



Meeting days: TBA	Professor Brenda Martin, Instructor
Meeting times: TBA	Phone: (858)752-3532 cell
Meeting location: CMC220	E-mail (preferred): brendamartin@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: There is no final exam, as this is a private lesson, but all students will perform for each other on a final studio class.	Office location: CMC220 Hours: by appointment
Additional info: This course is taught as a private lesson in piano, and meets ½ - 1 hour per week at a time arranged with the professor.	

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION IN CATALOGUE:

MUA156 Private Piano (1-2): Private, applied instruction in a performing area 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. (See Music Student Handbook in the Department of Music office). Students are assigned to a level according to their proficiency and mastery of materials listed for a given level. "C" Designation is for Commercial Music.

MUE156c Section 2: Private piano lessons in beginning/intermediate improvisation. Topics covered include interpreting basic lead sheets, chords and piano voicings, improvising, and accompanying in pop, jazz, and worship styles. May include some transcriptions or jazz/pop style solos.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Although specific goals will vary according to the level and interests of each private student, by the end of the semester each student demonstrate the ability to look at a basic lead sheet and play in several of these ways:

- Play the melody with the right hand while comping with chords in the left hand
- Improvise new melodies over the chord changes while comping with the left hand
- Create basic solo keyboard arrangements from lead sheets or hymns
- Create simple two-hand accompaniments to accompany singing or instrumental solos in pop, jazz, or worship style, or a mixture
- Play all major, minor, diminished, and augmented triads in all inversions
- Play these types of seventh chords in root position and inversion (Major, minor, diminished)
- Play simple to more complex ii-V-I progressions in several keys

TOPICS COVERED

The following topics will be covered, depending on the level and needs of the student:

- Triads and inversions
- Blues scales and chords
- Seventh chords and ninth chords in root position and inversions
- Arpeggio patterns
- Scales
- Chord extensions
- Altered chords
- Shell voicings
- Left hand voicings for comping
- Two-hand chord voicings and comping
- ii-V-I's in major and minor, in 7th and 9th chord voicings
- Spread voicings/Drop 2 voicings
- Major scales and selected jazz modes
- Playing by ear
- Basic arranging of hymns

REQUIREMENTS

Lead Sheet Performances

By the end of the semester, each student is expected to complete and perform three to five lead sheets or hymns in several of the ways described above. The student may choose to do a mixture of praise choruses/hymns, pop lead sheets, jazz standards or even one or two transcriptions, or may choose to stick with one genre. Because the styles overlap, there may be a jazz element to some of the praise and worship playing. Everyone will be expected to learn some basic chord progressions, jazz modes, and do some basic improvisation.

Jam Sessions

There will be two-three jam sessions during the semester. These times are required and will be arranged and agreed upon after the start of the semester. The first one will be around mid-semester (time TBA), and the final jam session will be combined with MUA156-256 and will be held Saturday, April 27 from 3:00 – 5:00 at the home of the Martins, 3787 Belford Street, San Diego, CA 92111. Students will play charts they are working on and new material may be presented.

Listening

- Because listening is such a vital part of learning to improvise, it will be a part of your preparation
- You will be given listening assignments from time to time and will be expected to listen and document your listening.
- Each student must attend at least three off-campus concerts; at least one should be jazz related, and the other can be pop or praise related. They must feature keyboard. We will probably take a trip to “Dizzy’s” as a group. Students will be expected to turn in a one-page, double-spaced typewritten reflection on each concert.

HOMEWORK AND ASSESSMENT

Each student should practice 2-3 hours per week outside the lesson for each unit. This practice will include working out exercises, working on lead sheets, and working on technique. An additional 1-2 hours per week should be spent listening to assigned recordings.

GOOGLE DOC

Homework will be assigned via a shared google doc that I will set up for each student and also through CANVAS. The student will be expected to record practice hours each week, a brief summary of what she/he practiced, and any questions he/she may have. The professor will include links to items of interest, so please check it frequently. This google doc will be used to assess the student's grade at the end of the semester. Please check CANVAS regularly for upload assignments for listening and concert attendance upload assignments and due dates.

DATES

- JAM SESSION 1: Week of Feb 18
- JAM SESSION 2: Week of March 18
- JAM SESSION 3: (Final – required) 12/8 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Martin home (3787 Belford Street San Diego, CA 92111)

REQUIRED TEXTS

Repertoire and textbooks will be assigned individually and must be ordered promptly and brought to the second lesson. If repertoire is assigned, it is REQUIRED.

Types of materials assigned:

- A fake book. The type and difficulty will be determined at the first lesson. *Note: In the event a student chooses to learn a lead sheet that is not in his/her fake book, she/he may download the lead sheet from Hal Leonard or from Music Notes. The cost is around \$1.
- A method book (or two): The appropriate method book will be selected and assigned at the first lesson.
- SongSelect: If the student wants to work on praise and worship music, the professor will download some charts from SongSelect through the university license.
- Metronome
- IReal (an app for iPhone or iPad): (required for jazz students) This is a wonderful practice resource, and a very good to practice tool. I strongly recommend it, especially if you are working on jazz. It is good for practicing other styles as well.

Attendance: 25 %	A=93-100
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Jam sessions 20%	A-=92-90
3 Concerts: 10%	B+=87-89
Listening: 20%	B=83-86
Weekly practice and improvement (lead sheets and exercises learned): 25%	B-=80-82
TOTAL: 100%	C+=77-79

- **Required:** 3-ring binder (best) or folder, staff paper (www.freestaffpaper.com) and notebook paper in the binder, and room to place any handouts given at the lesson.
- A way to record the lesson (it is easiest way to remember improvisational lessons).

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

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PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at DRC@pointloma.edu. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after

that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

***MARTIN STUDIO MAKEUP POLICY**

I don't generally do makeups unless I have to miss your lesson. You may, however, switch with another private student if you have to miss, but you must arrange it and notify me ahead of time. Missing your lesson without notifying me will result in a reduced grade, as will habitual absences. Please be prompt and faithful in your attendance.