



# Piano Teacher's Retreat

REBECCA LOCKLEAR

Piano and music teachers:

This *Professional Development Workshop* is for YOU!

*Piano Teacher's Retreat* includes strategies to organize and use lesson time effectively, presents a system of leveling, provides a range of ideas from motivating students to teaching scales, shares many theory games and activities, and describes multiple ways to creatively showcase students.

This book is packed with ideas to improve instruction in group lessons or private teaching while developing students into well-rounded musicians. Take the ideas and run!

~ Rebecca Locklear

Professional pianist, piano teacher, adult (university) and elementary group piano instructor, community school of music piano department chair, choral director, PS-12 certified music teacher

## COMMENTS on *Piano Teacher's Retreat* materials:

***"I loved all the games. Will use them all – starting tomorrow!"***

~ Kim P., elementary music and piano teacher

***"I'm so inspired!"*** ~ Diane M., piano teacher

***"I'm so thankful for you. Your ideas are not only highly engaging for students, but they make ME into a different and sought-after teacher."***

~Tim R., piano teacher



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What are the results of a goal-focused structure of teaching?

- Teachers tend to accomplish more than without a plan.
- Teachers discover that front-loading theory skills has a huge impact on the progress of students.
- Teachers understand that a method book is only one of several resources needed to accomplish playing goals. Individual sheet music, theory classes with games and activities, and ensemble opportunities are also important.
- Teachers tend to improve the consistency of their instruction.
- Teachers find that thinking about goals actually leads them to emphasize particular areas in their studio and eventually defines them, in a distinctive way, as piano teachers.



## Unit 1: Organization and Planning



### Sample Piano Student Goal Sheet

Date: 9/2/2020

Name: Leslie Jones

Instructor: Bob Ling

#### 1. Keyboard Skills

- A. Major scales hands together one octave: F, Bb, Eb, Ab  
Minor scales (natural, melodic, harmonic): b, d, g
- B. Improvisation: D, b, F, d
- C. Chord Inversions: I, V in C, a, G, e

#### 2. Theory

- A. Staff: review treble/bass clef notes, stem rule, octave pairs, introduction to ledger lines, key signatures
- B. Melody: review intervals, dynamics
- C. Rhythm: read in 4/4, 2/4, 3/4, 6/8 up to eighth notes

#### 3. Piano Technique

- A. Touches: lame duck, arm circles
- B. Phrasing: sing with the phrase
- C. Hand position shifts: move into several positions in the same piece



# L-Level 1A - Year 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date Started \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

## Keyboard Skills

Scales Hands alone/one octave	Triads Broken/blocked	Improvisation Styles, 5-finger patterns	Other:
C	C	C	C contrary motion scale
G	G	G	Stretches
D	D	D	
A	A	A	
E	E	E	

CONTINUED!



## Unit 2: Ways to Approach Teaching

### GROUP PIANO ACTIVITY EXAMPLES

#### Short Opening Activity Examples

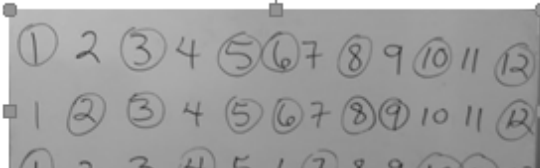
Choose one quick activity.

Tempo terms: After you teach the terms (or some of the terms) *Largo*, *Lento*, *Andante*, *Moderato*, *Presto*, *Prestissimo*, then do a game.

- Sing a song like "Happy Birthday" *lento*, then *presto*, then *moderato*.
- Hand out a tempo term card to each student. Have them put them in order from slowest to fastest.
- Have a student choose three random cards from your hand and put them in order.
- Hold up two cards such as *Moderato* and *Presto*. Tell a student to go to the door *Moderato* and come back *Presto*. Choose two different cards. Continue.



Rhythm 1-12: Write 1-12 on the board three times. Circle numbers in a pattern and/or circle them randomly. Have students say the numbers while clapping the circled numbers. Do all three lines.





## Unit 3: Teaching Ideas



## Unit 4: Creative Ways to Showcase Students



Unannounced teacher observation of Rebecca Locklear teaching group piano:

“During my career I have sat in on literally hundreds of elementary music classes, observing some wonderful instructors. I would rate you with the best.”

~Kip Gladder, PhD

**REBECCA LOCKLEAR**

Educational Writer

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## Piano Teacher's Retreat

*Creating an active learner studio*

Loads of teaching ideas  
Showcasing students  
Assignment sheets  
Leveling charts  
Activities  
Games



**180 great ideas for YOU!**