

Berrien Springs Spring Class offerings 2025

Teacher and Director: Valerie Rumpf, MM

Teacher Phone Number: 269-362-5780

Email: valerie@themusicacademies.com

The Music Academies Private: Independent and Structured lessons taught at the studio or online lessons:

The Music Academies offers structured private in person or online lessons in the following instruments: piano, violin, viola, cello, bass, ukulele, acoustic guitar, chincello, voice, recorder.

Teacher Bio: Valerie Rumpf, MM- (piano, violin, viola, cello, acoustic guitar, voice)- Valerie Rumpf earned her Bachelors (with high honors) and Masters degrees in Music and Composition from Indiana University (SB), having studied under the Toradze Studio instructors in piano, Eric Kus, David Machavariani, and Earle Perez on cello, and Delores Wilson on violin and viola. She is also an accomplished composer and member of ASCAP, ASTA, and MTNA, having had works performed in the US and in Europe. She was also recently awarded the Outstanding Music Teacher Award for 2017 by Steinway & Sons Piano. Valerie is also an enthusiastic orchestra conductor, having studied conducting under Dr. Michael Esselstrom and Dr. Robert Colt at Indiana University, and Bruce Uchimura at Western Michigan University. She currently conducts the New Apostolic Church Orchestra - South Bend District, and the Michiana Chamber Orchestra in Niles, MI. Valerie also continues to compose and arrange music for the various groups she works with, is primary organist/pianist and choir leader at the New Apostolic Church in Niles, and plays cello in the Rumpf Village String Quartet. She also performs privately as pianist in Style, a local professional piano/violin duet.

Course Description: Students will receive musical training for the instruments of their choice. Each student will be taught traditional note reading and chord progressions, musical symbols, correct rhythm identification and counting procedures. Music theory assignments are taught at each lesson and they will learn the history behind the pieces they are learning and will perform. Students will also learn how to compose short pieces to go with their assignments which will help with note recognition. Students will be introduced to a wide variety of musical styles, Classical, Blues, Ragtime, Sacred and modern. Instruction materials used consists of The Alfred series, Baistien, Suzuki and ABC's for strings, Hal Leonard and Mel Bay for guitars and Alfred Basic Percussion for snare drum. Each lesson is 30 minutes in length and will meet once a week for full semester. For times please contact Valerie Rumpf at The Music Academies.

Course Outline: Days and times vary depending on each individual student. Each week students will be given assignments based on their individual level of performance. Each student will be given assignments to be practiced at home on at least 5 days of the week. On a weekly basis the instructor will have the student play his or her pieces and correct any errors, give examples of how to play their pieces correctly to encourage progress and learning in both physical skills and musical concepts. Students will review with the instructor on a weekly basis musical notation, rhythm patterns and theory assignments to ensure they are making progress. Students will perform in a fall or spring recital, dates to be determined.

Pre/Post Evaluation details: At the beginning of the semester each student will be given a short song to sight read with a grade between 1 and 10, with 1 the least proficient and 10 the highest score. At the end of the semester they will replay the same piece to show advancement in their abilities and playing skills. This will not be the final grade.

Grading scale will consist of the following 1-4 scale.

- 4- above target/expectations
- 3- on target/expectations
- 2-below target/expectations
- 1-off target/expectations

Grades are determined in the following way:

Instructor Input: Teacher will assign a recommended grade based on the scale above. This accounts for 90% of the overall grade.

Attendance: Students are required to attend at least 80% of their scheduled times. This accounts for 10% of their overall grade.

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The Music Academies Group classes: The Music Academies offers structured group lessons in the following instruments: piano class, violin, viola, cello, ukulele, acoustic guitar, chincello, voice/ choir, recorder choir, hand chimes, String Orchestra Ensemble and Symphonic Orchestra. Please call for availability of classes.

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Course: KiddyKeys:
Day: Monday 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Level: Beginning Level 1A
ages: 5 -6 year olds:

KiddyKeys is a multi-faceted approach to learning music at a young age. This course emphasizes creativity and self-worth to introduce music appreciation and understanding to young children. Students will learn basic note reading, rhythm notation, musical symbols. Students will learn how to play simple songs on the piano. Students will need to have access to a keyboard or piano. This class teaches the young child hand-eye coordination through use of rhythm instruments and piano technique, with a dedicated music time focusing on composers and listening skills.

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January 13: Introduction to class hand out books learn beginning notes and patterns

January 20: Basic Music Theory: Learn the letter names to the line and spaces for both bass and treble clef. Learn the basic rhythms using notation for the eighth note, quarter note, half-note and whole note patterns and the rests.

January 27: review of letter names and music notation. Beginning rhythm patterns through the use of hand drums and drumming patterns. Finding Two black keys and three black keys.

February 3, 10: review of the music notation, rhythms patterns, proper counting. Finding middle C, D E on the piano

February 17, 24: review of the music notation, rhythms patterns, proper counting. Introduction to piano/keyboard technique.

March 3, 10: music notation review, rhythm patterns, proper counting; C, D, E, and A, B, C. Learn musical symbols for Forte and Piano.

review songs from the previous week.

March 17, 24: review of the music notation, rhythms patterns. Play basic songs and scales on piano/keyboard. Review of Forte and Piano.

March 31: review of music notation, rhythm patterns; play musical pieces learned. begin learning about Beethoven and Ode to Joy. Beginning composition of our own pieces to play. notation, rhythms patterns, proper counting. Review notes reading from the staff.

April 7: No Class Spring break

April 14: Pick out recital pieces

April 21, 28: review of music notation, rhythm patterns, musical play musical pieces learned. Review Beethoven and Ode to Joy.

May 5: review of the music notation, rhythms patterns. Work on recital pieces. Learn about performance and techniques.

May 12: review of music notation, rhythm patterns, learning new pieces to play on the piano. Review performance procedures.

May 26 Holiday no class

June 2: Recital day!

10 question to be answered at the end of the semester:

- 1). Name each type of note. Example will be given**
 - 2). Name each type of rest. Examples will be given to choose from.**
 - 3). How many beats does each note receive? Examples will be given to choose from.**
 - 4). Identify the following dynamics: Examples will be given to choose from.**
 - 5). What does a time signature tell us about the piece**
 - 6). What are the names of the Treble clef lines**
 - 7). What are the names of the Bass clef spaces**
 - 8). What are the names of Treble clef spaces**
 - 9). What are the names of the Bass clef lines**
- We use the black keys to play what type of notes?**

Pre/Post Evaluation details: At the beginning of the semester each student will be given a short song to sight read with a grade between 1 and 10, with 1 the least proficient and 10 the highest score. At the end of the semester they will replay the same piece to show advancement in their abilities and playing skills. This will not be the final grade.

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Attendance: Students are required to attend at least 80% of their scheduled times. This accounts for 10% of their overall grade.

Course: KiddyKeys:
Day: Thursday 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Level: Beginning Level 1A
ages: 5 -6 year olds:

KiddyKeys is a multi-faceted approach to learning music at a young age. This course emphasizes creativity and self-worth to introduce music appreciation and understanding to young children. Students will learn basic note reading, rhythm notation, musical symbols. Students will learn how to play simple songs on the piano. Students will need to have access to a keyboard or piano. This class teaches the young child hand-eye coordination through use of rhythm instruments and piano technique, with a dedicated music time focusing on composers and listening skills.

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January 16: Introduction to class hand out books learn beginning notes and patterns

January 23: Basic Music Theory: Learn the letter names to the line and spaces for both bass and treble clef. Learn the basic rhythms using notation for the eighth note, quarter note, half-note and whole note patterns and the rests.

January 30: review of letter names and music notation. Beginning rhythm patterns through the use of hand drums and drumming patterns. Finding Two black keys and three black keys.

February 6, 13: review of the music notation, rhythms patterns, proper counting. Finding middle C, D E on the piano

February 20, 27 review of the music notation, rhythms patterns, proper counting. Introduction to piano/keyboard technique.

March 6, 13: music notation review, rhythm patterns, proper counting; C, D, E, and A, B, C. Learn musical symbols for Forte and Piano.

review songs from the previous week.

March 20: review of the music notation, rhythms patterns. Play basic songs and scales on piano/keyboard. Review of Forte and Piano.

March 27 : review of music notation, rhythm patterns; play musical pieces learned. begin learning about Beethoven and Ode to Joy.

April 8: No Class Spring break

April 15: Pick out recital pieces

April 22, 29: review of music notation, rhythm patterns, musical play musical pieces learned. Review Beethoven and Ode to Joy.

May 6 review of the music notation, rhythms patterns. Work on recital pieces. Learn about performance and techniques.

May 13: review of music notation, rhythm patterns, learning new pieces to play on the piano. Review performance procedures.

May 20, 27: preparing recital pieces to play for recital

June 3: Recital day!

10 question to be answered at the end of the semester:

- 10). Name each type of note. Example will be given**
 - 11). Name each type of rest. Examples will be given to choose from.**
 - 12). How many beats does each note receive? Examples will be given to choose from.**
 - 13). Identify the following dynamics: Examples will be given to choose from.**
 - 14). What does a time signature tell us about the piece**
 - 15). What are the names of the Treble clef lines**
 - 16). What are the names of the Bass clef spaces**
 - 17). What are the names of Treble clef spaces**
 - 18). What are the names of the Bass clef lines**
- We use the black keys to play what type of notes?**

Pre/Post Evaluation details: At the beginning of the semester each student will be given a short song to sight read with a grade between 1 and 10, with 1 the least proficient and 10 the highest score. At the end of the semester they will replay the same piece to show advancement in their abilities and playing skills. This will not be the final grade.

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