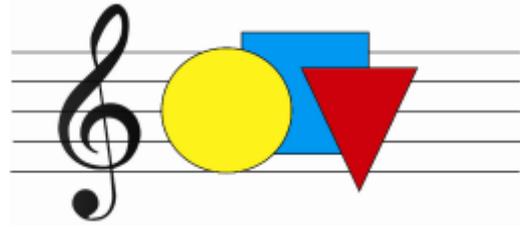


# Joan Blench Piano Studio

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[www.primarychords.com](http://www.primarychords.com)



## About Me

I have been teaching piano lessons in Peace River for over 30 years. I have a B.A. in Music from the University of Alberta, am a certified UMT (Ultimate Music Theory) teacher, and regularly attend professional development workshops and conferences which help me grow in my chosen career. I am a member of the Peace River & District Music Teachers' Association, president of the Peace River Community Choir, and serve on the extended executive of the Alberta Piano Teachers' Association.

The objectives of my Piano Studio are to teach music through the study of piano, to develop confidence through performance, and to inspire love for all kinds of music, especially that written specifically for the instrument. Basic music theory is incorporated into the private and group lessons but is available as a separate study for enrichment or exam purposes. For information about Conservatory Canada practical and theoretical examinations, visit their website [www.conservatorycanada.ca](http://www.conservatorycanada.ca).

## Lesson Format

The term consists of a combination of 27 45-minute or 60-minute private lessons, six 60-minute group lessons, and one floater lesson which can be redeemed at any time during the year. Group lessons consisting of technique exercises, theory, performance and games are held in October, November, December, February, March, and May. Students remain in the same small group of their peers throughout the year so that they feel comfortable performing and evaluating each others' performances.

## Parent's Responsibilities

Piano lessons are a triangle between the parent, the child and the teacher. Parents are expected to take an active role in lessons by providing a home with a good-quality instrument, a metronome, and a quiet practice space that is respected by all members of the family. Parents of children under the age of 10 should expect to practice daily with their child until they show the following signs of becoming self-regulated practicers:

- They take charge of his environment by getting rid of distractions, especially electronic devices.
- They are able to manage their time and set goals.
- They seek out resources such as books, videos, websites, and apps to gain a clearer understanding of the music they are practicing.

- They are able to use different practice strategies in different situations.
- They listen to and evaluate their own playing.
- They are motivated intrinsically and believe they will be successful.

A few days before each lesson, one parent should sit down with the student for a few minutes and review the practice assignment to ensure the student is fully prepared for the next lesson. This is called the pre-lesson check and needs to be initialed on the practice sheet. Information about upcoming events, recitals, practice tips and other items of interest can be found in the practice binder. Parents are welcome to quietly observe any of the private lessons, however, in order to respect the camaraderie of the small groups, they are kindly asked not to come to the group lessons.

## Student's Responsibilities

Piano lessons are meant to be an enjoyable experience, so students should come with a positive attitude and a desire to learn. In order to get the most out of the lesson time, regular home practice is essential. Practicing should be goal-oriented, that is, students should aim for results rather than simply spending time at the piano. They should keep a pencil by the piano for making notations on their music and assignment sheets. Students must bring their books and practice binder to each of their lessons. Students are responsible for purchasing their own music, either from one of the retail stores listed in the practice binder or from the music exchange corner where families can bring old books they wish to sell. Photocopies are not permitted in the studio as they deprive the composer, the publisher and the distributor from earning a fair living. Students are also welcome to borrow materials from the music library, provided they are returned in good condition within a reasonable time period.

Recitals, Festival, and Exams are optional, although I strongly encourage everyone to participate in the annual theme recital held at the end of May. Information about performance opportunities this term will be noted in the practice binder, my website and studio Facebook page.

## Missed Lessons

Since a student contracts the teacher's time when he enrolls, he is expected to be present and prepared for all lessons. Forgetfulness, lack of preparation or conflicting extra-curricular activities are not considered valid excuses for missed lessons. Lessons missed due to illness will be considered made up with the floater lesson. If you anticipate being away, you may switch times with another student, keeping the following in mind:

- Exchanges must be done parent to parent. I do not arrange changes for students, and students are never to arrange them for themselves. Private 45- minute students can exchange with private 60 minute students and vice versa if each party is willing.

- The parent who requested the exchange is responsible to email or call me within 24 hours to let me know what has been worked out. If two families show up for the same lesson time because the exchange was not confirmed properly, priority will go to the normally scheduled student with no refund or rescheduling for the other student.
- Exchanges are not obligatory. If someone says no to an exchange request, please respect that. If someone exchanges with you, be kind and return the favor when possible.
- Parents are requested to respect the privacy of other families by using the information on the exchange list for music lesson purposes only.

Should a student decide to quit lessons before the term has ended, he may be charged for the remainder of the term until a replacement can be found.

## Tuition

Tuition for the 2017-18 term is \$900 for 45-minute lessons and \$1180 for 60-minute lessons. A \$30 non-refundable registration fee secures the students' position in the next term. It covers the cost of binder materials, recitals, and use of the lending library. The remaining tuition is due at the beginning of September and can be divided into installments providing the cheques are postdated to the first of the calendar month. Please make cheques payable to Joan Blench. Students wishing additional lessons over and above the prescribed format can do so for \$40 per hour.