



So You Want To Play Piano, Huh? Here's What's Stopping You...

by David Longo

"Every person on the face of this earth has the innate desire and ability to express himself or herself musically."

I've said it for years and I say it today to you... *you* reading this right now. *You* are no exception.

I'm here to tell you that the only things stopping you from getting involved with playing piano are the thoughts in between you own two ears - nothing more. I promise you that.

Now as far as I'm concerned, there are basically two ways you can get yourself to make a decision to proceed with your goal...

1) Analyze what's in your mind and come up with an accurate assessment as to why you aren't currently enjoying making music... (could take a while)

2) Accept the truth (yes, truth) that whatever has gotten in the way isn't valid. Then proceed and don't look back. (works instantly)

It's up to you and no one else.

I can hear some possible reactions from you at this point:

"I didn't start when I was young - isn't it too late?"

"I don't know if I'm capable/have what it takes."

"No one in my family is musical."

This list could go on and on... and for every false "reason" (that's what they are) for not giving yourself the opportunity, I can give you as least five legitimate reasons why you ought to.

There is a strong psychological factor that gets in the way. More accurately, its strength is what you choose to give it. There is a way by which you can dissolve your reservations about treating yourself to learning more about your innate ability to express yourself musically. By the way, we both know your innate *desire* exists because you arrived here and are reading this!

Okay, back to how you can deal with this...

Let's consider why you haven't taken action...

It's likely due, in some way shape, or form, to the your feeling as though you have to "live up" to some image you have of what a piano student is. This comes from past programming; in other words, what you learned about "learning." It might go something like, "if I can't be as good as _____ (insert your own concoction here), then I shouldn't bother." So, what we have here is a comparison trap that you've fallen into. You might also feel that learning piano will demand a lot of time on your part - another form of your having to live up to being an "adequate piano student".

I have a question for you: when you sit down to eat your breakfast - or lunch or dinner - whom do you compare yourself to? Do you say "if I can't eat like _____ (insert name of your choice here), then I probably shouldn't eat at all?"

Another question: When it's time to go to sleep at night, whom do you compare yourself to? Do you say "if I can't sleep like _____ (insert name), then I probably shouldn't sleep at all?"

To either of the above, do you say to yourself, "It's not likely I'm going to be able to put in a lot of time, so why bother starting?"

Well, do you? Or do you see that way of thinking as kind of absurd and follow your natural instincts and dig into that bowl of cereal - or whatever you're eating? And do you follow your natural instincts and allow those eyes to close so you can get the benefits of some sleep?

These are basic, natural requirements. One would be absolutely foolish to neglect them.

Your innate desire to express yourself musically is just as basic. In addition, it should be acknowledged with the same respect as eating and sleeping. And it should be approached with the same lack of self-judgment.

All these desires and needs were given to you at birth. If anything gets in the way of your participating with any of them, it's *your thoughts* that are erroneously doing that to you. I'm here to say, "Stop giving into them!"

Since we have accepted that this inner desire and need is valid, then any thoughts that creep into your mind about them not being so and that try to place obstacles in your path should be dismissed immediately! THAT is how to do it.

DISMISS ANY NOTION THAT PLAYING THE PIANO IS NOT FOR YOU

I have never, in all my years of coaching people on piano, met anyone who

couldn't play...

And you are not about to be the first - got it?

You don't have to live up to any image about "what kind of student/pianist" you're supposed to be.

You don't have to progress at any certain pace.

You don't even have to come up with a reason to get involved. You already have it - you're own desire!

You don't have to compare yourself to another individual.

You DO have to give yourself permission to just get started! And it doesn't have to be any kind of "perfect" beginning.

Do you have a piano or keyboard in your home? If not, that's your first step.

Did you answer yes? Then what's the next step? Sit in front of it. Place your fingers on those keys. Pretend you're a youngster sitting at that instrument for the first time, having no reservations about playing without judging.

In short, just do it!

If you don't want to get involved with reading music right now, then don't let that stop you. There's never a reason to not start having fun. You see, take a tiny step or two, keeping the process fun for yourself, your naturally curiosity will likely lead you to wanting to learn more a little at a time.

I've created a couple of programs on the site especially devoted to this type of situation. One is [Guess-its](#), which is a simple fun game you can play that encourages you to simply play a few keys and guess what tune it is implying. You don't even have to know the names of the piano keys to do it. It helps to know where "middle C" is, so you can relate the rest of the keys to it - but, really, all

you have to do is play the correct keys based on where they exist in relation to the sets of black keys. It's easy stuff. Go ahead and print out one of those *Guess-its* and have fun with it!

The other, which involves only a tiny fee, is [Microwaves](#). What's popular about this program? You don't need to know a note of music - you don't even need to know the names of the keys. I refer to them during the lessons (but don't expect you to memorize them) and show you, note-for-note, what keys to press. By the time you've completed the lesson, you're playing a simplified arrangement of a song that you and those you know are familiar with! That's really why it's so popular - you're playing a song in a very short period of time - without needing any piano experience!

As far as going further, like learning how to read music, how to play chords, etc., there are a number of free lessons on the site you have access to ([be sure to sign up for them](#)) when the time is ready for you. What's the rush? I mean, there's no limit to how far you can go with all this. but why be concerned with that now? Just start playing.

Friend, I'm being truthful when I say that you owe it to yourself to get involved playing - by depriving yourself, you're taking a basic desire and necessity out of your life. Don't do it to yourself.

This website was created with you in mind.

Together, we can have some fun making music - starting right from where you are this very minute.

Yes we can!

Let's do it.

And remember...

Always...

ALWAYS...

PLAY WITH PASSION!

Musically,

Dave

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