

## LAPIS PIANO TUITION

**Although we will be running our 10 week courses again soon we are now offering a full learning programme as a series of shorter modules.**

**Each module has been carefully designed to make learning to play the piano/keyboard a lot easier, more effective and more musical!**

**The modules are designed to lead sequentially with a gap between for the student to absorb and develop each skill area.**

**Please look through the modules and email us;**

piano@lapis.co.uk

**For any further information.**

### **Keyboard Versatility Modules - Summer 2019**

#### **Module 1 – Keyboard Geography**

This module doesn't simply deal with naming of the notes but uncovers some of the crucial ways that individual notes relate to each other and how to get the hands to work effectively at the keyboard.

This module is ideally suited to absolute beginners but some people who have been playing for a while can be a bit foggy about keyboard geography and fingering and this module is useful preparation for any of the modules that follow.

Students are provided with a set of simple, but very powerful, exercises to continue development at the end of the module. Basic scales and harmony are introduced as a primer for module 2. The objectives for this module are for students to have a secure understanding of keyboard geography, note names, good fingering and diatonic intervals.

This module runs for **4** sessions and is available on weekdays and evenings.

**Prices below are for the whole module.**

|              |                 |   |
|--------------|-----------------|---|
| Individual   | £60             | 4 x 1 hour session (with a short break)   |
| Group of two | £50 each person | 4 x 1.5 hour session (with a short break) |

## Module 2 - **Scales and Basic chords**

This module takes a very different approach to what can be, for many, the musical passion killer.

We don't spend vast amounts of time memorising, and practising, individual scales instead we explore the structure of different scales so that the student can unpick and develop them in their own time, and in a musical context.

The student learns how to create different scales based on a solid knowledge of their structure. A far more effective way to use memory. Correct fingering is taught and musical exercises are provided.

Scales covered : Pentatonic, blues, Major, Natural, Harmonic and Melodic minors.

Chords: Students are taught to identify all Major and minor triads (with 7s) using a simple chart, intervals and memory.

The chords are explored in a musical context using a variety of music formats. Particular attention is paid to the most common chord patterns that re-occur in many music forms and genres.

This module runs for **6** sessions and is available on weekdays and evenings.

**Prices below are for the whole module.**

|              |                 |   |
|--------------|-----------------|---|
| Individual   | £90             | 6 x 1 hour session (with a short break)   |
| Group of two | £70 each person | 6 x 1.5 hour session (with a short break) |

If a student intends to do both modules a gap between, of two to four weeks, is recommended for practice and development of module 1 exercises.

Support, via email or phone, is available through the gap and for anything really difficult and additional 'problem solving' session can be arranged.

### Module 3 – **Notation 1**

Learning to read music is far easier once the previous modules have been covered simply because the student will need to look down at their hands less often!

Music notation is two languages rolled into one, pitch and rhythm and in this module they are initially explored separately. At this level we work with 'lead' sheets which contain a main melody as notation on the stave and chord symbols above. By selecting pieces that are familiar we can use our ears to guide us.

Each week a new lead sheet is introduced uncovering another element of music notation. At the end of this module the student should be able to work with any lead sheet using chords covered in module 2.

This module runs for **6** sessions and is available on weekdays and evenings. **Prices below are for the whole module.**

|              |                 |   |
|--------------|-----------------|---|
| Individual   | £90             | 6 x 1 hour session (with a short break)   |
| Group of two | £70 each person | 6 x 1.5 hour session (with a short break) |

## Module 4 - **Chords 2**

This module builds on the chord work in module 2 working towards more expressive playing. Module 2 covered the basic triads (3 note chords) concentrating on how to build and invert them. This module covers extended chords, slash chords and polychords.

Chord symbols at this level can appear quite complex at first however by exploring the structure of the chords they can be made both playable and expressive.

As before lead sheets will be introduced each week to explore new chord types and ways of playing them. This module would particularly suit budding songwriters looking to widen their range and those looking towards various jazz styles.

This module runs for **5** sessions and is available on weekdays and evenings. **Prices below are for the whole module.**

|              |                 |   |
|--------------|-----------------|---|
| Individual   | £75             | 5 x 1 hour session (with a short break)   |
| Group of two | £50 each person | 5 x 1.5 hour session (with a short break) |

## Module 5 – **Introduction to modes and alternative scales**

Of particular interest to songwriters and improvisers this module explores the structure and characteristics of the 'Greek/Church' modes before moving on to modes of the melodic minor.

Stepping out of the Major/minor scale framework allows the student to develop familiarity with a variety of music forms with influences from all around the world.

This module is especially useful for people who wish to play 'by ear' and improvise as the exposure to different scale systems creates a stronger relationship between the ears and the hands.

This module runs for **5** sessions and is available on weekdays and evenings. **Prices below are for the whole module.**

|              |                 |   |
|--------------|-----------------|---|
| Individual   | £75             | 5 x 1 hour session (with a short break)   |
| Group of two | £50 each person | 5 x 1.5 hour session (with a short break) |

## Module 6 – **Notation 2**

This module aims to develop better sight reading skills working through a range of popular and light classic extracts and unravelling some of the more obscure signs and Latin terms.

This module runs for **5** sessions and is available on weekdays and evenings.

**Prices below are for the whole module.**

|              |                 |   |
|--------------|-----------------|---|
| Individual   | £75             | 5 x 1 hour session (with a short break)   |
| Group of two | £50 each person | 5 x 1.5 hour session (with a short break) |

Notes to the keyboard versatility modules.

1. It's important to note that the modules are cumulative. Each module is designed to lead from one to another. Students wishing to book a module should be sure that they are familiar with all the content of previous modules.

**For beginners module 1 is critical.** The keyboard geography method taught is very different to that normally used and is very thorough aiming to make all following learning more effective and more musical.

If in doubt please email to arrange an assessment session.

2. Group or individual?

Apart from a small cost saving sharing the sessions can be very effective. The sessions are friendly and informal and discussing aspects of the modules with other students can be very helpful.

If you want to work in a group of two we will always try to match you up with someone suitable i.e. musical tastes and aspirations, skill levels etc.

3. The learning gap

Each module is designed to introduce and explore a different aspect of piano playing. The emphasis is on equipping students for self-development. Taking a gap after each module to absorb and develop skills, in your own time, allows it to become a musical journey rather than a series of exercises.

4. Learning materials

All the charts, music and notes are provided and copies can be downloaded from the website. If a student wishes to learn a particular piece or style we will find a copy and make notes for it. Students should have their own journal for notes.

## 5. Support

Both during the module and in the gap afterwards students can get support by phone, email or a visit. Sometimes it's helpful to be able to clarify or correct something when in doubt.

## 6. Children

These modules are designed for adults although they have been useful for some younger students supplementing school music studies.

For parents of younger children who want to ensure a good musical development the best advice is to learn yourself!

Creating a musical environment at home is an important part of children's musical growth. We do have special modules specifically to support that...and it's easier than you might imagine!

7. For anything else, please email – [piano@lapis.co.uk](mailto:piano@lapis.co.uk)

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