



Hugo Lambrechts

Music Centre • Musieksentrum
Iziko Lomculo

SUBJECT POLICY: PIANO DEPARTMENT

The Piano Department of the Hugo Lambrechts Music Centre offers piano tuition to school-going learners.¹

Each prospective learner must pass an audition prior to the first lesson.² The audition is a basic assessment to determine the applicant's aptitude for the instrument. Considerations are hand position, posture, and coordination, as well as aural and rhythmic skills and ability.

All learners must have an acoustic piano at home for daily practice. A good quality electric piano or full-size keyboard (88 weighted keys) may suffice, but then arrangements must be made to practise on an acoustic piano from time to time, especially before assessments.

Learners must commit to regular practising and are expected to come to lessons prepared.

Learners receive one individual lesson per week. Lesson times are arranged in accordance with the teacher's availability. The duration of the lesson is determined by the learner's level of playing, but financial factors and availability of time slots also play a role.

During the lesson, all aspects of piano playing are covered thoroughly. These include, but are not limited to, technical development, musical interpretation, sight-reading, and ensemble playing. This happens by means of technical exercises, scales/arpeggios, quick studies, solos, and duets. Although the repertoire can include light music/jazz, the focus of tuition is on Western Classical Music.

Learners are encouraged to take formal theory lessons so that their theoretical ability can support and complement their practical development. High school learners are encouraged to take Music as a subject at FET level.

Ensemble playing contributes to the musical and social interaction of Music Centre learners and offers them the opportunity to learn from other departments and their instruments. Performance, as part of smaller ensembles across departments (e.g., accompaniment of other instruments) as well as within the department (piano duets or trio works), is encouraged when the opportunity arises. Our annual Ensemble Concert gives learners a performance platform to showcase these items.

Learners are assessed bi-annually. A mid-year evaluation takes place in May/June and an end of year Music Centre examination takes place in October/November. School-going learners who choose music as a subject, play a subject examination and the marks are sent to the relevant high school. Our internal examinations are our main assessment tool for learners' progress throughout the year. Other goal-setting opportunities include enrolment in external examinations (UNISA, ABRSM, Trinity) and participation in local eisteddfodau and music competitions as this plays an important role in the musical development and playing maturity of each learner.

We offer regular chamber concerts at the Music Centre and other events such as masterclasses and guest appearances by professional pianists hosted in our Auditorium and encourage learners to perform at at least one of these events per year.

Subject Head: Mrs Byker-Nel
Next revision date: Jan. 2025

Principal: Dr Voges

¹ In the case of adult learners, only current or past pupils are accommodated. Beginner adult students cannot be accommodated because of space constraints.

² Piano lesson vacancies are limited and there is the possibility that prospective learners cannot be placed immediately. In this case we encourage prospective learners to audition for a different instrument, rather than being put on a waiting list.