



## Welcome to the Piano Department!

### The Piano Department

Across five Levine campuses in NWDC, SEDC, MD-Strathmore, MD-Silver Spring and VA-Arlington, our 50 distinguished piano faculty work with close to 800 piano students including more than 200 adult students. We work with students of all ages and at every stage of learning, from beginners through advanced, and our goal is to instill a life-long love of music in every student.

### Pianos

Levine is an all-Steinway school, and your weekly lessons will take place in a studio with either a Steinway or Boston-Steinway grand piano. We believe the opportunity to work each week on a fine instrument enables our students to learn how to produce beautiful and varied sounds from the very beginning. For practice between lessons, we strongly recommend that students have access to an acoustic piano (non-electric). Please refer to the [Instrument Information for New Levine Piano Students](#) guide for more information.

### Curriculum

Levine's Piano Department Curriculum is uniquely structured, yet flexible, enabling our teachers to address the needs and tailor the instruction of each individual student. Levine's *Keyboard Skills & Sight Reading* books come in Levels Primer – 10 and focus on building a strong technical foundation and fluent reading skills. Students develop musical artistry and find their voice at the piano through the study of repertoire. Each curriculum level features suggested repertoire curated from over 300 years of keyboard music. Generations of students have studied these books, many of them progressing from complete beginners at the piano to well-rounded musicians. **To purchase the *Keyboard Skills & Sight Reading* books, submit the online form [HERE](#).**

[Levine's new Music Theory workbooks and 10-level online courses](#) (launched in 2020) compliment the *Keyboard Skills & Sight Reading* books and provide theory instruction that is synchronized with a student's piano study. The classes are offered to piano students at a discounted rate.

### Studying the Piano

Once lessons begin, it will be important for you to reserve practice time each day to go over the assignments. *Review* and *repetition* are keywords: You will make wonderful progress if you review the assigned keyboard skills and pieces with care, patience, and a willingness to repeat until mastered. Remember that daily practice will result in far more progress—even if brief—than long sessions only a few days a week. Guide for Practice at each level is provided in Levine's *Keyboard Skills & Sight Reading* books.

### Performance Week

Performance Weeks take the place of regular lessons twice a year. We offer various events to fit students' age and level. Your teacher will suggest the best option to fit the stage of your study.

**Introduction to Performance (December and May)** is a casual seminar for beginners to learn about the stage and basics of performing. They will get to see the concert grand piano and practice bowing on stage.

**Beginner Recital (December and May)** is a recital designed for young beginners (Levels Primer - 1). They will receive a certificate at the end.

**Critiqued Recital (December)** is a recital for students Levels 1 and higher. They receive written evaluations from faculty judges.

**Technique Event (December)** is a private session for students Levels 1 and higher. Students present Keyboard Skills and an etude (technical study). They receive a written evaluation from a faculty judge.

**Jury (May)** is a private evaluation for school-aged students to receive a written evaluation and a grade (optional) from two faculty judges. Program is flexible but can consist of a scale routine or etude, 2 repertoire pieces and sightreading. Students who earn *Distinction* are invited to perform at an awards ceremony.

**Certificate Jury (May)** is a private evaluation for school-age and adult students to receive a written evaluation and a grade from three faculty judges. Program consists of 2 scales and etude or 2 etudes, 4 repertoire pieces in contrasting styles and sightreading. Students who earn *Distinction* are invited to perform at an awards ceremony.

**Jazz Jury (December and May)** is a recital for students who study jazz piano. They receive a written a written evaluation from the Jazz Piano Faculty.

**Adult Jury (December and May)** is a private session for adult students. Program is flexible, and there are no repertoire or technical requirements. Written feedback and comments are provided by faculty.

**Advanced Solo Recitals (May/June)** are full-length solo recitals featuring the most advanced students. These students have completed all ten levels of Levine's piano curriculum and received the highest grade of *Distinction* for their Certificate Jury.

### **Campus Student Recitals**

Each campus hosts student recitals for all instruments throughout the year. These are important opportunities for students to gain confidence and experience performing.

### **Theme of the Year**

Each year, the Piano Department focuses on a period of the music history. Throughout the year, students will be able to listen to, learn about, and perform exciting and diverse repertoire related to this era.

### **Dean's List and President's Club**

Students of all ages and levels are eligible to participate in these semester-long enrichment programs that are designed to help them develop into well-rounded musicians and provide a clear goal. Information and applications are available on Levine's website under [Merit Programs](#).