

I have been studying music since I was four years old, and I have been teaching music for over seven years. As a student and a teacher, I had the good fortune to study under some of the world's foremost music professors, participated in a number of well renowned musical events, and have taught hundreds of students over the years of various backgrounds, abilities, and ages. Drawing from these experiences, I have been able to cultivate my own personal educational philosophy. My main goals as an educator are as follows:

**Independence.** I believe that building independence is crucial to becoming a successful musician. By asking the right questions while providing proper guidance and memorable examples, I empower my students to arrive at solutions on their own. These methods help to develop their mind musically and to think critically. When my students are able to recognize their own ability to retain the information, they feel more self-confident, and it helps to build their passion for music. It is one of the most rewarding parts of teaching.

**Musicality and Technique.** My focus is musicality; however, I never neglect the technique. Many technical challenges can be solved by finding correct fingerings and having clear musical ideas. Additionally, we work on scales, etudes, and exercises to build stronger muscles and have main techniques in the hands. I always include fundamental knowledge for piano, such as how to read music, theory, rhythms, key signature, scales, analysis, ear training, and more.

**Repertoire.** I always include a wide range of pieces in from famous masterpieces to recently composed, not yet well-known compositions. I am always searching for new and interesting repertoire. Additionally, to the method books I carefully chose the repertoire for each student individually, considering each student's abilities.

**Goals and Motivation.** Determining the student's goals and motivations are paramount to their growth. Whether being a beginner or an intermediate student, we are preparing for concerts, master classes, auditions, theory tests, examinations, and competitions in both solo, and chamber music repertoire. Having such a defined event to build up to is a very effective way to have a clear end goal with provided checkpoints along the way.

**Communication.** Appropriate, open communication is key to make sure that students do not fall behind and that everything stays on schedule. I make myself available outside of class so my students can send me any music-related questions between the lessons. In that case, a student does not need to wait until the next lesson, and we can solve music-related problems more immediately.

**Homework.** I help my students with homework plan and goals. Moreover, I am also creating my own teaching material and am always expanding my resources. I am working to create video lessons and tests which my students can watch and complete at home. This way, we can maximize lesson time, practice essential skills, and cover important topics between lessons. I am continuously developing and adding new materials to the Google Drive for my students to benefit from, all free of charge.

I strongly believe that music can be learned and enjoyed by everyone.

Kristina Annamukhamedova