they and how to make music with them
- ~ Playing Musically—Going past the written notes
- ~ Practice Techniques—Working Smarter, Not Harder
- ~ Memory Work—Tricks and Tips
- ~ Notation—Seeing the Limitation of the Notation
- ~ Church Music—Hymn playing, plus how to play in a worship band

TESTIMONIALS ~ Workshops
Connecting the (Musical) Dots...™
WORKSHOPS

“Thank you for presenting your workshop Lead Sheets...Connecting the Dots at the 2013 TMTA Convention! The feedback about your session was very specific—it was one of the most helpful sessions presented!”
Karen Wallace, TMTA President
2013 TMTA Convention
Texas Music Teachers Association

~ ~ ~

“It was unanimously agreed that your presentation The Limits of Musical Notation—Think Like a Composer was a highly professional event, well organized and well presented. Attendees came away from the session with valuable information that they could incorporate in their teaching. Thanks for being a part of the big show and every best wish for the coming year.”
Donald Waxman, Chair
2012 FSMTA Annual Conference
Florida State Music Teachers Association

~ ~ ~

“We wanted to thank you again for giving such a wonderful presentation to the Miami Music Teacher’s Association...we all enjoyed it so much. We are looking forward to trying out some of your ideas with our

students!"

Miami Music Teachers Association

~ ~ ~

"I wanted to let you know that both my kids were very excited after your Lead Sheet workshop. My daughter, who had not done a workshop with you before, was very impressed and amazed at how much she learned. She said you were very knowledgeable, and a great teacher. Thanks!"

Joe T.

~ ~ ~

"Many thanks for a very engaging and insightful program! Something to offer the seasoned as well as the less experienced teacher...a satisfying and quality accomplishment."

Palm Beach County Music Teachers Association

~ ~ ~

"A million thanks for your presentation (to the Palm Beach County Music Teachers Association). Love your sense of humor—and, I'm taking home lots of 'golden nuggets!'

It was a great morning! I heard many compliments on your presentation and I took lots of notes...shared a few things with my students already! Looking forward to seeing and hearing you again, very soon!"

Rhonda D.

~ ~ ~

"I am truly grateful for your presentation. You made the information we all know more useful and appealing! Thanks to your presentation, my students have a different view at theory—it is a rewarding combination of theory knowledge and piano playing."

Irena K.

~ ~ ~

"An important concept that I learned in Matt's workshop was the reharmonization of chords. Understanding the process of selecting which chords to use makes helping students learn to accompany a melodic line more effective!"

Mary Beth P.

~ ~ ~

"I really enjoyed your workshop! You did a wonderful job leading everyone through the lead sheets information and how to improvise. Many great improvisers are horrible at teaching how it is done, but you manage to do it all!!! Congratulations!"

Joy B.

~ ~ ~

"I'm 49 years old and have been taking piano lessons for around 10 years. I just completed the Connecting the (Musical) Dots...™ Workshops and voilà—the light went on. While these workshops are geared towards intermediate to advanced music students, I wish this material was presented to me years ago. I feel I would be much further along in my studies.

Matt's understanding and ability to teach musical concepts lifted the mystery for me. Let's face it—I'm no spring chicken—and can only spare so much time a day to practice, so it's essential I make the most out

of each time I sit down at the piano. No more just going through the motions.

I now have quality, thoughtful practice sessions. I know my progress has exponentially increased...and so has my inspiration. Thank You, Matt"

Joe V.

~ ~ ~

"While I was only able to study with Matt for a short time, what I learned was far more than what I would have ever expected. He opened up new worlds for me. I found his style of teaching to be both effective and motivational. As a result of what I learned from Matt, I was the only freshmen accepted for my high school jazz band—which is one of the best in the state. I am the lead pianist and more musically educated than anyone else in the band. With Matt's lessons, I have become more advanced than many older and more experienced musicians."

Tony T.

~ ~ ~

"We both loved the classes! It provided a different perspective which we thought was very beneficial. (My student) looked forward to all of the workshops! Thanks so much."

Kit M.

~ ~ ~

"(My daughter) enjoyed your workshops. She said it was fun and interesting. I feel that you have helped her to make some connections between the theory that she knows and the 'how to apply it' to make her own music."

Carole R.

~ ~ ~

"Your Workshop was the bridge to a higher level for my daughter in her musical studies. She now is practicing her chords and trying to use them more in the songs she plays. I thought the instruction was well-planned and taken to a new level for my daughter to understand. The colorful and eye-catching charts helped keep my daughters attention. You did an excellent job explaining the subject matter and we hope to participate in another one of your workshops again."

Dan S.

~ ~ ~

"I enjoyed your Connecting the (Musical) Dots...™ Workshops last summer. I loved the presentation with the graphics!! As a pianist in my 7th year of classical training, I never fully 'connected the dots' until I attended your workshops. You've taught me how to recognize chord patterns in my classical music and how to practice smarter not harder! You also taught me to think outside the box and improvise. You explained things very well. Thank you!!!"

Jordan M.

~ ~ ~

"I especially liked the Lead Sheets Workshop because it helped me to understand and read chords better. I learned a lot of different chords that I didn't know even existed. The Lead Sheets Workshop 'connected the dots' for me because now I can read chords and make music with

them. The presentation was definitely not boring and the neon colored graphics kept my attention the whole time.”

Jessica R.

Lǎo shī

No man can reveal to you aught but that which already lies half asleep in the dawning of your knowledge. The teacher who walks in the shadow of the temple, among his followers, gives not of his wisdom but rather of his faith and his lovingness. If he is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind. [Kahlil Gibran]

FOOTER

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