

Sparkling keys and strings

Simone Parker, NCTM



Simone Parker
(931) 206-6839
Sparklingkeysandstrings@simoneparker.org
www.simoneparker.org

*Independent Instructor in Piano, Violin and Viola
Certified Alexander Technique Teacher, ATI
Adjunct Faculty – APSU/VU Department of Music
Accompanist and Musician for Special Events*

Teaching Philosophy

My Dream:

Assist students to develop a life-long love and appreciation for music, music making and learning.

I TEACH MUSIC

Not because I expect you to be a great performer
Not because I expect you to play or sing all your life
Not so you can relax and take it easy
But so you will be human
So you will be sensitive
So you will be closer to God
So you will have something to cling to
So you will have more love, compassion, gentleness and good...
In short, more life.
Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless
you know how to live?

Author Unknown

My Practice:

In my day-to-day teaching, I want to provide each one of my students with the means to become well-rounded musicians and to achieve anything they desire with music. My goal is to enable students to become self-sufficient learners and to make music independently. So, I envision and hope that each of my students can enjoy music for their own playing regardless of whether they choose to become professional musicians.

My Philosophy:

It is just simply impossible to imagine life without music! We are surrounded by music every day and all day. Music offers a great way to express feelings, to communicate and connect with each other. In my experience, most people tend to be happier and more joyous with music in their lives. I further believe, every child is born with the desire to make music and young children innately express themselves through rhythm and music.

I fell in love with the piano at an early age and convinced my non-musical parents to send me for lessons. I continued to take lessons throughout school and later, I pursued piano in college and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in Piano Performance (B.A. and M.Mu.). Furthermore, I am a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM), certified teacher of the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM), a certified Alexander Technique teacher (ATI) and a licensed Body Mapping Educator (ABME). I am committed to fostering my own life-long learning, and I regularly learn new repertoire, accompany, give recitals, and take at least one teacher development course a year.

The piano is the love of my life. It is a privilege for me to have the opportunity to share what I love with you, your child and your family. My goal is for students to learn disciplined practicing and performance habits and develop a life-long love for music and learning. I want to provide students with the opportunity to do and achieve anything they desire with music and to become well-rounded musicians by developing and focusing on¹

- Physical development through piano technique,
- Music literacy through music theory and music history,
- Musicianship through ear training and sight-reading,
- Artistry through imagination and personal expression.

Assisting students to make music independently and to become self-sufficient learners enables students to enjoy music for their own playing or to become professional musicians. Incorporating a curriculum into my teaching provides students with structure and clear outlines for achievements. Therefore, I have adopted following standards² into my teaching:

1. Ability to internalize basic rhythms and pulse.
2. Ability to read—musical literacy.
3. Ability to perform with physical ease and technical efficiency.
4. Ability to hear the notes on the page and ability to listen to, analyze, and describe music.
5. Ability to work creatively—improvise, compose, harmonize and play by ear.
6. Ability to understand basic elements of theory, form harmony, etc.
7. Ability to respond to the interpretive elements of the composition to express the emotional character of the music.
8. Ability to conceptualize and transfer musical ideas.
9. Ability to understand music in relationship to history and culture.
10. Ability to evaluate music and music performances.
11. Ability to work independently and to problem-solve.
12. Ability to perform comfortably individually and collaborate with others in a variety of settings.

Musical talent is a learned skill and has to be nurtured. Every child can be educated, and the environment is the key. As an instructor, I provide a comfortable and inspiring environment to spark,

¹ Adapted from the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) essential areas of musical development.

² Adapted from MTNA's Essential Skills for Promoting a Lifelong Love of Music and Music Making and MENC's National Standards for Music Education.

foster or rekindle interest in young musicians starting at age 4. Adult learners can enjoy recreational music-making by learning in a stress-free environment. Lessons are held on an individual basis and provide personal attention to the specific needs of each student. Depending on the individual student's personality, learning modality (visual, aural, kinesthetic), and learning pace, I use a variety of methods and teaching tools to incorporate the above outlined standards into the students learning process. I continuously monitor student's progress to refine strengths and address weaknesses.

Further, students are able to enjoy the process of learning through self-discovery, a sense of community and motivational challenges within my studio. Fun activities, such as composition and theory games, encourage learning about music theory and history, and creative projects further the imagination of students. Music parties, group/partner lessons, performance classes, additional performance opportunities, and end of the semester student recitals offer an opportunity to make music together and play with accompanying parts and duets. In addition, students gain experience of performing in front of an audience and for adjudication events/examinations, both an optional choice for adult students.

Lastly, I promote close collaboration between teachers, parents, and students. We all play a vital part in students' learning, and I foster mutual respect and open lines of communication in my studio. My hope is to inspire students to develop a life-long love and appreciation for music, music making and learning. As Socrates said "I cannot teach anybody anything. I can only make them think." summarizes my role as an instructor.