



Private Music Instruction of Piano & Guitar by Natalie Cox 785-842-9219 or natalie_cox_n_taos@yahoo.com

Lessons for piano/keyboard or 6 string guitar-

Lessons meet for 30" up to one hour once a week on a regular basis. If you are a very beginner, if you have previous musical skill or if you are an advanced musician, you are welcome to have piano or guitar lessons with me. If you would like to arrange a time to have lessons or have more questions please call 785-842-9219 or email natalie_cox_n_taos@yahoo.com. If you are interested in just one or two lessons that is acceptable with me also.

My piano/keyboard and or 6 string guitar lessons can include several musical topics. To the best of my ability I honestly try to meet you where you are at with your own musical gifts, musical aptitudes, skills and start from there, helping with musical growth. Some of the musical topics I teach about are included in the following. Basic beginning, like how to hold the guitar so that you are comfortable, and with the piano, learning to keep oneself distanced away appropriately from the instrument so that your arms and hands have the best angles to play well. Another topic of basic beginning with piano is how to develop hand movement while having fun. Basic stretching, that takes less than 3 to 4 minutes, so that it is easier to play the guitar and piano.

As I work with children, I usually play at least one musical game at least every other lesson to encourage ear training and rhythm development. The earliest age I teach with guitar is usually six. The earliest age I teach with piano is four. There are always exceptions. Fun, laughter and enjoyment are mandatory.

When I am teaching, I focus on what works. I do NOT adhere to any one specific methodology and "make" the student follow it. I am familiar with several music education methodologies and integrate all of them to help you have a positive musical experience. I endorse several music education methodologies, including Dalcroze, Suzuki, Solfege, and Orff. I try to help you, the piano and guitar students to develop your own strategies that work for you.

I teach listening skills that will benefit students so that increased comprehension can take place to further other musical skills. I help to develop the musical ear by helping students to notice what it is he or she is listening to, pitch differential, the intervals- how far apart are the musical sounds and how that correlates with ear to hand/body movement. In the lesson, this is accomplished by playing musical games, analyzing student's choice recordings, and learning the language of intervals including different types of chords and chord sonorities, textures of the sound. I encourage playing by ear from already knowing the song "by heart," and how to play by ear from using recordings.

At any age and at any musical caliber, one can enhance melodic and rhythmic aptitude and skills. At the very beginning, it is noting the vocabulary difference between melody and rhythm and understanding how melody and rhythm works together. Usually, the study of melody or "soloing" is how most beginning musicians start to practice. The melody includes rhythm. This leads to memorizing the song on the piano or guitar, like Twinkle Twinkle Little Star or When the Saints Go Marching In. I usually recommend every guitar and piano player to keep a few songs memorized from the very start. So that means I also teach how to memorize music from a few different perspectives, including classical style.



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There are worlds of different rhythms, as MOST of us already well know. At the beginning stages of piano and guitar study this means how to keep a steady beat and become aware of different rhythms, styles of rhythms, how to create your own rhythms are all musical topics that I teach. Some of my students prefer to learn multitudes of rhythm patterns, while some of my students like to become aware of musical genres which are defined by rhythm. It is important to me for each individual student to be able to assess accurately where they are at rhythmically. It is not a good or bad thing. Rhythm is something to be learned and rhythm is a skill, as well as melody. When the person who is taking lessons from me can understand how he or she relates with rhythm, it becomes much easier to learn rhythm and about rhythm. If you are patient with yourself, you will understand how you personally learn rhythm skills and keep them to your musical advantage.

In piano and guitar lessons, I teach how to understand musical notation and reading of staves, tablature and other forms of sheet music. I accomplish this by encouraging parents to expose their children to listen to music, in turn, using their developed ear- there's that ear to hand/arm movement stuff- to assist them in reading. There are several ways to learn how to read music. In the beginning stages color code paper charts, rote, memory, simply making a commitment to do it and more.

Other topics of music that I use to teach piano and guitar lessons with are introductions and exposure to different musical styles of modern day societies and historical concepts. I teach basic western music theory and integration of modalities. When I say mode, I am referring to the historical collection from Europe, often called the Seven Church Modes that are representations of seven pre-existing cultures before and during the Roman Empire. These modes were in use dating back to around 800 AD; the modes were assimilated and are passed on in today's European and American music.

I teach improvisational techniques- this also ties in with knowing intervals and basic theory, scales major minor pentatonic chord development, chord sequencing, songwriting. Improvising is simple for a lot of my students. I simply ask the student at the beginning stages to make up a melody while I play bass chords or a bass line. Improvising evolves with the use of knowledge from scales and basic to advanced chord knowledge and of course practice.

I do not require all of my students to do all of the above. Rather, I meet with you, see what you want to do musically, make up a plan of action that you the individual agree with or the family agrees with. We proceed from there with music lessons. If you decide to take lessons from me on a more continuous basis, we discuss your goals with piano and guitar music about every 4-6 weeks to make sure you are headed in a musical direction that you want to go.

Students are encouraged to go at a pace that is comfortable. Students are encouraged to develop individual musicianship, artistic style and creativity. Students are encouraged to create musical goals for themselves. Family members are invited and welcome to join during the lesson. It is important to me the person feel comfortable, relaxed and enjoy their learning process.

One music book does not fit all. I use different method books to teach with. Some personalities do better with one set of music books and others do better with different music books. If you have pre-existing music books that you like- let's use them. If you have music books that you do not like, I suggest recycling them to a library, book store, reselling them or give them to a neighbor.



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Written contracts with my students are available on request. I ask for common courtesy like calling me as soon as possible if you or your child cannot make it for the scheduled lesson so that we can reschedule the lesson date or just go to the next week. *If I show up for a lesson, you are not there and you did not call me the morning before the lesson, payment for that missed lesson that day is requested.* Lessons are \$20 per half hour.

Teaching Background & Forward motion: I am a graduate from the University of Kansas with a Music Education degree. I continue to teach private piano & guitar lessons and have been teaching private piano and guitar lessons since 1993. In 1997, I created and taught a toddler dance, movement & general music study program for Maria Montessori in the Home, Lawrence, KS. I taught group & private piano lessons at the Lawrence Piano Studio, 1995-1998, when it was on Massachusetts Street and still exists today on 6th street in Lawrence, KS. I also have provided a Songwriter's Workshop for one of Lawrence's Junior High School's Gifted Programs in 1999. There is a list of some of my musical teachers at the bottom of this page. All of these music teachers, I am grateful for.

Piano Education Background

Teachers: Barbara Stimpful, Cynthia Avila, Jerry Simms, Group lessons by Wurlitzer, from the University of Kansas privately with Dr. Angeletti and other KU collegiate influences are: Dr. C Hepp, Dr. J. Winerock; Eric Sukamura of Lawrence Piano Studio, and [Bill Barker](#).

Independent piano study including my classical training are: Mary Lou Williams, Thomas Waller, Scott Joplin, Jimmy Rowles, Ray Charles, Nacio Herb Brown and more.

My favorite piano teacher is my maternal grandmother who taught me boogie woogie, jump bass accompaniment, how to do duets, & to honor my ear.

Guitar Education Background:

Teachers: Kevin Little, introduction to classical guitar music study & basic chords strumming techniques, Meagan Murphy, improvisation and soloing ear training, Carol Dressler, chord development, technique study, jazz and pop styles, Cynthia Egger who has a Master's Degree in Guitar from North Carolina currently teaching guitar in Overland Park and KC Metro Area, altered tunings, blues styles, Spanish Classical guitar intro, strumming techniques, James Phalen blues musician from California studied with James in St. Joseph MO in early 2000's, concentrated blues styles by differing artists, ear training, technique chord study

Independent Guitar Study includes Christopher Parkening Methodology, Frederick Noad, Manscie Lipscomb, Larry Coryell, Memphis Minnie, other blues and jazz artists.

King Georgie II has shared with me *some percussion techniques, for example the Trinidad rhythm.*



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The list above of piano, guitar and music teachers is not complete. I have had more teachers than what is listed and grateful for.

Piano or 6 String Guitar lessons are available Tuesday through Saturday 9am through 8:30pm in Lawrence, Eudora, McClouth, Big Springs, & Topeka KS at an agreed upon appropriate place via music room, studio or your home at \$20 per half hour.

Piano and or Guitar Private Lessons or Reiki sessions are also available when I am performing in different cities within 13 miles of the city I am performing in; dates for availability are mentioned on the performance calendar.

*The towns that I deliver private music instruction to on a **routine** basis are McClouth, Eudora, Lawrence, Big Springs, and Topeka, KS. Thank you for considering having piano or 6 string guitar lessons with me.*

In efforts to support The Childhood Lead Poisoning Act of 1990, I do request that parents and people over 16 to lead surface test cords and the like **before** buying guitar or electric piano equipment. Low levels of lead and other hazardous material cause lots of harm. There are RoHS, restriction of hazardous substance guitars, amplifiers, and all that comes with electronic music available. Should a piece fail please return it to the store or manufacturer telling them that the piece of equipment violates the 1990 Childhood Lead Poisoning Act and they are supposed to replace the lead contaminated item for free.



Revised August 9, 2013, Natalie Cox, BME dba Rhythm for Peace