

**POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY**  
**Music Department**  
**MUA 156, 256, 356, 456 - Private Piano**  
**Brenda Martin, Professor**  
**Fall 2015**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

1. TITLE: Private Piano
2. CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Private, applied instruction in piano is a vital part of the development of music majors, as well as an appropriate elective for many non- majors. Each level of study has defined materials and technical masteries to be achieved. Students are assigned to a level according to their proficiency and mastery of materials listed for given level.
3. PREREQUISITE: None for MUA 156 except for music majors who should pass the piano proficiency exam before enrolling in Private Piano. Class Piano is recommended for students who have never studied piano before. MUA 256, 356, and 456 are taken only by students who have been raised to one of these levels by the piano faculty after a piano jury.
4. INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Brenda Martin  
Office: CMC 220  
Cell phone (text preferred): 858-752-3532  
Office phone number: 619-849-3252  
E-mail address: [brendamartin@pointloma.edu](mailto:brendamartin@pointloma.edu)
5. Office hours: By appointment
6. UNITS: 1-2 (Two units are usually reserved for piano performance majors and upper division music education majors preparing for a recital.)
7. MEETING TIME AND PLACE: Time: TBA Place: CMC 220
8. TEXT(S): Repertoire for study will be assigned throughout the semester. Students may borrow scores from the music library or other sources temporarily, but students must have purchased and obtained their own copy of the assigned repertoire within **two weeks** of the lesson. You'll need to order your music right away so you have it by the 3<sup>rd</sup> lesson. There will also be fees for any competitions you enter. **Ordering from the cheapest place on the internet may cause unacceptable delays.**

Music may be purchased from:

Lovley Music 858-277-5754

MR Music Notes 619-283-2001

Pepper Music [http://www.pianoatpepper.com/catalog/pap\\_index.jsp](http://www.pianoatpepper.com/catalog/pap_index.jsp)

Sheet Music Plus <http://www.sheetmusicplus.com>

9. OTHER MATERIALS NEEDED FOR CLASS: A metronome (or metronome app) and a notebook for assignments.
10. POSITION OF COURSE IN COLLEGE CURRICULUM: Private piano is required of all piano performance majors, and is an option for meeting the private lesson requirement for other music majors. Private piano is also often taken as an elective course by music majors and by non-music majors desiring to continue developing their piano skills.
11. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of a semester of private lesson study, a successful piano student will
- Attain mastery of technical exercises and/or etudes appropriate to the student's class level and degree program stipulated in the Music Student Handbook, as demonstrated by successful completion of the technique portion of the jury exam with a grade of "B" or better
  - Cultivate technical and interpretive skills needed to perform repertoire from contrasting historical periods in accordance with the level and scope expectations (required number of pieces and duration) stipulated in the Music Student Handbook, as demonstrated by successful completion of the repertoire portion of the jury with a grade of "B" or better.
  - Develop performance skills, such as memorization and stage presentation, through the application of practice strategies and creative problem solving, as demonstrated by satisfactory performance participation in piano forum and department recitals; successful completion of the repertoire portion of the jury with a grade of "B" or better.

\*\*\*Students who are not required to perform a jury exam for the piano faculty will be evaluated for progress on technique assignments, repertoire, and other assignments on an individual basis.

12. METHODS USED IN THE COURSE: Ordinarily lesson assignments will include new, continuing and review repertoire as well as technique and memorization assignments. Each week student progress will be evaluated and suggestions for improvement will be offered. A journal of daily practice must be kept on a Google Drive document shared by the student and the professor. Each week, the professor will put practice assignments on the document for the next lesson. The practice journal will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the student's progress toward assigned objectives.
13. CLASS PREPARATION: Students studying for one unit of credit should practice six hours per week, six days per week. Students studying for two units of credit should practice at least ten hours per week, six days per week. Piano performance majors and students preparing for Junior/Senior recitals will ordinarily find it necessary to spend additional time at the instrument in order to complete assignments satisfactorily. Practice rooms are available by checking out a key at the music office.
- Students studying for one-unit will be expected to memorize two pieces during the semester. The first piece should be memorized by week eight, the second by week 14. The length of the pieces will vary according to the level and degree concentration of the student. Students who are at a less advanced level will be expected to learn (with music) a number of pieces in addition to the memorized pieces in order to advance their reading and technical skills.

- **\*For piano emphasis majors: The length of the pieces required for your piano jury must add up to the required number of minutes for that level (see attached jury requirement sheet). In addition to jury pieces, you may be given additional pieces/exercises to learn with the music in order to increase your skill/reading level.**

*\*\*For some non-piano music majors, working on the piano proficiency exam may be a part (but not all) of the piano lesson requirements; however, they will still be expected to cover additional repertoire and perform in studio class (at least one piece must be memorized).*

*\*\*For those students interested, a small portion of the lesson may also be devoted to jazz or hymn improvisation, although this will not count for juries. \*If preferred, non-majors may elect to perform one jazz piece and one classical piece for their memorized pieces.*

- Students studying for two units will be required to prepare additional repertoire throughout the semester, and will have longer jury exams as well. These students will be expected to follow a similar schedule of memorization with approximately half of their repertoire prepared by the mid-semester grading deadline.

14. PIANO FORUM: 8-10 piano forums will be held during the semester to enable students to perform, receive coaching, and hear others perform. The required forums are held every Monday from 4-5 (except when there are student recitals). \*See attached student recital and forum schedule.

- **FORUM ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:** Music majors whose primary performance area is piano must attend 7 piano forums. Elective and non-piano music majors must attend at least 4 forums. *\*\*\*All students must attend at least two studio forums as part of this requirement. Attendance at the **ENTIRE CLASS** is required, unless the student has a conflicting class that they have cleared with the professor at the beginning of the semester.*
- **FORUM PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS:** Music majors with a piano emphasis must *perform* on at least *two* combined forums and *two* studio forums. Electives and non-piano majors must perform on at least *two* studio forums. See below for *additional requirements*.

15. ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Music majors with a piano emphasis **MUST** perform in at least one student recital per semester. This is a departmental requirement. Failure to fulfill this requirement will affect your grade.
- **Piano Juries:** Music majors with a piano emphasis, students on a piano scholarship, and anyone wishing to advance a level will take a piano jury at the end of the semester as a final exam. Piano emphasis majors **MUST** take this jury at the end of every semester in order to pass the class; scholarship students must take the jury in order to retain their scholarship. See attached sheet for jury requirements. The jury grade will count significantly toward the average of final grade, although other factors will be considered.
- **All students, both major and non-major must participate in the final studio recital. Time and place to be determined. All students are REQUIRED to attend and perform at least one memorized piece on this recital. Music majors with a piano emphasis must perform all jury repertoire from memory.**

16. COMPETITION OR VOLUNTEER WORK: All music majors who are piano emphasis **MUST** either volunteer for ½ day of community service in a music teacher event OR perform in a piano competition

or festival). \*\*\*Piano performance majors who are sophomores or above MUST participate in a competition *at least* once per year.

*Note: If you choose to do community service, you must contact the event coordinator at least two weeks in advance. Do not call the organizer the day before the event and expect to be accommodated, as this is not professional and does not reflect the values of our PLNU community. Once you commit, please follow through. Failure to follow through with your commitment also reflects poorly both on you as a professional and on the school, and will affect your grade.*

**For possibilities, see:**

- [CAPMT1.org/events.php](http://CAPMT1.org/events.php)
  - [SanDiegoMTAC.com](http://SanDiegoMTAC.com)
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17. EVALUATION: While evaluation of a student's work in private piano is necessarily somewhat subjective, the following criteria will be considered when establishing the semester grade for the course:
- attendance and punctuality
  - filling out online practice journals
  - adequate preparation of lesson assignments
  - appropriate attendance and engaged participation at piano forum and studio classes
  - memorization of required repertoire and progress on additional repertoire and materials assigned by the professor
  - performance of all required recitals and exams
  - Music majors whose primary performing area is piano and non-majors who have a scholarship for piano study are required to take a jury at the end of each term according to the requirements in the catalog. This will figure into the final grade.
18. **Attendance** - Attendance, as is obvious by the grading criteria above, is very important in private piano. According to the *Catalog*, whenever the number of accumulated absences in a class, for any cause, exceeds ten percent of the total number of class meetings, the faculty member has the option of filing a written report to the Vice Provost for Academic Administration which may result in de-enrollment, pending any resolution of the excessive absences between the faculty member and the student. If more than 20 percent of the total number of class meetings is reported as missed (three weeks or longer in a semester-long course), the faculty member or Vice Provost for Academic Administration may initiate the student's de-enrollment from the course without advance notice to the student. For full details, see: [http://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=864#Class\\_Attendance](http://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=864#Class_Attendance)
19. MAKE-UP POLICY: Although I don't do makeups unless I have to miss your lesson, you may miss one lesson without it counting against your attendance grade. Students may change lesson times with another student for a week they need to miss. It is up to the student to arrange the exchange ahead of time and notify the professor. Please save the free "miss" for when you might need it. If your lesson day falls on a school holiday, there will be no lesson that week.
20. RECITALS: Students are encouraged to attend on-campus department sponsored recitals. Check the bulletin boards in the hallways for details. You may also check the school's departmental website for a

schedule of events. Recital attendance (12 per semester) is required of music majors. Each music major must perform on at least *one* student recital once per semester in their major performing area.

21. The final course grade will be based upon these factors:

- FORUM AND PRIVATE LESSON ATTENDANCE: 40%
  - See point #18 for information regarding excessive private lesson absences
- STUDIO AND FORUM PERFORMANCES (NOTE: MAJORS *MUST* PERFORM ON A DEPARTMENTAL RECITAL – FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A TWO-LETTER LOWERING OF THE COURSE GRADE) 20%
- PRIVATE LESSON GRADE 40%
  - Improvement/material covered
  - Preparedness in lessons
  - Online practice log/practice hours
  - Attendance
  - Jury Grade (if applicable)
  - Community Service/Competition (if applicable)

*Note: For those students taking juries: The final grade assigned by the instructor must be no more than one grade higher or lower than that assigned by the jury. **JURY EXAMS ARE SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY OF FINALS WEEK. MUSIC MAJORS MUST TAKE A JURY TO PASS THE CLASS.** \*Jury repertoire and technique expectations for music majors with a piano emphasis are listed in the Music Student Handbook. These guidelines are listed by class level and the number of registration units.*

22. GRADING: The following percentage scale will be used in figuring grades:

93-100% = A  
90-92% = A-  
87-89% = B+  
83-86% = B  
80-82% = B-  
77-79% = C+  
73-78% = C  
70-72% = C-  
67-69% = D+  
63-66% = D  
60-62% = D-  
0-59% = F

23. **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS.** All students are expected to meet the standards for this course as set by the instructor. However, students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should discuss options with the instructor during the first two weeks of class and provide approved documentation and verification of need. The Academic Support Center is available to students for a variety of tutorial needs.

24. FERPA POLICY: In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publically posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (each faculty member choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission; or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic roster.). Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the "Information Release" section of the student portal. See Policy Statements in the undergraduate student catalog

## : **Piano Juries – Revised 1/12/15**

### **I. Technical Requirements**

#### MUA 156

Semester 1: all major scales, 4 octaves two hands in parallel motion in sixteenth notes, quarter = 60 for non-recital degrees, quarter = 100 for performance and music education majors (piano emphasis)

Semester 2: all major and minor (harmonic and melodic) scales, 4 octaves two hands in parallel motion in sixteenth notes, quarter = 80 for non-recital degrees, quarter = 120 for performance and music education majors (piano emphasis)

#### MUA 256

Semester 1: all major key arpeggios (major triads in root position, inversions and their dominant sevenths) 4 octaves two hands in parallel motion in sixteenth notes, quarter = 60 for non-recital degrees, quarter = 88 for performance and music education majors (piano emphasis)

Semester 2: all major and minor key arpeggios (major and minor triads in root position, inversions, their dominant and fully-diminished sevenths in root position) 4 octaves two hands in parallel motion in sixteenth notes, quarter = 72 for non-recital degrees, quarter = 104 for performance and music education majors (piano emphasis)

#### MUA356

Semester 1: select an etude from MTAC Certificate of Merit Advanced Level list (see attached)

Semester 2: No technical requirement

#### **MUA 456**

No technical requirement

### **II. Time and Repertoire Requirements (all repertoire must be memorized)**

- ***Music majors meeting degree requirements and piano scholarship students must take juries except in the semester of a degree recital.***
- ***Students who have completed their degree requirements and who are not on scholarship do not have to take a jury. Note: Students must take a jury in order to have MUA 156, 256, 356 or 456 count towards their degree.***

- ***Students who are not required to take 2-units of private piano and do not wish to meet the jury requirements of the 256, 356 or 456 levels may enroll for 1-unit at their assigned level and meet the specified jury requirements and then enroll for a 2nd unit at the 156 level.***

### MUA156

Semester 1: 10 minute jury slot for all students; **2 contrasting pieces**

Semester 2:

- 10 min. jury slot for 1 unit of registration; 2 contrasting pieces
- *15 min. jury slot for 2 units of registration; 10 minutes of repertoire*

### MUA256

- 10 min. jury slot for 1 unit of registration; 2 contrasting pieces.
- 15 min. jury slot for 2 units of registration; 15 min. of repertoire

### MUA356

Semester 1:

- 10 min. jury slot for 1 unit of registration; 10 min. of repertoire in addition to the etude.
- 15 min. jury slot for 2 units of registration; 15 min. of repertoire in addition to the etude.

Semester 2:

- 10 min. jury slot for 1 unit of registration; 10 min. of repertoire
- 15 min. jury slot for 2 units of registration; 15 min. of repertoire

### MUA456

- 15 min. jury slot for 1 unit of registration; 15 min. of repertoire
- 20 min. jury slot for 2 units of registration; 20 min. of repertoire



## FORUM/STUDENT RECITAL SCHEDULE

- 9/1 Barbecue at Dr. Labenske's home: 828 Temple St. San Diego, CA 92106 Phone: (619) 602-1690
  - 9/7 LABOR DAY – no forum
  - 9/14 Forum – Crill Hall
  - 9/21 Studios Meet Separately: Labenske: Parlor Martin: CMC115 or Studio
  - 9/28 Forum – Crill Hall
  - 10/5 Student Recital 1
  - 10/12 Forum – Crill Hall
  - 10/19 Studios Meet Separately: Martin: Parlor Labenske: CMC214 (Studio)
  - 10/26 Forum – Crill Hall
  - 11/2 Student Recital 2
  - 11/9 Crill Hall
  - 11/16 Studios Meet Separately: Labenske: Parlor Martin: CMC or Studio
  - 11/23 Student Recital 3
  - 11/30 Forum – Crill Hall (CMC115)
  - 12/7 Student Recital 4
  - 12/9 Piano Proficiency Exam (music majors only) Wednesday afternoon (sign up for a time)
  - 12/12 Final Studio Class at Professor Martin's home (required) Time: \_\_\_\_\_
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