

## BIOGRAPHY



Donald Alfano is a pianist, educator, and author who has performed, taught and lectured in a variety of venues in the US and abroad both as a soloist and collaborative pianist. He is currently an adjunct professor of Music at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport, Connecticut, where he teaches Music History and Appreciation, Latin and Caribbean Music, and Jazz History, and Popular Music in America. Alfano also maintains a private piano studio in the New Haven area where he teaches students of all ages and levels. In addition, he serves as organist at Organist at Christ Bread of Life Parish in Hamden. He received his Bachelor of Music Degree from Boston University, College of Fine Arts; his Master of Music Degree from the Manhattan School of Music; and his Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University and The Cleveland Institute of Music. His teachers include eminent concert pianists and pedagogues, including Constance Keene, Jack Radunsky, Elizabeth Pastor, and John Browning. He has also coached with Alicia de Larrocha.

In addition to performing and teaching, Dr. Alfano has published articles in American and foreign music journals, several of which have been referenced in Guide to the Pianist's Repertoire, the standard encyclopedia of piano literature by Maurice Hinson. A member of the National Federation of Music Clubs, The Schubert Club of Fairfield County and the College Music Society, Alfano has lectured on a variety of musical topics, adjudicated festivals and competitions, and has appeared on National Public Radio in the capacity of performer and commentator.

## NECESSARY EQUIPMENT

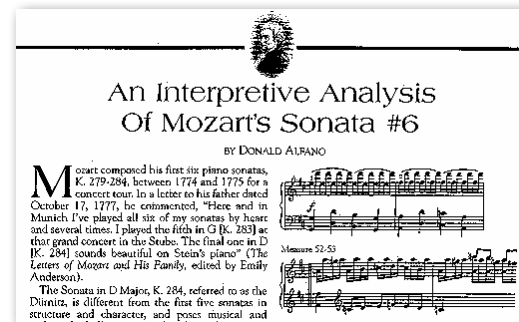
1. TV/VCR/DVD player
2. Piano (not necessary, but suggested)
3. Microphone/ amplification (depending on the size of the room)
4. Computer hook-up to do a power point presentation

*\*\* since no textbook is required, there will be a significant number of handouts available for duplication.*

## FEES:

To be determined based on the number and length of lectures.

I prefer to teach the course in its entirety for full understanding and appreciation.



[www.donaldalfanopianistandteacher.com](http://www.donaldalfanopianistandteacher.com)

For more information, call 203.230.9405

## Donald Alfano

PIANIST, EDUCATOR, LECTURER, AUTHOR



## Minicourses

These courses are specifically designed for non-credit situations such as retirement communities, continuing education divisions at colleges and universities, and other organizations. They consist of approximately 4 - 6 week lectures that meet generally once weekly from 1 to 2 hours. These lectures seek input from the class and are conducted in a relaxed fashion with a break so participants can interact. The lectures are illuminated with recorded and visual examples for complete understanding.

*“Professor Alfano’s in-depth knowledge of his subject matter is evident in his clear and comprehensive teaching style. He is quick-witted and passionate about music, his manner easygoing and engaging. He has the special talent of keeping his audience expectantly attentive, and the combination of audio/video selections, lecture, and piano playing gave the class a wonderfully balanced feel. We have a discerning population of residents here at Ashlar Village, many of whom have rich and varied cultural histories, and the feedback I received after Professor Alfano’s History of Music “mini-course” was highly complimentary. By overwhelming resident request, I have invited Professor Alfano back later in the year.*

**Kerry Hatch, Activities Director,  
Ashlar Village, Wallingford, CT**

## Music History and Appreciation

This is Dr. Alfano’s signature class which he has taught in a variety of colleges and universities for the past 25 years. He has developed unique strategies for absorbing the most complex music making it entertaining and accessible to all ages and levels. Music History and Appreciation is a chronological study of Western Art Music from the Middle Ages to the 20th century.

### Topics Include:

- Medieval Sacred and Secular Music
- Renaissance Vocal and Instrumental Music
- Baroque Opera, Concerto and Keyboard Music
- Viennese Classical Composers: Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven
- 19th century Romanticism: The German Lied, music for piano, Program music and a comparison of French, Italian and German Opera
- The diversity of the 20th century: Impressionism, Expressionism and Primitivism in music and art
- American music: Jazz, Minimalism and Eclecticism

## Latin and Caribbean Music

Latin and Caribbean Music surveys music from selected countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. This is a media rich course with DVD’s and visual examples since one cannot divorce the music of this region from its culture.

### Topics Include:

- The European and African influence in the Spanish Caribbean
- The English Caribbean: Jamaican popular music, Trinidadian Calypso, Carnival and Steel drums
- Music of Mexico: The Mariachi, Tex-Mex and San Jarocho styles
- Central America: The marimba in Nicaragua and Guatemala, folk music of Panama
- South America: The Brazilian Samba, The Argentine Tango, and folk music of Colombia and Peru

## Nineteenth Century Romanticism

The 19th century is considered one of the richest periods of Music History with a multitude of composers all expressing individual styles. During this period, composers were inspired by other art forms and reflected this inspiration in their creative outputs. The course introduces miniature as well as large scale compositions, program music, and Opera, the most important form of entertainment in the 19th century.

### Topics Include:

- Schubert and the German Lied
- Music for Solo Piano
- Program music such as Berlioz’s *Symphonie Fantastique*, Mendelssohn’s *Midsummer Night’s Dream* and Tchaikovsky’s *Romeo and Juliet* Overture
- A comparison between French, Italian and German Opera in the 19th century with excerpts of performances
- Brahms’s conservative approach to composition and much more!

## History of Jazz

A chronological study of Jazz from its West African and European influences to its development in the US. Recorded examples and footage of major jazz artists and composers will be presented.

### Topics include:

- Ragtime-Blues-New Orleans Jazz-Swing Era-Bebop-Cool Jazz-Fusion-Symphonic Jazz
- Jazz in Popular Music
- The international appeal of Jazz since its beginnings
- How classical composers were inspired by jazz and incorporated it into their music

## The Piano, Great Pianists, and Piano Literature

More music has been composed for the piano than any other instrument except for the human voice. This course focuses on masterpieces of piano literature and major composers from all periods of music history. Footage of famous pianists will be presented along with recorded examples.

### Topics include:

- The transition from the harpsichord to the piano
- Viennese classical composers
- The golden age of the piano in the 19th century
- The piano in jazz
- More modern and eclectic use of the piano

*“Dr. Alfano has the unique ability of making his courses interesting and relevant to his students. He illuminates his lectures with examples from other fields and he provides the students with a valuable and broadening musical experience.”*

**James D. Shields, Ph.D. Humanities Chair,  
Capital Community-Technical College,  
Hartford, CT**