

♪♪ Private Piano Lessons at the Village! ♪♪

My name is Denise Youssef (a.k.a. Simon's Mom) and I am offering private piano lessons at our beloved school! For the time being the lessons will only be on Wednesdays and space is very limited! Miss Ashley has graciously allowed this to happen in her room* because that's where the piano is! 😊

*Every 5 weeks or so the room is not available so we will find another space and work on musical concepts that don't require a piano (theory, rhythm, listening/exploring various composers and forms of music)

20-min time slots begin at 2:30pm on Wednesday October 4th and they will be filled on a first come first serve basis...

2:30-2:50

2:50-3:10

3:10-3:30

3:30-4:00

4:00-4:20

I usually teach 30-min lessons, but in order to offer this opportunity to as many as possible, lessons at school will be 20 minutes long - which should be sufficient enough time.

I will be using the Alfred's Piano Method - both the Lesson and Theory books (*appropriate level to be determined by myself* and then purchased by student) and I will provide supplementary materials as needed.

The fee will be \$15/weekly lesson (not including materials fee) and cash or check made payable to: Denise Youssef is fine as payment. I ask that the monthly fee is paid upfront at the first lesson of the month** (**see attached schedule of dates/times) (roughly \$45-60/month unless there is a school break or holiday)

♪ OTHER NOTES ♪

♪ Please try hard to make each lesson as "make up" lessons will NOT be available at the school.

♪ Please be sure to bring all books and materials*** to each lesson!

*****Materials: Music books, pencil, a spiral bound notebook with pocket & carrying bag**

♪ Please inform me of any *anticipated* absences ahead of time (vacations, etc.) and then pay the monthly fee accordingly.

♪ I would like to have a group text/email list for all students so that I am able to inform all at one time of any unforeseen circumstances that may arise that will affect our lessons.

♪ It is very helpful for the student to have access to a piano between lesson days for which to practice on. Keyboards will suffice for most. (Santa Rosa Music Center on Piner Road has a piano rental program available)

ANY QUESTIONS?? 707-478-4246 bellacantilena@hotmail.com

TURN PAGE OVER...

A little bit about me...

I have a BA in Music from SSU and I am Director of Music & Liturgy for a local church. I am a pianist, composer, arranger and singer and I am most fond of classical and jazz music genres. I am blessed to have a career that lets me make music on a daily basis. I play the piano and sing while leading a music group of 12-16 individuals every Sunday morning and I also lead the music (solo) at a few other churches in the greater Sonoma County area. I am also often asked to play/sing for weddings, funerals and other events needing music...

I believe music should be vital part of every person's life and I believe students should be encouraged to explore music in a safe, nurturing and encouraging environment - any time we are asked to stand out in a crowd and bare our souls it can be a frightening and timid experience and music comes from the soul!

I often encourage my students to think about more than just playing notes on a piano. We talk about the music, taking it a part and exploring why certain things happen or what did the composer intend when writing the piece. I often encourage composition and help our young musicians feel confident and competent in their abilities... that there is no wrong way to make music. I teach them to think for themselves helping them to realize that they don't need me always sitting next to them to be able to look at and understand a particular piece of music.

I have been a "life-long" pianist. As a toddler, I would often be found on my tiptoes at the piano in the living room, pushing the keys and exploring the sounds and timbres that came from such a big, beautiful instrument. As I got older I became more intrigued by and engaged in learning more about music - specifically the piano. Without the gift of private lessons, I learned bit by bit how to read music and play the melodies. I would go on to learn more about theory, note reading, etc at my own pace before taking two years of Music at the SRJC, and then transferring to Sonoma State University to major in Music, receiving my BA in May 2000. Music is my life and I am happy to share what I know and learn what I don't through working with others and helping them to explore and embrace all music has to offer!