

AMANDA HANDEL

A.Mus.A. (1979)
A.T.C.L. Teacher's Diploma (1983)
MTA. NSW Full Accreditation (1985)
AMC Composer Full Representation (1999)
Masters' Hons. Composition (2003)
BodyMinded Practitioner Certification:
Alexander Technique (2019)

18 Fifth Ave
Katoomba 2780
Mob: 0410 312 386
Ph: 4705 8044
amandala4@gmail.com

2022 Teaching Agreement with AMANDA HANDEL Part A

MY COMMITMENT & PROFESSIONAL CREDO

Making music enriches our lives and extends our cultural experiences. It is an intrinsic part of being human. Studying music enables us to explore our innate creative and imaginative selves. It helps us develop our identities as it provides a channel for personal expression. Furthermore, the performance of music equips us with skills to face other challenging situations we may encounter in life.

As a teacher I seek to imbue my students with a life-long love of music. I consider and work with each student as a unique being, with individual musical interests and abilities different from anybody else's. I seek to create a learning environment which fosters experimentation and discovery in my teaching practice.

I am dedicated to ongoing professional development and I regularly attend, and sometimes give presentations at music pedagogy seminars and conferences. For many years I have also been involved in the practise and study of Alexander Technique. This is a psycho-physical approach to human movement which enables us to develop conscious control and co-ordination of ourselves as we play and learn. I employ these principles indirectly with delicacy and care whilst nurturing a strong and healthy piano technique in my students.

Whether you are an adult or a child student, my objectives are to awaken your creativity, improve your sound, explore your spontaneity and deepen your artistry through making music.

INVOLVEMENT OF PARENT/S

Enrolling your child demonstrates the importance you place on including music in their education. Children and teenagers need active support and interest from their parents to ensure that they follow the path towards realising their natural potential.

Learning to play the piano is a solitary pursuit, so children and teenagers need help with motivation and organisation at home. To encourage your child, you will need to arrange the household in ways that invite and ensure daily piano playing. Although they may resist your help in practising, children and teenagers need your interest and involvement, if no more than being an appreciative listener in their practice sessions.

To ensure your child achieves their best, I ask for your co-operation with me and my studio policies. Please guide your child/teenager through the commitments that I ask of all my students - outlined over the page.

STUDENT COMMITMENT (children & adults)

To play the piano fluently means you will need to play the piano a lot - almost every day. While my task is to guide you through your journey, your role is to take active charge of your learning. Practising with intention is essential to making good progress. Here are some things you need to remember to do.

These actions guarantee you'll make progress and experience great pleasure in playing the piano.

- Be proactive in the learning process by asking me questions or writing them down in your piano journal. There are many ways to approach something new, so if you're having trouble don't be afraid to ask me to show it to you in a different way.
- Talk to me as you learn because teaching and learning is a two-way interaction. Tell me what you really love about playing the piano and what you want to achieve in the short term, and what you'd like for the future so I can help you to realise your dreams.
- Feel free to explore things by yourself at home. For example, try learning a new piece by yourself or make up one of your own - perhaps write a song. You could invent an exercise, or vary one you already know. I love seeing initiative and hearing new creations.
- Bring all the books we are working from to every lesson - including a manuscript book and the practise journal for note taking. If I lend you any of my music, please return it promptly - in the plastic protective envelope which I usually provide.
- Play newly taught material as soon as possible after the lesson. Read the instruction notes every practice session at home. Adult and advanced students: to be effective in learning you need to list your objectives and make reminder notes during and/or after your lessons.
- Play the piano almost every day. Practise for at least the time I have recommended as the minimum suitable for your age and level. I suggest scheduling special times and days to play and keeping a running chart in your journal recording how many minutes you've played each day.
- Be sure to cover every section of your personal Practice Routine (beginners see *Key In* book p2). Please don't limit your practise sessions to playing only whatever we covered in the last lesson.
- If you decide to do an exam you need to accept personal responsibility for preparing every section of the syllabus. Be sure to learn new things thoroughly the first time they are introduced, then keep them going independently in your practise. For best exam results you'll need to be conscientious, well-organised and practise consistently throughout the whole year. It's up to you!
- Adult and advanced exam students need to purchase their own copy of the syllabus to be aware of all the requirements involved. Ask me for extra help if there are any areas which are difficult for you.
- Come to every lesson we have booked in for the term. Think about the best way to get the most out of your time with me in the lesson. Arrive with something you're keen to show me, and have something ready in mind that you'd like to ask me. Be active in your learning!

Looking forward to working together this year,
Amanda Handel