

FUN WAYS TO START LESSONS

(or fun things to sprinkle throughout lessons)

9 NOVEMBER 2019

UMTA STATE CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Kimberly Baker

Favorite Websites/Facebook pages/Blogs/Email groups/Podcasts

- Vibrant Music Teaching—Nicola Cantan/VMT Members' Clubhouse Facebook page, blog
- SusanParadis.com (FREE!!!)
- Leila Viss—88 Piano Keys email (88pianokeys.me)
- ComposeCreate.com—Wendy Stevens (occasional FREE materials)
- Sara's Music Studio—Sara Campbell's Facebook page (Videos on YouTube under "Upbeat Piano Teachers" FFL) & Upbeat Piano Teachers Facebook page
- Teach Piano Today—Trevor and Andrew Dow (teachpianotoday.com) (monthly subscriptions for games &/or music)
- MusicMattersBlog.com—Natalie Weber
- GreensideMusic.co.uk

Other Facebook groups/Email

- Piano Teacher Central
- The Art of Piano Pedagogy
- Teaching Group Piano to All Ages
- Kristin Jensen—MyFunPianoStudio
- 4DPianoPianoTeaching.com
- Bradley Sowash
- TimTopham.com—Tim Topham

Favorite Apps

- Note Rush (note reading/playing)
- Music FlashClass (note reading)
- Decide Now (quizzing anything)
- Frozen Ape Tempo (metronome; you can buy additional fun wallpapers for \$1)
- SuperMetronome (metronome)
- Tenuto (notes, intervals, keys, chords, ear training, fretboard, etc.)
- NoteWorks (notes)
- Musiclock (background music for scales)
- MMG (Music Mind Games) Rhythm Solitaire (note values)

Favorite Games/Teaching Materials

- Michiko Yurko—Music Mind Games. Puppy Packet with Blue Jello Cards, grand staff, magic notes, magic wand, letters
- TCW card games
- Bucket Drumming (Leila Viss)
- "Rhythm Menagerie"—Wendy Stevens
- Rhythm Cup Explorations—Wendy Stevens
- Note Speed card game (CNTcreations.com)
- Paper piano keyboard from Daynes
- Beat Blocks (buildingmusicalminds.com)

Rhythm Instruments

Frog rasps, drums, rhythm sticks, egg shakers, handbells, boomwhackers, body rhythm books, xylophones, wrist bells

Note Reading/Intervals

- Wendy Stevens' free flash cards—flip flops, monkeys, winter games, football
- VMT (Vibrant Music Teaching) games by Nicola Cantan
- Interval Wizard by Nicola Cantan

Practice/drilling games & performance practice

- M&Ms Game (or skittles, chocolate chips, mini marshmallows, gummy bears, candy corns)
- Ultimate Memory Challenge (Phil Johnston)
- “Making the Piece Reliable” (Phil Johnston)
- Mr. Potato Head (add an accessory for each 100%)
- Bug/Caterpillar toys (add an arm/leg for each 100%)
- Iwako erasers (for animals, “take a trip” to wherever animal is from for each 100%)

Favorite pedagogy books

- *The Practice Revolution* by Phil Johnston
- *Practiceopedia* by Phil Johnston

Favorite books about composers/music

- *Journey of a Thousand Miles* by Lang Lang
- “Getting to Know the World’s Greatest Composers” series—written and illustrated by Mike Venezia—
Bach, Beethoven, The Beatles, Mozart, Chopin, etc.
- *The Music of Life* (about Bartolomeo Cristofori) by Elizabeth Rusch
- *Never Play Music Right Next to the Zoo* by John Lithgow
- *The Bear and the Piano* by David Litchfield
- *Peter and the Wolf* Illustrated by Peter Malone

Improv/Composition/Playing

- June Christenson—Oh So Virtuoso!
- 40 Piece Challenge

Fun Extras/Other

- Photo booth props
- Always start with something they can be successful at.
- Iwako erasers
- Fun new music
- Christmas gift

Hand Position/Technique Visuals

- Honey beehive
- Igloo
- Squishy toys
- Stress balls
- Turtle
- Tennis ball
- Thinking putty
- Piano Safari animals