Online Piano Lessons: Making Meaningful Connections

Dr. João Paulo Casarotti
Southern University A &M College, Louisiana
Email- joao_casarotti@subr.edu

I. What does it mean to teach online?
   • Real-time instruction (synchronous video conferencing)
   • Time-shifted instruction (asynchronous video exchanges)
   • Hybrid online and face-to-face instruction
   • Courses taught online that combine online resources, real-time and time-shifted instruction
   • Online Masterclasses/Workshops
   • Live Broadcasting

II. Who needs to teach piano online
   • Teachers who go on tour
   • Teachers with not enough students in their area
   • “I wish I could keep teaching my students that moved away”
   • Current students (weather issues or illnesses)
   • Supplement traditional instructions
   • Teachers interested in offering term-based online courses on specific topics (for example a summer camp on improvisation or pop styles, a course on a specific stylistic era or composer, a 5-week introduction to piano summer course, etc.)

III. Time-Shifted Instruction
   • Examples
     ▪ Southern University- Online Video Goals (online tests): https://youtu.be/AfrIUn8vyvA
   • Advantages:
     ▪ Video quality
     ▪ Versatility
     ▪ Viewing as schedule permits
     ▪ Opportunity for repeated views
     ▪ Ability to organize and perfect lesson content/student performances
     ▪ If this is a course, ability to create interaction between students
   • Applications and Software
     ▪ Screen Recording+ Software
       ▪ ScreenFlow- www.telesstream.net/screenflow
       ▪ Camtasia- www.techsmith.com/camtasia.html
     ▪ Classroom Maestro- www.timewarptech.com
       ▪ MIDI app to visualize keys and notes in real-time
       ▪ Notation can display vertically and horizontally
       ▪ Awareness of key signatures and intelligent analysis
       ▪ Available on Mac & Windows
       ▪ Useful for creating instructional videos
Software to provide content and automated feedback to the student

- **Piano Marvel**
  - Large library of sequenced pieces in different styles
  - Instant feedback on timing and notes (with connected digital piano)
  - Game-like scores and trophies (with connected digital piano)
  - Teacher access to scores and practice minutes
  - Can create customized assignments

- **Piano Maestro**
  - Similar features as Piano Marvel
  - Can use acoustic piano for feedback and scores (though not as consistent as Piano Marvel)
  - Teacher access to scores and practice minutes
  - Can create customized assignments

- **Percebe** - [https://www.percebemusic.com/](https://www.percebemusic.com/)
  - Available for Mac and Windows
  - Ability to assess individual performances compared to models
  - Does not punish timing flexibility when done within an acceptable range
  - Library of pieces
  - Try for One Year (Special for the NCKP2017) - [http://try.percebemusic.com/percebe-free-trial/](http://try.percebemusic.com/percebe-free-trial/)
  - Videos samples - [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKszN7B7Y6Ng6RksZeo-rRNd84XYt5k](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKszN7B7Y6Ng6RksZeo-rRNd84XYt5k)

- **Clavier Companion (July/August 2015)** - “Flipping Piano Classes and Lessons with Rich Online Video Content”
  - Tutorial Video: [https://youtu.be/L-DVS5gc_TQ](https://youtu.be/L-DVS5gc_TQ)

IV. **Real-Time Instruction**
Some precursors:
- Hugh Sung - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2oedgqs7JQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2oedgqs7JQ)

V. **Getting start with a basic setup**
- Computer and mobile device
- Built-in microphone and camera
- High-speed internet connection
- Video conferencing Apps: Skype, FaceTime, Google Hangouts

VI. **Equipment:**

**Mobile Package** - Traveler teacher or student

1. iPad or iPhone
2. Skype, FaceTime
3. Microphone condenser
4. Bose Sound Link Mini Bluetooth Speaker
**Studio- Enhanced Setups** - Teacher or student

Basic - Items 1 to 5 (A)
More Elaborated - Items 1 to 5 (B)
Premium-Items 1 to 9 (C or combination A.B, C)

1. Laptop or computer
2. Skype, Facetime
3. Microphone condenser

4. Sound System

5. HD Webcam
   - Zoom Q8- HD Video/ Four Track Audio Recording [https://www.zoom.co.jp/products/field-video-recording/video-recording/zoom-q8](https://www.zoom.co.jp/products/field-video-recording/video-recording/zoom-q8)

6. HD LED TV

7. Cables
   - Electrical Extension Chord
   - HDMI Cable & Extension chord [http://www.amazon.com/AmazonBasics-High-Speed-HDMI-Cable](http://www.amazon.com/AmazonBasics-High-Speed-HDMI-Cable)
8. Multiple Cameras - VidBlaster
   http://vidblaster.com/

9. Score annotation
   - iPad
   - ForScore Application
   - Bluetooth Pedals:
   - Air Turn - http://store.airturn.com/airturn-duo/

10. Screen share

VII. Possibilities
    - Online Piano lessons
      https://youtu.be/WJDhhioDcBI
    - Online Masterclasses
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODkuIZalUao
    - Online workshops
    - Live Broadcasting
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUK-H0_oyc
    - Video Exchanging with students

VIII. How to get paid - www.paypal.com

IX. Important Considerations
    - Internet connection- wired vs Wi-Fi
      Speed test- www.speedtest.net
      PS- It is recommended that the download and upload speed be at least 5Mbps.
    - Lighting
    - Echo, external noises

X. Internet MIDI - www.timewarp-tech.com

Demonstration Online Performance- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vybD8YvXcnGk

  - Connects MIDI instruments (technology-equipped pianos) over the internet
  - Virtually playing each other's instrument
  - Available for Mac & Windows