

## Northern Wyoming Community College District — Sheridan College

**MUSC 1073 Private Lessons: Piano (2 credits)**  
Spring 2012 • Meeting Day, Time & Location TBA  
Music Department • Fine Arts Division  
course site: [proferickson.com/cke/musc1073](http://proferickson.com/cke/musc1073)  
login: musc • password: 1073

### **Instructor and Contact Information**

Dr. Christian Erickson  
Office: Whitney 107  
Office hours: TBA  
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### **Course Description**

This is a course for students wishing to study piano in a one-on-one lesson setting. Students meet with their instructor for one private (30) thirty-minute lesson each week. Students may continue to enroll in MUSC 1073 Private Lessons: Piano subsequent semesters, earning up to a maximum of 8 credits that can be applied toward a music degree. However, you do not have to be a music major to take this course.

### **Prerequisites**

None

### **Co-requisites**

None

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to develop or expand solo performance and/or accompanying skills through individual instruction, ensemble activities, performance opportunities, and individual practice and study. MUSC 1073 Private Lessons: Piano may be applied as an elective for the Associates of Fine Arts degree in music, or as a general elective for any other degree.

### **Course Format**

Lessons – 30 minutes of lesson time and 120 minutes of arranged practice time per week

### **Grading**

Letter

### **Texts/Materials**

- Beginning Students: Mach, Elyse, *Learning Piano Piece by Piece* (1st ed.). New York: Oxford University Press
- Experienced Students: A text and/or other materials will be selected based on the student's level and abilities.

- Practice piano, either on campus or at home
- Pencils and notebook for recording assignments and notes
- Metronome
- Internet access

### **Minimum Student Outcomes**

Upon completion of MUSC 1073 Private Lessons: Piano, the student will:

- Be familiar with theoretical concepts of music fundamentals
- Execute technique appropriate for his or her level of ability
- Explain approaches to musical works with regard to style and content
- Demonstrate competency in the performance of assigned repertoire

### **Approximate Final Grade Evaluation**

60% — Repertoire Mastery

25% — Technique Mastery

10% — Recital Performance or Jury

5% — Take-Home Written Theory Worksheet (beginners only; this percentage will be added to the recital/jury evaluation for experienced students.)

### **Descriptions of Graded Course Components**

**Mastery of Repertoire:** Over the course of the semester, students will study a variety of pieces encompassing different styles. It is expected that a number of these works will be “mastered” (i.e. learned and practiced to a point where the student can competently perform the piece in public). The amount of repertoire covered will vary depending on the experience and technical level of each student. Regardless, however, the expectation of mastered repertoire for the semester to earn a grade of “C” for this component is five works per semester. A “work” is defined by a piece that is at least a page in length (or two half-page works for absolute beginners). Extended and multi-movement pieces may count as two or more works toward the five-work minimum. To achieve higher grades for this component, students must master additional repertoire.

**Mastery of Technique:** Exercises designed to build strength and agility will be assigned to all students. Typically these exercises will be in the form of five-finger patterns or major and minor scales, but may include arpeggios, chord progressions, and other related practice patterns. A technique test will be administered to students during the second half of the semester to assess proficiency in this area.

**Public Performance:** A vital part of instrumental study is the musical communication of the musician to an audience. Even if you’re taking this course simply for personal growth or enjoyment, it’s important that you share your non-verbal expression with others. This is an essential part of any art, and is particularly applicable to the performing art of music. Students, in consultation with the instructor, will present one piece studied during the semester to an audience. This is typically done by participating in one of the department Recitals (dates and times TBA). Alternative ways of satisfying this requirement may include playing at a jury (a performance exam) for members of the music faculty, or performing at an off-campus, instructor-approved venue.

**Take-Home Written Theory Worksheet:** (A short review test over fundamental theoretical concepts of music and piano performance will be distributed to beginning students around mid-term. This worksheet will be completed as homework and returned to the instructor at the following lesson.)

**Attendance:** While not directly computed into your grade, regular attendance is vital to learning and progress. Students are expected to attend lessons regularly, arrive on time, and stay for the entire session. The Sheridan College Policy and Procedures Handbook states that students enrolled in private lesson music courses must meet with the instructor for a minimum of 14 lessons. Three absences (whether excused or not) may result in the student being force-dropped from the course. Occasionally the academic calendar allows for 15 lessons. In this case, the student can either “skip” a lesson or attend a “bonus” lesson.

### **Absences and Make-Up Policy**

**Excused Absences:** In cases of school-sponsored activities or illness resulting in an absence by the student, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor in advance of the lesson. Absences with advance notice are considered “excused” and may be rescheduled by the student. Make-up lessons for excused absences must be scheduled in advance and completed before the next regularly scheduled lesson.

**Unexcused Absences:** Absences without prior notification to the instructor are considered “unexcused.” These missed lessons cannot be rescheduled.

**Instructor Cancellations:** On rare occasion I may have to cancel a lesson. If such a cancellation occurs, the student may schedule a make-up lesson at a time that is mutually convenient for the student and instructor, or choose to simply be excused from attending the lesson altogether. I will make every effort possible to notify a student in advance of the missed lesson should I be unable to attend.

A temporary grade of “I” or “incomplete” is available to students who cannot finish the course due to an emergency situation that arises late in the semester. The administration of an incomplete is at the instructor’s discretion. Although I can be flexible depending on the circumstances of the student, my general policy is that the student should have at least 75% of the course completed and have a current grade of C or better at the time of the request for the incomplete grade. The incomplete portion of the course must be completed by the end of the semester following the request (summer sessions excluded) or the “I” will revert to an “F.”

### **Northern Wyoming Community College District Policies**

**Academic Honesty Statement:** Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic honesty means performing all academic work without lying, cheating, deceit, plagiarism, misrepresentation, or unfairly gaining advantage over any other student. Violations of academic honesty are in violation of District standards for student conduct and shall result in disciplinary action.

**Disability Statement:** Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center as soon as possible to ensure such accommodations may be implemented.

A complete list of official college policies can be found on the NWCCD website by pointing your browser to this shortcut: **[mcaf.ee/7018c](http://mcaf.ee/7018c)**