

Singing for Piano Students

RCM New Teachers' Community

Linda Fletcher

Zoom meeting

July 29, 2025



RCM
Certificate
Program

Singing for Piano Students

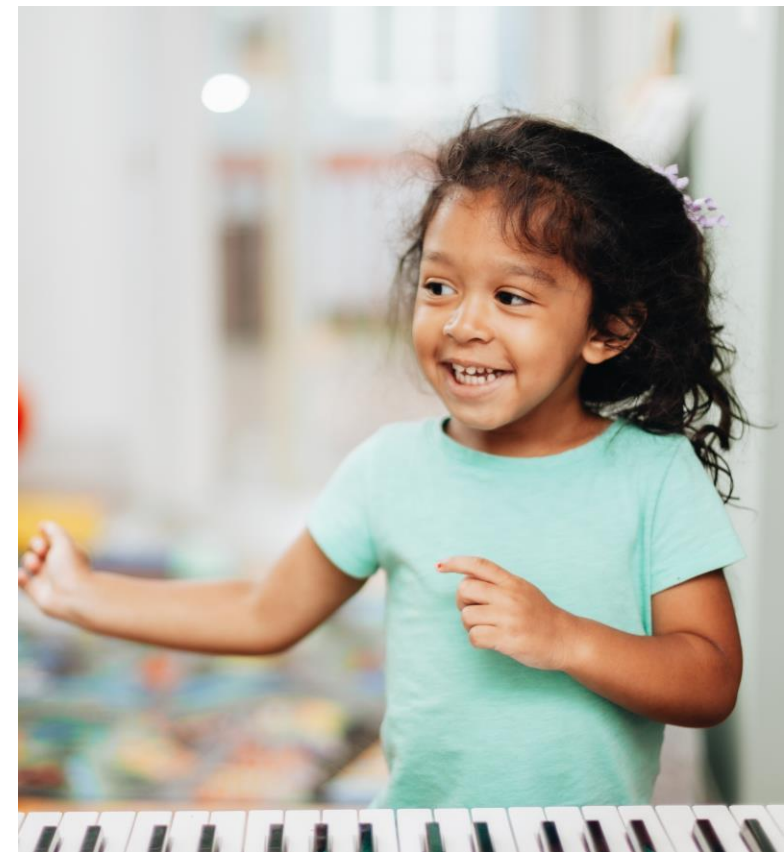
Using voice to support piano teaching

- From the very beginning, piano lessons should be filled with singing
- Singing is the most natural thing in the world



Singing for Piano Students

- Singing is a valuable tool for children's learning which aids in language development , memory, social interaction and emotional well-being
- For children learning an instrument, it enhances their musical understanding , improves their memory and fosters a love of music
- Singing promotes creativity, boosts self-confidence
- Singing enhances cognitive skills



Singing for Piano Students

**“You must sing if you want to play”
Chopin**



- Chopin encouraged students to play with a singing tone and to listen to great singers to improve expression and legato line
- Liszt had his students learn how to make melodies sing by studying Italian opera

Singing for Piano Students

CPE Bach. "you must be able to hum your pieces without the piano"

Schumann advises students to be able to sing at sight without the aid of an instrument to improve the sharpness of their hearing.

Rubinstein made his piano students learn to sing because he believed that one is not a musician if you can't sing.

Toscanini "Instrumentalists can best interpret a work if they sing it to themselves first"

Leon Fischer (pianist) "I highly recommend singing everything that you play"

Singing for Piano Students

Singing trains the musical ear by helping students grasp musical concepts like pitch, rhythm and phrasing.



- It develops the student's ability to internalize and reproduce melodies.
 - Use Solfège and Kodály rhythm syllables

Singing for Piano Students

Singing while playing piano encourages musicality and artistry

- Students also learn to play lyrically and emotionally



Singing for Piano Students

Teachers can sing with their pupils to create beautiful music



- Tactile sensitivity
- Sing with the melodic line (phrase) and “breathe” from the wrist
- Sing articulations for accuracy using syllables or rhythm names

Singing for Piano Students

Singing as a memory aid

- Tactile memory
- Singing when learning a new piece helps with memory of melody and rhythm
- Listen to a recording of new piece (or YouTube) and sing along with the melody
- Sing challenging sections by phrase before playing



Singing for Piano Students

Sight singing for piano students:

- Develops ear
- Can improve ability to connect music reading to playing
- Singing with Solfège helps internalize intervals



Singing for Piano Students

Fullvoicemusic.com

- Wonderful digital resources for ear and sight
- Sight Singing Superhero, workbooks, etc.

<https://fullvoicemusic.com>

- Linda's songs also available at Full Voice Music

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Singing for Piano Students

Sight Singing for Success Dr Joan Heels

<https://www.sightsingingforsuccess.com>

- Coincides with RCM grades



Singing for Piano Students

Linda's compositions for students

www.lindafletcher.com

- Piano students can play the easy accompaniments, while singing the melody



LINDA FLETCHER

Singing Teacher, Vocal Coach, Accompanist
Composer, Choral Director