

# Piano Prodigies

*88 Keys, 10 Fingers, No Problem!*

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## **Virtual Piano Lessons... Who Would Have Imagined?**

If you asked me a year ago if I would consider converting to an online studio, my answer would have been a polite, but firm, no. Why would I teach online when I could enjoy the ease of in-person lessons?

It's hard to believe that we've been doing virtual lessons for seven months now. It has been a learning curve (everything from setup, to how to concisely explain feedback through a screen! But I have been pleasantly surprised and relieved at being able to offer this safe and effective option during the pandemic. Students have responded very well; surprising and impressing me with their independence and responsibility as they jot down lesson notes into their scores. And they have made remarkable progress, using their extra time at home to practice.

I look forward to resuming in person lessons when the time is right, but for the time being... let's make the most of virtual lessons and use it as an opportunity for growth!



# Featured Students



## Emelia Ajavon (age 7)

Although she is one of the newest members of Piano Prodigies," she has made quite the splash with her poise, maturity, and expression!

**What is it about piano that you love?** I love everything about playing the piano, but what I love most is playing a new song for the first time. I enjoy not knowing how it's going to sound and working on it until I get to the point of creating a beautiful melody. **Share one of your favorite practice tips...** Playing slowly while reading the notes and then speed it up as you get more comfortable playing the piece. **What your favorite piece to play (and why)?** New World Symphony (Anton Dvorak). I love going from piano to forte throughout the song. **What is your dream piece?** The complete Fur Elise by Beethoven **What's your proudest musical accomplishment?** Playing Jingle Bells in front of a crowd at the Power House Mall. **What do you want to be when you grow up?** I would love to be a middle school art, math and science teacher, as well a pathologist, (a doctor that studies diseases). **Fast fact?** I recently hit a golf ball 100 yards!



## Melodee Yumi Drescher (age 8)

Believe it or not, this Piano Prodigy started lessons before her fourth birthday and is already a seasoned performer!

**What is it about piano that you love?** It calms me down. **What is the hardest challenge you face in practicing and how do you overcome it?** When I get distracted, I lose my focus. I take a break, come back to the piano, take a deep breath and start again. **Share one of your favorite practice tips...** I listen and watch online recordings - you can learn a lot! **What is your favorite piece to play (and why)?** I like Gypsy Flamenco (Catherine Rollin) because it is energetic, intense and fun to play. **What is your dream piece?** Mozart's Rondo Alla Turca or Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No 2. **What's your proudest musical accomplishment?** Learning Beethoven's Für Elise! **What do you want to be when you grow up?** Paleontologist, doctor or a scientist



# Practice Makes Progress: Work Towards the Three C's

**Curiosity:** Are you, the performer, curious about the music in a way that allows you to continue to discover new layers?

**Communication:** Can you share all the contents of the music in a way that if another musician was given a blank copy of the score and had to fill in the articulations, dynamics, phrase markings, etc., it would align pretty closely to what the composer wrote in your copy of the score?

**Conviction:** Can you play in a way that leaves no doubt as to what you are communicating?



## 100 Solos for Piano Prodigies: Here We Go!

An estimated 46% of Americans have taken music lessons, with piano lessons being the most popular choice. Most quit. At some point, every piano student encounters a struggle to stay motivated. There are several factors that will influence if they come out of it: the teacher, their goals, and their perseverance are all important. But, in my experience, the BIGGEST factor that determines whether students will stick with their piano studies is whether they love the pieces they are playing!

I am uniquely suited to write for young pianists. As a pianist and composer, I know what audiences love. As a teacher, I know what students love. I have been honored to write music for my students and have seen the incredible impact the musical "gummy vitamins" have on them.

I'm in the midst of writing, editing, and publishing "100 Solos for Piano Prodigies. Learn more on [gf.me/u/yuhkp6](https://gf.me/u/yuhkp6) - and please help spread the word!





## November 2020 Piano Prodigies Online Recital Program

Bear Brooks:

King of the Woods (Borowsky)

Arjun Greer:

Spanish Caballero (Faber & Faber), The Ice Skaters (arr. Faber & Faber)

Fred Cheng:

The Milky Way (Faber & Faber), Minuet in G (Petzold)

Gala Norton:

Pumpkin Boogie (Faber & Faber), My Detective Agency (Faber & Faber)

Emelia Ajavon:

Pumpkin Boogie (Faber & Faber), The Secret Treasure (Borowsky)

Melodee Yumi Drescher:

Waltz in A minor (Chopin), Etude Espagnole (Rollin)

Nate Holt:

Volga Boatmen (arr. Faber & Faber)

Amica Lansigan:

Nocturne Op. 27 No. 2 (Chopin), Prelude No. 24 (Auerbach)

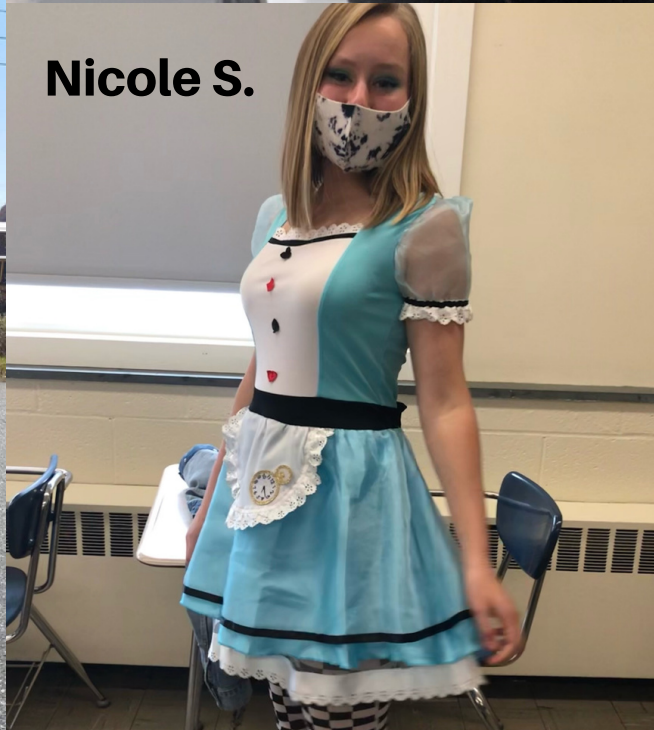
Liana Lansigan:

No Justice, No Peace (Borowsky), The Golden Gate of Kiev (Mussorgsky)

*I encourage you to make this a family "movie premiere" event. Print out the program, set up your home theatre (external speakers encouraged for better sound quality), grab some yummy snacks, and enjoy an incredible recital by current Piano Prodigies students. Feel free to clap, shout "Bravo," and cheer for each performer! Total length: approx. 34 minutes.*

***See email for link!***









## Stay Strong!

These are indeed difficult times! Thank you for your incredible support. I *love* seeing my students each week, and I am thrilled to hear their progress... And, one bonus of virtual lessons: I get to meet your pianos... and your pets!

I am confident that together, we will continue making great progress with your musical education, and explore beautiful and powerful music.

Keep up the great work!  
~Elizabeth Borowsky

## Writers Wanted!

Students and Parents - are you interested in writing for this newsletter? Please contact me - I would LOVE to have you on board to share your advice and experience on practicing, performing, and making the most of your Piano Prodigies experience!

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