



Great Opportunities for Piano Lessons for Students with Broken Arms or Other Injuries

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Piano lessons are jam packed with so many areas of learning that all concepts, styles, genres, can not begin to be covered in a thirty-minute time frame. Many teachers today normally incorporate games into the piano lesson. While there are still serious teachers who exist and spend all their time on the details and nuances of a perfect performance, leaving no time in a thirty- or forty-five-minute lesson for anything else. The addition of games in the studio can assist in retaining knowledge of concepts by providing markers in the brain which link a specific concept with a good memory of having fun, resulting in better retaining anything from note names to composer birth and death dates.

Having a broken arm or other injury can actually provide wonderful opportunities for the student that normally would be lost due to time constraints and performance deadlines.

Here is a list of those such opportunities which include “off the bench” activities.

Getting a student off the bench for learning from time to time can have beneficial effects. Movement in music helps a student feel the beat better. The beat is the most important concept in music because it is the heartbeat of the music. About 4 percent of the general population is beat deaf resulting in no steady beat and changes of tempo that are so random it could make a person dizzy rather than dance.

Young Students, Beginners or Really Just Any Age or Piano Level

1. “Off the bench activities”
2. Games (There are many books and websites full of piano student games of all kinds) Games will help a student remember a concept better because they are having fun. Games provide a mental bookmark which connects a concept to a pleasant memory.
3. Movement to feel the beat (Dalcroze Eurhythmics)
4. Conducting Patterns (also good for rhythm)
5. Games can strengthen weak areas which need extra drill anyway.
6. Games can emphasize, theory concepts such as note names (Note Speed) found on Piano Pronto
7. Learning Rhythm patterns (Many games for this as well. Plus, rhythm and/or the beat, is the number one most important concept in music. And some people just never “get it”.)
8. Card games, board games, movement games, group games.

Other Opportunities

1. Intervals and ear training.
2. Solfege and hand signs
3. Music History
 - a. Dates
 - b. Styles
 - c. Culture
 - d. Composers
4. A more in-depth study of rhythmic or melodic dictation.
5. Composer biographies' and the pieces they wrote.
6. Learning how to listen. Most students do not know how to listen. Entire books are written on this subject.
7. For those who live in Texas:
 - a. Theory Test concepts
 - b. World of Music Test study or review
 - c. Student Affiliate Video Projects
 - d. Student Affiliate Poster Projects

Most likely the Video or Poster Projects are something that most students never have the opportunity for participation. The rewards of learning through this type of projects provide memories that last a lifetime.

8. Composition techniques and writing your own piece.
9. Harmonic Analysis of a piece in their repertoire.
10. Historical Analysis of one of their repertoire pieces
11. More details in learning mental memory techniques
12. Now IS the time for introducing a new piece! Especially if the student breaks their Right Hand!
13. Music and the Brain- The benefits of Mental Practice
 - a. Learning and Incorporating Mental Practice and Mental Memory Techniques.
 - b. Analyzing the form of the piece.
 - c. Knowing how each section is the same, similar or different and knowing it now.
 - d. Developing Listening Skills to Increase Technique Abilities without Physical Practice.
 - e. Recognizing and Memorizing chords.
 - f. Shadow Playing from memory
 - g. Writing out your entire piece note by note in detail from memory.
14. Researching specific subjects in music such as how to overcome performance anxiety, music and the brain. The Mozart Connection, the origins of Jazz or many, many various other subjects.

No one wants a broken bone or other injury, but as for as piano, it can certainly provide a world of opportunity.