



# Piano-Ready Class

Spring Session 2009

March 9 - May 17, 2009

To enroll, call 816-235-2741 or sign up online.

[http://conservatory.umkc.edu/community\\_academy/preparatory.aspx](http://conservatory.umkc.edu/community_academy/preparatory.aspx)

*Piano-Ready Class for ages 4 - 5*

*Saturdays, 10:30 - 11:15*

Piano-Ready Class is a preparatory program for young children ages 4 – 5 who are interested in piano lessons. This class offers a well-rounded foundation for music theory, ear training, as well as basic piano playing technique through fun group activities. **\$175.00 (\$100.00 for current CMDA students and Youth Symphony of Kansas City members).** Each class will end with an additional 5 minutes of summary for parents from 11:15 – 11:20.

*How is Piano-Ready Class different from Kindermusik or Musikgarten?*

- Kindermusik and Musikgarten are programs that cover a wider and more general scope of musical exposure for children of a large age range, usually from newborn to age 9. Piano-Ready Class, however, targets children ages 4 – 5, with the distinct purpose of preparing these young students for private piano lessons.
- By learning to play the piano, children can develop good eye-hand coordination, refine their motor skills and sharpen their concentration. However, staying focused in private piano lessons may be a challenge for the age group of 4 – 5 as they naturally have short attention spans. Piano-Ready Class is designed to provide the basics of piano playing, music theory, and ear training, in a friendly group environment to help students ease into private piano lessons. Beginning piano students can benefit tremendously from this class, as it offers an opportunity to acquire well-rounded musical skills at a slow and relaxed pace with encouragement through peer support.

*How does Piano-Ready Class compare to the Suzuki method?*

Piano-Ready Class differs from the Suzuki method in several important aspects.

- Piano-Ready Class does not emphasize learning by ear over reading musical notation. Instead, these two skills are taught hand-in-hand.
- Students in Piano-Ready Class are not required to memorize solo repertoire.
- Activities in Piano-Ready Class include singing and movement as highlights of learning, which are not often emphasized in Suzuki piano instruction.
- Participation of parent/guardian is optional but welcomed.

*After completing Piano-Ready Class, students should be able to:*

- Identify and recall finger numbers
- Play simple songs with separate hands
- Read off-staff notation
- Recognize clefs and stem direction
- Sing comfortably
- Identify note values
- Hear the difference between high and low sounds
- Feel ready for private piano lessons