

The Piano Department

Our 50 distinguished piano faculty teach over 1,200 piano students, including more than 250 adults. We welcome students of all ages and levels, from beginners to advanced musicians, and strive to foster a lifelong love of music.

Pianos

Levine is an all-Steinway school, and your lessons will take place in a studio with either a Steinway or Boston grand piano. We encourage students to practice on an acoustic (non-digital) piano whenever possible to develop beautiful tone, refine listening skills and expressive playing. Please refer to the **Instrument Information for New Levine Piano Students** on the next page for guidance on selecting an instrument.

Curriculum

Levine's *Keyboard Skills & Sight Reading* books (Levels Primer – 10) develop technical and reading skills through a carefully sequenced curriculum and repertoire spanning more than 300 years of keyboard literature. The books are available on the [Piano Department webpage](#). Students are also encouraged to enroll in Levine's ten-level Music Theory curriculum, offered at a discounted rate for piano students.

Practicing

Daily practice is essential for steady progress and to keep learning fun. Careful review and repetition help build strong skills, and even short daily practice sessions are more effective than longer sessions only a few days each week. Each Keyboard Skills & Sight Reading book includes practice guidelines for that level.

Performance Week

Performance Weeks replace regular lessons twice each year and provide students with meaningful performance and assessment opportunities appropriate to their age and level. Your teacher will recommend the event that best supports your musical development.

Introduction to Performing & Beginner Recital (Fall & Spring)

A relaxed seminar and recital experience designed for school-age students in Levels Primer–2.

Critiqued Recital (Fall)

A recital for students in Levels 2 and above. Faculty judges provide written comments and constructive feedback.

Technique Event (Fall)

A private assessment for students in Levels 2 and above. A faculty judge evaluates technical skills and provides written feedback.

General & Certificate Juries (Spring)

Private performance assessments for students in an examination format. Students who earn Distinction are recognized at an awards ceremony.

Adult Jury (Fall & Spring)

A private performance assessment for adult students. Faculty judges provide written feedback.

Advanced Student Recital (Spring)

A featured solo recital showcasing students who complete the Level 10 Certificate Program with Distinction in all areas.



Instrument Information for Piano Students

We are excited to welcome you to the Piano Department at Levine!

Acoustic Pianos

We strongly recommend that students have access to an acoustic piano (non-electric piano) for regular practice.

- A small upright piano with 88 keys is perfectly suitable for a beginning pianist.
- Acoustic pianos range in size and price from studio uprights to baby grands and full-size grand pianos.
- Pianos may be purchased new or pre-owned.
- Upright pianos may also be rented, which can be a wonderful option for beginners who are just trying out the instrument.

Space: A digital or upright piano generally requires approximately **5' × 5' of space**, including room for the bench and the pianist. Grand pianos require additional space depending on their size.

Piano Purchases and Rentals

Steinway Pianos — new, pre-owned, and rental pianos

Matthew Bachman: (443) 417-3326

mbachman@steinwaypianodc.com

Many students have also found inexpensive—and, in some cases, free—used pianos through Craigslist or other online marketplaces. Our head piano technician, Paul Jacques, can help evaluate a used piano.

Paul Jacques: (240) 353-1442

pjacques@levinemusic.org

Digital Pianos

A digital piano can be a space-saving, cost-effective option for a complete beginner. However, practicing exclusively on a digital piano may limit progress beyond the late-beginner and early-intermediate levels.

If you purchase a digital piano, your student will need:

- 88 weighted keys
- A sustaining pedal
- A proper stand or furniture-style base
- A bench at the correct height

For convenience, the following complete packages are good options for students getting started:

- [Yamaha P-143 Digital Piano Bundle](#)
- [Casio CDP-S160 Essentials Bundle](#)
- [Yamaha P-225 Digital Piano Bundle](#)
- [Yamaha Arius YDP-105](#)

When purchasing online, please check that the package includes a stand or furniture-style base, a bench, and a sustain pedal. Product availability and package contents may change.

We welcome your questions and are happy to help guide you through this exciting time!

Upright Piano



Digital Piano



Grand Piano

