

Piano Lessons with Diane Briscoe

2025-2026

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Dear Parents and Students,

The following is information on the programme as well as on policies and payment options outlined in this sheet. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

General Information

*Lessons begin the week of September 1st, 2025 and normally end the first week in May. There are 32 lessons a year divided into four 8-week terms plus 4 recitals. Lessons are offered on Tuesday and Thursday. Optional spring and summer lessons may also be available.

*Tentative dates for the 4 studio recitals on Sundays at 3:00 p.m. at my house are on **November 2, January 11, February 22, and April 19**. Because I am a member of the Quebec Music Teachers' Association, your child has the opportunity to play in two additional November and April recitals with students in Montreal for an additional fee.

*There are no lessons from Dec. 22, 2025 - Jan. 2, 2026, and March 2 - 6, 2026

For Beginners: Book, Recording, Instrument

For beginners here is the book and the recording to purchase :

* Book - Suzuki Piano School, Volume 1, New International Edition. The book is sold alone, or with a cd.

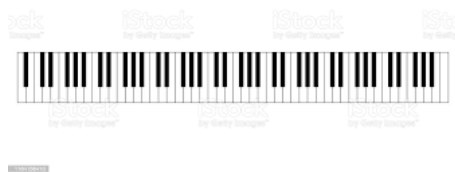
* Recording - Suzuki Piano School, Volume 1, New International Edition, pianist Seizo Azuma. The recording is also available as a digital download:

<https://www.alfred.com/suzuki-method/suzuki-audio-downloads/> The recording is a performance of all the piano pieces from Volume 1 played by a professional.

* Instrument for a beginner: an acoustic piano in good condition or a digital piano (keyboard) with 88 fully-weighted keys.

At Home

* The parent and child are encouraged to listen every day to the Suzuki recording of the pieces they will be playing in Book 1 (background music, softly). This listening can facilitate and motivate learning because children often enjoy learning pieces they already



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know and recognize. Listening to the pieces also helps the child to play them in a musical way.

- * At home, establish a routine for listening to the Suzuki recording and for practicing each day.

- * For piano lessons with young beginners, the parent is encouraged to sit every day with the child at the piano and practice together (maybe 15 min. to start and gradually increasing to 30 min.) and to play the recording of the Suzuki piano music.

- *To maintain good posture and hand position, young children need a footstool and high seating at the home piano.

At the Lesson

- * Parents are invited to sit in on weekly lessons and take notes of what to do during the week.

- * In general the parent is at the lesson to quietly observe the lesson and take notes. In order for your child to fully concentrate, please refrain from giving advice to your child during lessons. Feel free to record any or all of the lesson if you wish. Please contact me anytime if you have questions or suggestions.

- * At lessons I would appreciate it very much if parents and students could please remove outdoor footwear and sandals, and wear socks, indoor footwear, or slippers. Please no bare feet. Refrain from eating and drinking. Students, please wash your hands at my house just before your lesson and keep nails short. Thank you.

- *Be present for your child. It is preferable to turn off cell phones. Thank you.

- * Please accompany your child quietly into the studio while others are having their lessons. You are encouraged to stay and observe lessons of others. Parents or other students may be present during your own lesson.

- * For my neighbours' sake, note that the maximum speed on the street is 30 km / hour. Please try to park in the driveway, beside or behind our car is fine. Thank you.



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Policies

*8-week terms are paid in advance by e-transfer to dianebriscoe@gmail.com by direct deposit. There are no refunds for payments received.

*Piano fees in 2025-26 are:

\$205 per term (8 lessons) for 30-minute weekly lessons,

\$305 for 45-minutes,

\$410 for an hour,

Plus an annual recital and supplies fee: \$35 for one child, or \$45 for two children.

45-minute lessons are recommended if students are preparing examinations or are in Book 2 Suzuki.

***Payment dates:**

- Term 1: **Tuesday, September 2, 2025**
- Term 2: **Monday, Oct. 27, 2025**
- Term 3: **Monday, January 5, 2026**
- Term 4: **Monday, March 9, 2026**

*Please note that there is a \$20 late fee.

*If you miss a lesson or cannot attend at the regular time, the lesson cannot be rescheduled.

* Missed lessons options - you could:

1. have the lesson at the regular time online
2. send me a video or sound recording of your practice session; I would send you comments. Record your child from the side with hands and face visible.
3. give the lesson to another person
4. put your name on the lesson swap list - parents would contact each other to arrange a lesson exchange in the same week.

*We all share the keyboard, so please do not bring your child to a lesson if s/he is too sick to go to school. Please see the alternatives for missed lessons above. Thank you.

*To reserve your lesson time in the fall you would send a non-refundable e-transfer payment of \$35 for one child, or \$45 for two children, by May 5th, 2025.

Looking forward to hear you play the piano - see you soon!



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