



**February 2009**

**anne smith**  
accredited simply music teacher

3408 duane avenue  
bellevue nebraska 68123

telephone 402 293 1630  
mobile 402 676 3208  
email icanplaypianostudio@yahoo.com  
web omahapiano.com

## I Can Play! Piano Studio

### Tuition Announcement

In order to bring my tuition rates into alignment with that of the other Simply Music teachers in the area, the monthly tuition rate for shared (group) lessons will be \$85 effective **March 1, 2009**. There will also be a change in the discount offered to multiple family members. It will change to \$10 off regular tuition for the second and third family members (which is a larger discount than the previous 10%).

Also, as a reminder, according to my studio policies there will be a \$10 late fee added to tuition paid after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Please remember that this is income that helps support my family, and timely tuition payment is necessary and appreciated. Thank you!

### Happy Birthday!

No students have birthdays this month, so here are some musicians who were born in February:

Georg Friedrich Handel  
Axl Rose  
Josh Groban  
John Travolta (ok, it's a stretch, but didn't he sing in *Grease*?)



### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Amanda Tobin** is 11 years old and attends Brownell-Talbot School. She was born at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota and has one brother. Amanda has been in Simply Music for almost two years and is in Level 6. In addition to playing the piano, she loves to play with friends, read, run, and ride horses. Her favorite Simply Music songs are Fur Elise, Alma Mater Blues, and Greensleeves. Her practice tips are "learn one hand at a time" and "play slowly enough to keep the tempo and rhythm steady".

Keep up the good work, Amanda!



### Report on California Trip

I had an amazing weekend in San Jose with 54 other Simply Music teachers plus Neil Moore and others from the SM head office, including one senior teacher who flew over from Australia! We had great training on many aspects of SM, including arrangements, jazz, accompaniment, duets, and other teaching techniques. Neil spoke about his vision for SM and where it is headed. It was a wonderful weekend of camaraderie, learning, making new friends, and inspiration. And palm trees! (I've never been to California before.)

Simply Music isn't just about piano lessons. As Neil explained, it's also about learning a new way of learning—really engaging the right brain which will help in solving all kinds of issues and problems that we face in the world today. The importance of music education becomes more clear all the time.

### Support our studio families!

*Babysitting:* Emily Smith (age 13) 293-1630  
*Gold Canyon candles:* Danae Banks 981-7455  
(these are the candles I burn in my studio)  
*Mary Kay Skin Care & Cosmetics:* Julie Foral 537-4336  
*Notary Public (no charge):* Anne Smith 293-1630  
*Learning Express Toys:* Kim Schmiesing 498-8697

(YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS HERE!)

## Featured Article

# 12 Reasons You Should Learn to Play the Piano

By Emily Sigers

<http://www.thepianopages.com>

All right, folks, here you go: My 12 reasons why you should start learning how to play the piano. Immediately. As in today. This very minute.

Okay, fine, finish this article first, THEN get started. And yes, I know that there are more than just 12 reasons to play the piano. But I happen to like the number 12. :)

1. Everyone should play at least one instrument. I truly believe that. Every person on Earth should be able to sit at SOME instrument and be capable of making beautiful music.

2. Playing the piano makes you feel (and look) sophisticated. Truly. No matter who you are or how many warts you have, you'll just exude class the second you begin tickling those ivories.

3. Piano playing keeps your brain active. It's very hard for your brain to rot when you consistently throw it the musical language to interpret.

4. You won't run out of things to do when you're bored. There's always a new way to play, always a new approach to playing, and always, always, ALWAYS a new song to learn. (See number 8.)

5. Family members can live vicariously through you. I'm semi-serious about that. The reason I began taking piano lessons (back when I was 10) was because of grandparents who didn't play, and over the years I've had numerous relatives enjoy playing through me. (I live to serve.)

6. People will automatically assume you're a genius. Honestly, I've heard this a lot. People uttering "He/she plays the piano" in the same tone reserved for "He/she has an IQ of 174." You just can't help but admire someone playing an instrument.

7. Piano playing is good for your hands. Indeed it is. I probably have stronger hands/fingers than most people I know. And have you ever noticed the hands of a pianist? Beautiful, long, tapered fingers. Chances are that if you've ever admired someone's hands, they play the piano.

8. Pianists never quit learning. There's absolutely no way to memorize every musical piece on earth. You could learn 10 new songs a day for the rest of your life without scratching the surface of songs out there.

9. Piano playing is FUN. Really. It's one of the funnest things I do. Think about it, why would so many of us do it if it weren't a blast?

10. Deep down, everyone wishes they played the piano. Have you ever read other people's New Year's Resolutions lists? If you haven't, then you're just not nosy like me. No, seriously, if you haven't, I'll tell you which wish consistently pops up: "Learn to play the piano."

11. Piano playing is SATISFYING. It's truly one of the most satisfying things you can do. (Right after touching your nose with your tongue. Or so I hear.) There's no feeling like playing a difficult song and playing it flawlessly. Quite an ego-boost.

12. Everyone loves a musician. 'Nuff said. :)