

Ideal Musical Timeline

All ages are approximate.

Everything is based on when the student is ready.

Chronological age and musical age are not always the same.

Reading/Writing Prep

- Introduction to writing note parts
- Reading familiar patterns
- Exploring patterns in the notation of rote solos
- Improvising with notated patterns

Informal Guidance

- Rich musical environment
- Movement, sing & chant
- Keyboard exploration
- Aural and body based approach
- No notation for the student
- PREPARATORY AUDIATION
- Reference: *A Music Learning Theory for Newborn and Young Children* (E. Gordon)
- Reference: *Ways Children Learn Music* (E. Bluestine)

Age 9-11



Age 3-5



Age 11+



Age 6-8



Birth



Reading/Writing

- Enrhythmic notation
- Reading familiar and unfamiliar music
- Written compositions
- Exploring notation in advancing repertoire
- Reference: *Music Moves for Piano Teacher Lesson Plan Books* (M. Lowe)

Reading music notation with comprehension requires abstract thinking, which begins to happen around age 11.

Formal Instruction Begins

- Learning Sequence Activities
- Coordinating performance activities
- Still centered around the ear and body
- More emphasis on coordinating body and breath
- Reference: *Learning Sequences in Music: A Contemporary Music Learning Theory* (E. Gordon)

Early Childhood Music

- In the home, class setting, or both
- Rich musical environment
- Large variety of songs in different tonalities and chants in different meters
- Lots of movement activities
- Reference: *Music Play: The Early Childhood Music Curriculum*