

# The Classy Keys Music Note



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**To submit your thoughts or ideas**  
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Each month there will be new features or words added to this game page.  
**[www.classykeys.net](http://www.classykeys.net)**

## Questions and Answers

### 1. What is a good age to start music lessons?

Music teachers will argue this question. I think the younger the better. I would say 3 or 4 years old depending on the child and the teacher. The theory of music is much like school. School aged children don't like having extra things to write, so the theory of the music gets lost. Younger children love to write and draw, so they will absorb the theory behind the music with a lot of enthusiasm. Please remember though, that music is a good thing to learn no matter what age you are.

### 2. How often should a student practice their music lesson?

Any amount of practice is a good thing. However, the more often the student practices the better they become. So, 1 hour, 1 day a week is not as good as 15 minutes everyday of the week. I practiced 30 minutes each day Monday through Friday and my parents gave me the weekend off from practice. In 4 years I was playing just about any song that was put in front of me.

### 3. What should I look for when picking out a piano teacher?

Look on page three for an article on this question.



If you have a question you would like answered by Catherine please email her at [miss\\_cathy@classykeys.net](mailto:miss_cathy@classykeys.net)

## Welcome Back To School

**Welcome Back To School!!!** I hope you have a wonderful year of learning and growing and making new friends and having new and wonderful experiences.

Some of you will be going to school in the school you were in last year, others will be going to new schools, and some of you will be having school in your home. Wherever you are learning, have a wonderful time! While you are embarking on your new school year, we at Classy Keys are embarking on a new adventure. We will be hosting a new magazine called "The Classy Keys Music Note". Please read and enjoy, and write to us, and be an active part of the adventures of this magazine.

This magazine is for you. Please make it your own.

Your Magazine's Editor: Catherine Imbert  
Contact Catherine at [miss\\_cathy@classykeys.net](mailto:miss_cathy@classykeys.net)

### Contest:

Write lyrics that would fit the Thanksgiving theme. The lyrics should be sung to a tune everyone knows such as Mary Had A Little Lamb, or Row Row Row Your Boat. Submit your lyrics to: [contests@classykeys.net](mailto:contests@classykeys.net) The best lyrics, in each age group, describing Thanksgiving and fitting the tune will be listed in the November issue of this magazine. Deadline is October 31, 2008. Remember to tell us which song is the tune for your lyrics.

## Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

Music helps with self esteem and self discipline as well as school subjects.

Listen to music with your child everyday.



For musical activities to do with your preschooler go to our website, [www.classykeys.net](http://www.classykeys.net)  
Look under lessons and then preschool music.

This magazine is a new monthly magazine that can be find on The Classy Keys website. If you have any suggestions, questions, or interesting musical stories to tell us, please contact us at:

[themusicnote@classykeys.net](mailto:themusicnote@classykeys.net)

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

## What To Look For In A Piano Teacher

By Catherine Imbert

The piano is a beautiful instrument both to look at and listen to. When someone decides to take lessons on the piano, they don't know what it is they are looking for in style, technique, or teachers. And sometimes they wonder if they should learn on their own, or get a teacher. This article will hopefully help you in your decisions.

I find two common problems in deciding to teach yourself piano. First, if you have a question there is no one there to answer it for you, and you usually end up doing something wrong with no one there to correct it. In the end, it is harder to break bad technique than to do it right the first time. Second, creative people have a tendency to not stay focused. If we have someone there to 'make' us do what it is we wanted to do in the first place then we stay on task. We really do need that help to stay focused. I say this from my own experience, both as a creative person and as a teacher of creative people. So, if we have a teacher we tend to stay more focused.

Two of the most important studies at the piano are fingering and counting. Without correct fingering, your playing will sound choppy. Without counting the song will be unrecognizable, and you will not be able to play with a singer or band. Not all piano teachers insist on fingering or counting. If yours does not, ask him/her to insist on correct fingering and counting.



## Elementary School Aged Children

### A Cappella - What is it?

By Catherine Imbert

Let's talk about a cappella music. A cappella music is music sung without any accompaniment. What does that mean? It means that the only instrument you hear is a voice or a group of voices.

Have you heard of Barber Shop Quartets? These groups usually sing four part harmony without any instrument accompanying them. It might be fun to look up about Barber Shop Quartets and where and how they got their start.

A cappella music was originally used in religious services. The Gregorian chant is an example. Sample sounds of the Gregorian chants. Even though you might not understand their language can you tell what they are singing about and how it makes them feel?

Take time to investigate a cappella music. Maybe even write your own a cappella song.

This magazine is a new monthly magazine that can be find on The Classy Keys website. If you have any suggestions, questions, or interesting musical stories to tell us, please contact us at:

## Middle and High Years A Bit About Band

By Catherine Imbert

In middle school and high school a student gets the opportunity to sing in a chorus or learn a band instrument. Many schools work with local music stores to bring rental instruments to students wanting to learn about musical instruments.

Your parents should expect you to learn the basic elements of music. This includes the ability to read, write, and interpret music. Listen to all types of music. This way you get an appreciation for the historical and expressive qualities of music. Which will make you better at your chosen musical instrument.

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# Studying Treble Clef Notes C, D, and E

By Catherine Imbert



This can be played by many instruments.

**Have Fun!**

Find out why "middle C" is called "middle C".