

## **20 ways to enhance the class piano teaching experience:**

Interesting, exciting, and memorable – that is what class piano experience should be. Class piano curriculum is a collage of musical topics that interweave various piano skills. Music theory, form and analysis, ear training, accompanying, choral studies, and many other disciplines all come together in that class. Often, the class consists of students with different musical backgrounds who have a lot or no piano experience; accommodating all the different levels can become a challenge. I found that steering away from the “teacher tells, students do” lecture style helps students remain attentive and motivated throughout the semester.

Playing scales, for example, does not have to be boring! Include an accompaniment to play along, harmonize the scale, and let half of the class accompany, or play the scale from different directions, creating a contrary motion.

Having two students with polar piano skills does not have to be a frustrating experience. Pairing them up in a duet proves to be very satisfying. The advanced student is assigned the “teacher part” while the novice student assumes the “student part”; inevitably the advanced student becomes a great helper to his duo partner if needed.

With the help of a PowerPoint presentation, I will quickly share 20 ways I took my class from boring to exciting, engaging each one of my students and bringing confidence, knowledge, and joy to my classroom. I will highlight photographs of my students during these activities, making this lightning talk memorable and effective.