

Fall 2019 Syllabus

Piano, Lovelier the Second Time Around

Fridays, 9 am to 11 am, Sept. 20 – Nov. 22 (No class Oct. 25)

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The content of this course will be tailored to the priorities set by the class members.

Week One: We will do an activity or two designed to help clarify your pianistic goals; we will start to get acquainted with each other and with the digital pianos in the piano lab. Some housekeeping details will be taken care of, as required by OLLI for our well-being.

We have the piano lab from 9 am to 11 am each week, so the time remaining will allow members to play, if desired. I will stay to answer questions, listen in if you ask me to, and facilitate in general.

In subsequent weeks we will address ways to accomplish your goals.

Discussion might cover issues such as

- your current instrument (or lack thereof)
- how baggage from the past can be overcome
- the challenges and rewards of piano playing
- how to spell “success” when it comes to your pianism
- getting the most out of limited playing time
- applying lessons from the neuroscience of learning
- how to battle the curse of perfectionism
- to play from memory or play from the printed page
- to perform or not to perform
- the pros and cons of hiring a teacher
- identify your strengths and capitalize on them
- build new synapses through piano study—yes, even at our age!
- reclaim your inherent musicality
- rescue music from the tyranny of recordings and professionalism

Most importantly, we will meet others who will support and accompany us in our musical adventures!