

Water Pianism



Syllabus Overview



Introduction

Water Pianism is a *state of mind*; it is not a single method. One does not *become* a Water Pianist in the sense that they embark on a journey with such an intention and one day 'arrive'. Instead, one *chooses* to make *personalised progress* based on the Water Pianism philosophies and therefore *starts out*, in *mind first*, as a Water Pianist already.

This *immediately available* state of mind guarantees, amongst other benefits, perpetual: *motivation, satisfaction* and *mastery* of **Mind** (through internal philosophies, away-from-the-piano efforts and musical personality awareness), **Body** (through appropriate technical exercises, correct posture and stretches) and **Piano** (through relevant theory, repertoire enjoyment and performance fluency).

It is therefore Your decision as to whether or not you choose to define Your path, Your method and Your ambitions, without comparing the results with those of others, or basing them on what others tell you to do. Your path, method and ambitions, not to mention *natural abilities, hand size* and *musical personality* do not compare with anybody else's, rendering comparison futile and detrimental to any progress you could otherwise have realised.

In addition, your age, life experiences and personality all differ, making You very unique indeed and I think you would agree that no method book has ever, nor will ever be written with only You in mind...

And this is where the Water Pianism Syllabus comes in.

It places strong emphasis on what You need, no matter Your path. The impetus is on You to remain consistent in your efforts in the understanding that to be a Water Pianist is to have no destination and to follow your natural path; after all, what would you do once you have arrived?

Furthermore, it is very important to recognise that even though each path is unique, playing the piano has some *fundamental knowledge* and *skills* which are required, no matter Your path, which is why the Water Pianism Syllabus emphasises certain elements so strongly: *absolute major scale mastery, major and minor triads* and *common chord progressions* but not only *at* the piano; *away* from it, too.

Traditionally, major scale mastery takes years due to an excessively spread-out curriculum, or it is only acquired by so-called 'muscle memory' through repetition, without any Mind element involved; without a true awareness of the shapes and no emotional connection to any of the keys.

However, the Water Pianism Syllabus expects *absolute major scale mastery* on your *internal piano*, through *personalised games*, with *natural fingering* to reinforce them *at the piano*, followed by *major and minor triad mastery*, including so-called 'inversions', both *at* and *away* from the piano. This is because all music, from Bach, Mozart, Chopin and Liszt to Duke Ellington, Scott Joplin, Elton John and film scores contains major and minor triads passing through all twelve keys - you simply can't escape this fact and the way music progresses through these keys and chord types is why your early mastery, both *at* and *away* from the piano of these foundations is paramount if you are to have greater joy, ease and success when it comes to acquiring and performing Your repertoire choices.

Becoming familiar with *all* the above and using them for *internal piano strengthening* through *personalised technical exercises* is therefore unavoidable yet powerfully beneficial and will render Your path *incalculably easier* thanks to *maximum orientation, enhanced fingering* and significantly less *conscious interference* when acquiring and performing repertoire.

Format

The Water Pianism Syllabus contains five main categories which are broken down and personalised to your abilities, needs and desires. Category i. is obligatory before being permitted to select your next category and will be your first Water Pianism certification experience. It may take anything from three months to a year and a half to complete to Your satisfaction, based on the expectations we set together in the consultation. The syllabus document highlights the minimum expectations but you are encouraged to reach higher at every stage.

Here are the five categories:

- i. Self-Mastery & Foundations Mastery (*Obligatory*);
- ii. Modern Pop Piano Technique & Related Theory (*Preference*);
- iii. Jazz Piano Theory & Improvisation Philosophies (*Preference*);
- iv. Classical Music & Sight-Reading (*Preference*);
- v. Composition (*Preference*).

You may choose whichever one(s) you wish after category i. has been achieved but it is not advised to work on any two simultaneously. The first category is still personalised as to how it is achieved but your abilities must be demonstrated to an agreed-upon certification level before moving on to any one of the next four categories.

These four categories are also personalised based either on your own theoretical, technical and personal preferences or my own general recommendations following consultation. If you wish, you can be certified in the other categories too.

Within each category, emphasis is given to its own unique Mind, Body and Piano components and you are to become familiar with and master them in your own personalised way.

In short, the **Mind** component involves awareness of and demonstration using, as applicable: the *internal piano*, *internal jukebox*, *internal metronome* and *internal manuscript*, as well as an understanding of the positive *inspirational source* and negative *ego*, including a deep-dive on your *musical personality* and an honest dissection of your *past experiences*, *current state of mind* and *future ambitions*, insofar as they relate to Your path.

The **Body** component relates to everything from *good health* away from the piano to *natural fingering* and *correct posture* at the piano, as well as daily efforts on *tendon and muscle stretching and flexing* and *finger independence*, insofar as they relate to Your path (and/or in accordance with any professional medical advice).

The **Piano** component has everything to do with applicable technique and theory, in addition to the major scales and major and minor triads that you will have mastered in category i. It includes but is not limited to: *chord extensions*, the variety of *technical exercises* available, finding your *natural limit*, *modal theory*, easy and complex *chord progressions*, reading *jazz lead-sheets* or *sight-reading* traditional sheet-music (both *at* and *away* from the piano), as well as *rhythmic applications* and *stylistic elements*, insofar as they relate to Your path.

Certification

Although the Water Pianism Syllabus is not officially accredited and should only be seen as a *serious bit of fun*, there are *stages to follow*, *tasks to complete* and *expectations to meet*, most of these being *personalised* beyond the minimum expectations provided in the syllabus document.

Upon completion of whatever you have chosen as the *personalised minimum expectations* for each category, you have two choices: to *keep it a private affair* and enjoy the progress you have made by yourself, trusting your own judgement, or, as is more encouraged, *recording yourself executing the requirements of each stage* for me to watch or listen to, approve and then, if you wish to take it a little more seriously, requesting an 'official', personalised *Water Pianism Syllabus Certificate* which will be printed on quality paper and personally signed which highlights the specifics of your achievements.

You must see this as a way of *awarding yourself* some kind of recognition as you continue to make *extraordinary progress*; something of which to be proud and with which you might inspire others if they see it!

Again, you *must* first get certified in category i. before choosing another category.

For this to happen, you are to prove, by video or audio recording, only when you are 100% sure of yourself, that you are able: to execute the relevant scales and chords, finger exercises and other tasks as per the minimum or personalised expectations agreed upon during the consultation, in strict accordance with the category topics as provided in that document.

Getting certified is not based on any assessment grading system; in fact, it is a very binary thing: you can do it, or you cannot. You should therefore only send the certification video or audio by way of *proof* of achievement rather than *for assessment* of your progress. This way, there is no unfair judgement on my part; your ability is undeniably demonstrated as agreed beforehand because you had something realistic to work towards, which was *well-structured* and *personalised* in nature.

Your personalised path to mastery will rank among the most satisfying things you never thought you could do in your life but here you are, reading this sentence and ready to embark on your destinationless journey as a *Water Pianist*.

All you need to do next, if you wish, is to purchase the actual Water Pianism Syllabus, in which all the minimum requirements are contained and where each topic is expanded upon. The price also includes my time to learn about You and your past, present and future in music, called 'the consultation', to help personalise your category i. certification requirements based on your current abilities and knowledge and ambitions. It also includes checking in with me every so often to discuss any difficulties or successes.

In other words, you will not be alone on this journey.

Certification is an extra one-off fee because it will take a few hours to watch and/or listen to your efforts, discuss them with you and decide which category you'd like to attempt next. It also includes printing on *high-quality paper* and sending by post your *personalised certificate*.

Expect the duration between starting out and certification to be anywhere from *three to eighteen months*. No two people learn the same way or share the same personalised expectations and everybody starts from a different place in terms of knowledge and technique, so do not compare Your time to certification or feel ashamed about *any* aspect of Your journey.

Overview of Category i. Content

In order to give you an idea of what you will personalise, see below a list of the topics you are expected to master, in *recommended order* of acquisition. The syllabus document expands upon each of these and then provides the strict minimum expectations. It ends by encouraging you to personalise in such a way as to *go beyond* the minimum requirements:

- ✓ Awareness of Musical Personality, Current Abilities and Future Ambitions
 - ✓ Recognition of the Water Pianism Philosophy
 - ✓ Internal Piano Visualisation Mastery
 - ✓ Major Scale Mastery (*at* and *away* from the piano)
 - ✓ Note Value Awareness (*away* from the piano)
- ✓ Major & Minor Triad Mastery (*at* and *away* from the piano)
 - ✓ Finger & Hand Independence Technical Exercises
- ✓ Tendon & Muscle Enhancement Exercises (*at* and *away* from the piano)
 - ✓ Commonly Applicable Music Theory

Of course you can work on any of these as you wish, in your own time and in your own way, just expect to have mastered them *all* by the time you are ready to be certified for your excellent efforts.

A final word...

My sole intention behind the Water Pianism Syllabus project is to have you *achieving Your piano ambitions* to a level and within a time-frame *beyond* what you could otherwise have imagined of yourself.

The power of an untapped mind is *frightfully extraordinary*; it just needs to be trusted and not drowned out by the detrimental sound of the ego: "I can't do it", "I'm too old", "My hands aren't big enough", "I don't have a sense of rhythm",

"There are people much better than me", "My teacher said I'm not good enough to learn this piece", etc.

The only reason such notions are not welcome on Your path as a Water Pianist is that *they're not true*:

You *can* do it because it's Your path and nobody else's. You're not too old because there is *no end* to learning and ability, even if you started very young. Your hands are Your hands and they will be trained based on Your path. To have a sense of rhythm is not the issue, it's simply a weakness in *steadiness of execution*, which has nothing to do with rhythm and is easily fixed. There are indeed people better than you and there are also those who *You* are better than and this will always be the case. Your teacher's lack of belief in your potential is not Your truth, it's *their* error of judgement.

You're a Water Pianist now.

Success is guaranteed in Mind, Body and, of course, Piano.

