

Information About the Piano Lessons

About the Lessons and Location - The weekly half-hour private lessons take place in the teacher's home at 5380 Elsinore Way in Fair Oaks 95628. Phone: (916) 863-5579 The home is located about 3 miles directly west of the church (and backs up to Madison Ave). Parents are welcome to stay with their child or children, or can drop them off and pick them up after the lesson. A play room/waiting room is provided. Afternoon or evening lessons are available. Students can be in 2nd grade or older. Adult students are welcome.

What is Being Offered - A full beginner's course of instruction along with the necessary sheet music and instruction books is being offered. There is no time limit on the lessons. Our typical student usually remains with us for three to five years. Some remain longer, some stay for a shorter time. We have openings now for 5 new students. **The 5 highest bidders will fill these openings.** Other bidders will be placed on a **waiting list** and will be contacted for free lessons as openings develop over time. The waiting list will expire next year at the time of the next auction.

About the Music - One of the main goals of the instruction is for students to be able to play from traditional music notation. Because of the extreme difficulty of learning to read this code at the same time as learning to play the piano, students are taught to play with a modest amount of skill before learning to read the traditional notation. This greatly relieves the stress of learning to play and read at the same time. At the beginning of instruction students learn to play from diagrams that show them where to put their fingers on the keyboard to play a song. Students learn to play songs from the very first lesson!

Exercises are used with the instruction, but most of the instruction is focused on playing real songs and piano pieces. These pieces come in great variety. Included are nursery rhymes and other children's songs. gospel songs, hymns, and a variety of music from the classical repertoire.

About the Teacher - John Honeycutt, better known as "Grampa John" to his students is a retired professional musician with a music degree from Wheaton College in Illinois. He has been teaching piano in his home for the past 20 years. (He played trumpet in our orchestra for the past four years, but is now retired from that position. He also sang in our choir for many years and sang in our a cappella choir for the 5 years of its existence under director Gary Jones.) He says that one of the greatest joys in his life is the personal contact that he has with the children that come into his home to play his piano.

Grampa John is the founder and CEO of the Music Innovator's Workshop LLC, begun in 1998. This workshop is located at **www.musicinnovators.com** on the internet. The focus of this website is to present instructional materials and sheet music based on simplified notation systems that he has developed. Most of the materials that he uses in teaching his students are available on this free website. The site presents over two thousand pages of instruction and sheet music. You can also reach the site with the shorter url - **www.kmaps.com**.