



Sykes Music and Teaching Piano Training Overview

This is the first Module of Sykes Piano Teacher Training. This training is made up of two main sections. The first section is *An Introduction to Sykes Music and Teaching Piano* and includes over 100 topics. During this training, teachers think about what makes a piano program a great piano program. If they have already been teaching piano, then they think about how they teach and why they teach in this way, or if they have not taught before, then how they would like to teach. Teachers have a close look at the Sykes Piano Program, its design and why it is designed this way. Also included are many topics to do with teaching music – many of these principles can be applied to teaching anything, not just music or piano. Here are some of the topics included in this training:

- Why learn piano and why teach piano?
- The history of Sykes Music and why it was developed
- Why the Sykes Piano Program is enjoyable, why students progress quickly and why it is a comprehensive program
- A detailed look at all of the aspects of the piano program including performance, technique, theory, aural, singing, arrangement, improvisation, composition and music appreciation
- How the Sykes Piano Program is comprehensive of all age groups
- How the Sykes Piano Program caters for different learning styles
- How the Levels are designed and why they are designed in this way
- Why Sykes Piano students learn so many pieces per grade
- The rhythm aspect of the program
- How music reading is taught in the Sykes Piano Program and why
- Group versus private lessons
- Repertoire maintenance
- How parents should be involved
- Setting up a healthy home environment for students
- Good teaching principles such as staying on time, dealing with bad behavior, being firm but fair, rewards, good explanations and instructions, how to teach pieces or

exercises, when and how to correct students, how to introduce topics or exercises and student self confidence

- Lesson format and lesson planning
- The standard Sykes Music lesson plan
- A look at Sykes Music and other methods of learning piano

The second section of this training is called *Administration* and includes many aspects such as:

- How to set up your music studio
- Looking after yourself and setting yourself up personally for success as a teacher
- Sykes Music recommended administration procedures including:
 - Initial point of contact with new students
 - Topics to cover in your trial lesson or first few piano lessons
 - Timetabling procedures
 - Enrolment procedures
 - Invoicing procedures
 - Student cancellation procedures

Sykes Music has created many forms and spreadsheets to help teachers manage their studio.

Here is a sample of some of the forms:

- Initial Point of Contact Checklist
- Timetable Spreadsheet
- Sykes Music Application to Learn Form
- Student Details Spreadsheet
- Sykes Music Handbook
- Distribution List Spreadsheet
- Invoice Amendment Form

Teachers are shown how to use all of these forms and are provided with a digital copy of all forms. Many of these can be customized by the teacher.

The last section of this administration training is about marketing procedures and covers effective marketing strategies and how to implement these. It includes topics such as:

- Sykes Music marketing that helps you

- How should you market yourself
- Word of mouth
- School Newsletters
- Google maps and google ads
- Facebook and other social media
- Testimonials and student achievements