

## **COURSE OUTLINE: Instant Piano**

Contrary to popular belief, anyone can learn to play by ear. This workshop shows you the inside secrets professional piano players use (but seldom reveal). You'll learn how to pick tunes right out of your head. You'll learn how to get songs off the radio (think of the money you'll save in sheet music). You'll even learn how to transpose. This workshop goes beyond mere "ear training." You'll get information found nowhere else, and you'll be picking out tunes by ear--with both hands--from the very first day.

Open to all musicians (not just piano players) who have a basic understanding of chord theory.

Topics include:

- How to find the starting note
- How to hear chord changes
- How to predict the correct chord progression
- How chords help you find the correct melody
- How the melody helps you find the correct chords
- How to learn songs from recordings in all keys
- How to use the Circle of Fifths
- How to recognize the most common chord patterns
- How to transpose from one key to another

### **II. COURSE CONTENT:**

#### **A. Major objectives**

1. Knowledge and understanding of these elements of theory:
  - a. Scales and key signatures
  - b. Numerical chord system
  - c. Transposition
2. Identification of the above elements in popular songs
3. Developing transposing skills
4. Memorization of common chord progressions
5. Aural recognition of chord progressions
6. Mastery of exercises to facilitate playing of common progressions

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#### **B. Unit titles**

1. Theoretical foundation of "ear" playing
  - a. Scales
    - 1) Twelve major scales

- 2) Relation to key signatures
- 3) Method of practice
- 4) Identification of scale degrees
- b. Numerical chord system
  - 1) Numbering chords in any key
  - 2) Description of terminology and nomenclature
  - 3) Identification of non-scalar chords
- c. Transposing
  - 1) Why there is a need
  - 2) How to use scales in transposition
  - 3) Exercises and patterns for practice
- 2. Putting theory into practice
  - a. Common chord progressions
    - 1) What they are
    - 2) Recognizing them in songs
    - 3) How to practice for them
  - b. Using the Circle of Fifths

### **III. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

- A. Lecture and demonstration
- B. Student home practice, using prerecorded audio CD as guide

### **IV. MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION:**

- A. Instructor supplies workbook and audio CD (materials fee)
- B. Student to use CD player at home at their own pianos
- C. Student given guidelines for home practice