

# Class Piano and COVID-19

New Frontiers in Classroom Education



The  
**Frances Clark Center**

# Class Piano and COVID-19

## Organize yourself:

- **Explore** online video platforms (Zoom, Skype, Facetime, Google Hangouts). Consider hosting an online video chat with fellow teachers to get comfortable with the platform before starting online lessons.
- **Study** your syllabus. What assignments have been completed, how can you restructure your grading, and how will your learning outcomes be met in online instruction?
- **Create** short, well-sequenced instructional videos to clarify all assignments and teach new skills.

# Class Piano and COVID-19

## Organize yourself:

- **Create** short, well-sequenced instructional videos to clarify all assignments and teach new skills.
- **Set up** a communication schedule. Monday morning video emails, for instance, will set you and your students up for success during the week.
- **Stay** within your comfort zone – up to a point. Now may not be the time to try out a radically new technology, but think creatively about how you could engage with your students.

# Class Piano and COVID-19

## **Organize your students:**

- **Recalibrate** expectations of workload. Assignments may take longer to complete at home.
- **Give** specific deadlines for assignment completion.
- **Specify** how and where students should submit assignments.
- **Recommend** Google drive, Dropbox, or another online file-sharing platform. Videos are often too large to send over email.

# Class Piano and COVID-19

## Organize your students:

- **Consider** setting up a Facebook page for your class. Have students upload performances and ask students to provide comments.
- **Ask** students to video conference with and play for one another.
- **Schedule** one-on-one video conferences with students. This takes away the feeling of isolation and allows you to give feedback.
- **Listen** to your students. They are also going through a stressful time of anxiety and uncertainty.

# Class Piano and COVID-19

## **My Student Does Not Have Access to a Piano:**

- Create written assignments: have students write in fingerings for skills, harmonic progressions, transpose melodies, analyze form, etc.
- Paper pianos can be used to “play” assignments.
- Require students to sing solfege, scale degrees, or finger numbers while playing a paper piano or “ghosting” on a tabletop. This will connect their aural skills to their hand motions.
- Sing the fingering needed for individual parts of open scores.

# Class Piano and COVID-19

## **My Student Does Not Have Access to a Piano:**

- Piano apps can be downloaded and will allow students to play two or three octaves. Some do not allow for multiple notes to be played at the same time.
- Assign written reflections of recordings. (YouTube or other sources)
  - o Create a playlist of repertoire previously learned. Compare and contrast the performances.
  - o Assign YouTube videos that showcase various genres of piano music – identify style, harmonic progressions, patterns.

# Class Piano and COVID-19

## **My Student Does Not Have Access to a Piano:**

- Record videos of yourself that include inaccuracies in technique, notes/rhythm, style, etc. Have students identify inaccuracies and how to fix them.
- Ask students to write practice plans detailing how they would approach a new piece of repertoire.
- Record or send audio files of melodies with chordal accompaniments. Ask students to identify the chord progression.
- Contact local music dealers/centers to inquire about instrument rental.



# Class Piano and COVID-19

## Online Resources

- eNovative Piano – Free subscriptions through June 30, 2020 (email [info@enovativepiano.com](mailto:info@enovativepiano.com))
- Piano for the Developing Musician – [pdmpiano.org](http://pdmpiano.org)
- [MusicTheory.net](http://MusicTheory.net)
- [uTheory.com](http://uTheory.com) - offering free institutional licenses for those schools impacted by COVID-19
- Classroom Maestro
- University of Iowa Piano Pedagogy Project ~ YouTube

# Class Piano and COVID-19

## **Apps for iPad/Android**

- Virtual Piano
- ReadAhead - Sight reading app
- ABRSM SightReading Trainer
- Henle Library
- SuperScore
- Home Concert Extreme

# Class Piano and COVID-19

**MOST IMPORTANTLY!**

Be kind to yourself and your students.