

Challenges and Solutions with Transfer Students

This session will concentrate on the *Transfer Student*, transitioning into a new studio, focusing on a newly developed Square-One Assessment form to help both the teacher and the student in the transitional process.

Description:

How to accommodate transfer students is one of the most challenging subjects in the piano teaching profession. This topic is on a constant rotation among piano professors, private teachers, in social media, pedagogy forums, and musical journals. Transfer students come with baggage that is often too light or too heavy to successfully continue their piano studies. Teachers are expected to “patch the holes” quickly and efficiently improve their technique, musicality and more.

Both in pre-college and college settings, we face similar realities. The freshmen class in college is all, by definition, transfer. More often than not, students have large musical gaps as well as undesirably poor habits that are extremely challenging to change.

In the first part of my presentation, I will share what did some of the greatest pedagogues observe and suggest on the *Transfer Student* topic. The second part will focus on a “Square-One Assessment” form that I created specifically for the *Transfer Student*. The form includes four categories that provide an in-depth evaluation of the following: Musical Literacy, Technique, Musicianship, and Practice Habits. That assessment process has been helpful in establishing a *common ground* between transfer student and me, guiding in creating an *action* plan and thus enabling a successful continuation of their musical studies.