

## **Mattea Holt Colberg's Piano Teaching Philosophy**

These principles outline why I teach piano and what I aim for my students to learn from lessons. They act as guideposts for how I interact with students and tools for evaluating my teaching.

### **Music is for enjoyment and expression**

I am a pianist because I love playing the piano, and I want the same for my students. I believe that the most important thing that a student can take away from lessons is a greater appreciation for music, and that my job as a teacher is to foster that appreciation by giving my students tools for creating, listening to, and analyzing music. I am more interested in my students being excited to play the piano than in them reaching technical milestones at a particular rate, although technical progress will certainly be made by students who enjoy playing the piano. In my studio, students are encouraged to learn music that they want to play, and to take time to see the beauty that already exists in their not-quite-there-yet pieces. Learning an instrument takes dedication and many hours of practice, and without enjoyment and expression, it becomes tedious and students lose motivation. My hope is to teach students to enjoy the process as well as the end result, which will help them develop into enthusiastic and resilient musicians.

### **All students belong here—as pianists and in my studio**

I strive to foster a sense of belonging for all students, regardless of technical skill, experience level, musical preferences, or learning style. Piano is a wonderful instrument for beginners and amateurs as well as advanced players since even basic piano skills can be used to create beautiful music. Additionally, the piano repertoire is wildly diverse. While I am most experienced in classical music, I am happy to explore modern, improv, pop, jazz, musical theater, or any other genre of music with my students. Whatever genre they prefer, I will work with the unique strengths each student brings to the table in order to develop all of the skills they will need as a mature musician, without losing their sense of individual identity and artistry.

### **Piano is an art that is meant to be shared**

Piano music is extremely versatile and can be enjoyed and shared with others without relying on other musicians (although piano is also an excellent collaborative instrument!). I aim to provide students with a variety of opportunities to share their music with others. These include traditional offerings such as studio recitals twice a year and participation in festivals and competitions, as well as informal events. I believe there is tremendous value in students playing for an audience of just fellow pianists, so I host monthly studio gatherings where students are encouraged to come and play a piece that they've been working on, but wouldn't feel ready to perform on stage. This setting allows students to give and receive positive feedback and friendly suggestions on new approaches to enhance their playing. Outside of my studio, students are also encouraged to find informal settings in which they can play for others, including family gatherings, hangouts with friends, or going to a local senior living community. These experiences enable students to give the gift of music to others, as well as to deepen their own experience with piano.