



Details on Semester Awards

LEVELS:

I created my own curriculum ranging from levels 0-7. This includes terming the student with a maturity level of *Young Beginner, Beginner, Elementary, Early to Mid-Intermediate, Late Intermediate, Advanced Intermediate, Early Advanced, + Advanced*. Every level is essentially a guideline for me and a list of goals and achievement milestones for the Student. It sets practice, theory, and playing expectations for every Student in that particular level. This level curriculum also maintains consistency in my teaching with every Student. I began using many aspects of this curriculum since 2019, but have fine-tuned it and officially released it to the studio now, in June 2022. Each Level can take **months to years** for each Student to complete because of the specific skillsets and smaller to larger goals required. I developed this curriculum to teach each Student equally, to give every Student a consistent piano education, and to track when my Students are ready to participate in piano solo opportunities.

- I assign **Level 0 to New Students** with NO experience in piano ages below 8 or 9.
- I assign **Level 1 to New Students** with NO experience in piano ages above 8 or 9.
- I assign the **Level** that meets them where they are for new Students WITH prior experience in piano.
- **The Clara Schumann Award** is given to each Student who finishes their level in any given Semester. These levels have long and short-term goals to be completed before the Level is fulfilled, so the Student is well-deserving of an Award once they are ready to move on!

GRADED HOMEWORK/PRACTICE CHARTS:

As most of you know, I require all of my Students to have a certain amount of days as their personal practice goal. I also require them to finish theory work each week. I give a practice chart and ask the Student to mark when they practiced and the Parent/Guardian signs the chart before the next lesson. The goal of how many days to practice always depends on the Student's current level and maturity. Or, we decide your personal goal together at first, then build it up to meet their level as we go!

- For my **Level 0 Students**, I don't require a practice chart until the Student seems able enough to mark them on their own. However, I do require Mom or Dad to help their child finish and return homework most every week, which is what I grade them on each lesson.
- **Level 0 Students** who finish their theory work each week receive **The Mini Mozart Award**.
- For my **Level 1 or higher Students**, I require that they accomplish their practice goal on their practice charts each week. Theory work is awarded with punch card prizes only at this point.
- **The Lang Lang Award** is given to any aged Student who achieves their practice goal EVERY week!

**I give 2 grace Homework or Practice Chart checks where unfinished HW or Practice Charts that didn't meet the goal are not counted against the Student. I never count Holidays/Vacations against the Student either.*

MEMORIZATION:

For my Level 2 or higher Students, there are **Memorization Goals** in their level. Memorizing music is such a beneficial tool to increase brain activity! It also increases focus and concentration skills in pianists. Students use their memorized music for recordings, recitals, competitions, or other performances!

- **The Chopin Award** is given to recognize that the Student is accomplishing goals that will help them in their future as a pianist and even as an adult in society! Memorizing music is a BIG deal!