

Piano Boot Camp (MT112)

Course Description

This course is aimed at the beginner computer producer/musician, and is designed to develop musical skills and knowledge through the practical understanding of basic keyboard technique and music theory. Emphasis is placed on using the keyboard as the visual and aural source for understanding, creating and recording music on the computer. This will include the development of a regular practice routine based on topics explored during the lessons, including exercises and performance.

In addition, this course is intended to help learners understand important areas of music such as harmony and rhythm notation. Students will develop a basic facility to enable the use of the keyboard and music theory as a tool in a variety of applications at a basic level. Knowledge gained from this course may be used with any kind of music, including pop, rock, dance, jazz, and film and television music.

Course Outline

Session 1: Keyboard geography and major scale construction

This lesson introduces the concept of developing a better musical vocabulary through the study of the keyboard and music theory. You will be introduced to the white notes of the keyboard, and learn the finger technique and construction of the C major scale.

Session 2: Accidentals and basic chord progressions

Sharps and flats are explained, and C major five-finger exercises are introduced for both hands. Basic chord progressions and cadences are explained and explored.

Session 3: G major and rhythm reading

This lecture introduces finger techniques in G major. Chords, rhythms and melodies of popular songs are analysed. Fundamental terms will be explained, with reference to time signatures.

Session 4: Chord charts and intervals: part 1

This lecture introduces chord charts through programming, and explains basic intervals. Basic rhythm reading is also explored.

Session 5: Chord charts and intervals: part 2

This lecture continues to explore chord charting and basic intervals. The construction and fingering of the D major scale and more useful chord progressions are introduced. Basic rhythm reading is further explored.

Session 6: The minor scales and basic chord symbols

This lecture explores the construction and fingering of the A minor scale. Useful chord progressions are explored.

Session 7: Triad construction

This lecture explains the construction of the triad, and also explores arpeggio technique. Basic chord symbols are introduced.

Session 8: Inversions, open and closed voicings and voice leading

This lecture explores different ways in which triad may be used in combination to create convincing harmony.

Session 9: Harmony and remixing

This lecture explores harmony and rhythm techniques, with regard to remix work. Assessment piece.

Session 10: The Blues scales

The aim of this lecture is to explain the construction and finger techniques of the Blues scale. Improvisation is also explored.

Session 11: Course review

Review of the information discussed throughout the course.

Session 12: Final assessment

Certificate subject to final exam.

Details and schedule of the course

Course code:	MT112
Course name:	Piano Boot Camp
Supervised study:	36 hours
Course schedule:	12 weekly sessions of 3 hours from 6.45-9.45pm
Class size:	6 students or less
Course fees:	£750 inclusive of VAT and registration fee

The content, times and order of these lectures are purely indicative and subject to change without notice. Our aim is to provide the best possible experience for each and every one of our students, adapting the course where necessary to stay updated and relevant to the different musical styles and career paths they choose.

Recommended Reading:

- *Music Graded Pieces* Associated Board Royal School (ABRSM)
- *The Complete Keyboard Player* K.Baker (Music Sales, 1994)
- *The Classic Piano Course* C.Barratt (Chester Music, 1995)
- *Fortissimo!* R.Bennett (Cambridge University Press, 1996)

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