

# BUZASH TOTAL PIANO

## Questions and Answers

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*What is Buzash Total Piano?*

**Buzash Total Piano** is a system of piano lessons that allows me to teach you everything I know, in a systematic way that encompasses the whole piano and the whole you.

*Is it good for children and adults?*

Yes. I can tailor this program to any level, even the complete beginner. Fingers and wrists and hands need time to develop, so I will not push children or beginning adults beyond their technique. But if you can sit down and focus, we can move quickly through the basics.

*What specifically do you teach?*

These are the categories of piano learning in **Buzash Total Piano**:

### **1) Scales**

Major, minor, modes, and ethnic.

Keeping time with the metronome and challenging the hands to perform independently with polyrhythms and intervals.

### **2) Finger, hand, and wrist exercises (isometric and dextrous)**

Hanon, Czerny, and some of my own creation.

### **3) Chord theory**

Building triads and all types of 7 chords, the use of upper extensions (9, 11, 13), one-handed and two-handed voicings, substitutions, cadences, and progressions.

### **4) Sight-reading written notes**

Flash cards and songs for sight-reading. Once through only. No correcting mistakes.

### **5) Learning to play classical pieces**

Up to advanced intermediate level. Bach, Clementi, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Brahms, Debussy.

#### **6) Learning to play jazz lead sheets**

Interpreting melody and chords. Walking bass. Grooves.

#### **7) Sight-reading jazz lead sheets**

Open the Real Book at random and play what you see.

#### **8) Playing by ear**

My own four-step approach -- highly thorough and effective!

#### **9) Improvising**

Over anything, groove or no groove, chord or no chord, mode or no mode, band or no band!

*This all sounds really hard.*

I don't expect you to reach professional level without some time spent and hard work. We will start from where you are, whether you're at the beginning or somewhere along the way! I will give you assignments that are appropriate for you, and we will work towards the higher levels.

*Don't you teach all of this already?*

I have found that with weekly lessons there isn't enough time to cover all of the categories all of the time. Weekly lessons involve a focus: for example, scales, exercises, chords, and jazz, with an occasional lesson on playing by ear. Or, scales, exercises, sight-reading, and classical pieces.

*What advantage will this give me? Or, what advantage will this give to my child?*

A commitment to **Buzash Total Piano** will teach you to be a pianist like me, who can play anything, at any time, anywhere, with anyone.

For both children and adults, **Buzash Total Piano** will create a deep understanding of music and a sense of strong confidence in piano performance. It will teach you to set high standards for yourself. I will show you why I love the piano and bring you into my world of creativity, joy, and hard work.

*And what is the advantage to becoming that kind of pianist, as opposed to a specialized classical pianist, or a specialized jazz pianist?*

In today's musical world, you need to make connections between classical and jazz, pop and Latin, blues and Christmas tunes. You have a much better chance of becoming a successful working pianist if you can draw from many different styles. It will make you marketable for a much greater number of jobs.

In the social and family arena, you will be able to play whatever songs people love to hear, bring them together for singing and dancing, and bring joy to parties and quiet home evenings. You will be able to share your own music.

Furthermore, playing comfortably in different styles makes you stand out as an improviser. It prepares you to become a unique concert artist.

You will feel confident and at ease no matter the situation.

Boundaries between styles and approaches are being broken all the time. **I believe the future of music performance is moving in this direction.**

*What kind of piano work is out there?*

Restaurants. Weddings. Parties. Musical theater. Church services. Ballet, tap, and dance accompaniment. Playing in bands. Music listening clubs (social gatherings at private homes) and soirees. Accompanying singers. Recording sessions. Festivals and art events. Schools.

And, when you're ready, sit-down concerts and the joy of being an artist.

Then there is piano teaching. Schools, conservatories, summer camps, private lessons in your home or theirs.

I've done all of this and more. It's a blast! Being a working pianist is a lifetime adventure and a very special way to give back to society. When you have the opportunity to play the piano for people to hear, you can move them and touch them, speak to them and make them laugh or cry. It's done in a way that words cannot do. It's just magic.

*What's the scheduling for the program?*

**Buzash Total Piano** consists of two weekly lessons of the same duration, either 30 minutes, 45 minutes, or one hour. The lessons can be scheduled anytime during teaching hours, possibly on the same day, or different days. This will be decided on an individual basis. Each lesson will cover different learning categories. So, the student will learn twice as much content per week, compared to typical weekly lessons. 30-minute lessons are reserved for complete beginners. Students with experience should take lessons of at least 45 minutes in length.

*How much practice time will this require?*

Twice as much as for weekly lessons. In general, you should practice every day for at least as long as your lesson time. So, if you have two 45-minute lessons per week, you will need to practice at least 1.5 hours daily.

*What is the cost?*

The cost for each **Buzash Total Piano** lesson is as follows.

30 minutes: \$35 each

45 minutes: \$50 each

60 minutes: \$65 each

There will be eight to ten lessons per month.

These prices are \$5 less than for my typical weekly lessons.

*How long does it take to complete the program?*

This depends on what your goals are. We can sit down and talk about it. It also depends on your daily practice commitment.

From a larger perspective, I will always have more to teach, and you will always have more to learn. Follow the program until you feel ready to move on.