

## *RioPiano*

### Materials

#### *Piano*

You will need access to an 88-key piano. An upright or grand acoustic piano will enable you to work on more technical and sound control. However, there are many terrific electronic instruments available. It is highly recommended that you invest in a “weighted” electronic keyboard, as it most closely simulates a real piano. Non-weighted instruments will not allow students to practice most technical work.

Don't own an instrument? Check out your neighboring churches, schools, and homes. Often, students are able to find a piano to work on nearby!

#### *Video/Audio Recorder*

Though students are welcome to get sophisticated in recording, a typical iPhone, iPad, or video camera will suffice. Mobile devices typically provide the easiest method of file transferring to the internet and most modern devices have a high quality of both audio and video.

### When You Record

#### *Distance/Angle*

Make sure that your full upper torso is visible in the video, including your shoulders, neck, arms, wrists, and hands. If you plan on submitting the video for any musical competition, make sure that your feet are also visible (as this is becoming a common requirement). Make sure that the keys are visible in the video, meaning that the camera will likely be at about arm's length away from you either directly to your left or your right.



**GOOD EXAMPLES!!!**



**BAD EXAMPLE... NO KEYS OR HANDS**



**BAD EXAMPLE... TOO FAR AWAY AND NOT TO THE DIRECT RIGHT OR LEFT**



**BAD EXAMPLE... TOO DARK WITH GLARE**

### ***Recording Device***

Make sure you charge your device before starting! It can help reduce stress to have a tripod, a remote control on your device, or to have a friend help record you. Keep in mind that the recording will not be PERFECT and that is ok! Allow yourself 20-30 minutes at a time to record and then pick your best take or take a break.

If you make a mistake a few seconds in, don't stop rolling... take a deep breath and start again. If you stop a few minutes into a piece, start a new take. You don't want to have to splice and edit a video file later, especially one that is so long that it takes forever to upload. Keep in mind that you do NOT need to submit full pieces for a lesson. You can record sections separately.

Keep in mind that your video will need to be uploaded after completion. It is recommended that you double check that you are NOT recording in HD, as it will take longer and be more difficult to upload and transfer the files later.

### *Your Dog, the TV, etc.*

Try to record in as quiet of a location as is feasible. If something else in the room is of equal volume to the piano, your lesson won't be effective. A little background noise or a temporary intrusion (like a siren) will not ruin a lesson tape but a TV on full blast in the background definitely will!

### *Save Your Work!*

Sometimes things go wrong in the upload process, so make sure to save your work until you get a lesson response! It is recommended that you archive all of your lesson videos. You may find that you enjoy tracing your progress or that you may want to revisit a lesson later on to revisit a technique or idea.