

Piano Maestro

Teacher's Guideline – How To Use With Students

What is Piano Maestro?

Piano Maestro (PM) was designed by leading piano teachers to be the ultimate practice tool for piano beginners, letting you practice 2-hand piano using your own real acoustic piano – no cables needed (the only app in the world!). PM combines the fun of games with various practice options and up-to-date content that's being updated all the time.



About JoyTunes

JoyTunes is a music education startup founded in 2010 by two brothers, Yuval and Yigal Kaminka, a computer geek and a professional classical musician, and Roey Izkovsky, responsible for the MusicSense engine that 'listens' to your piano playing and reacts instantly. The three set out to solve a major problem that faces many beginner musicians frustration and lack of practice motivation. JoyTunes' apps have seen more than 3 million downloads and are being used by thousands of music teachers all over the world to motivate their students to practice.

Using Piano Maestro With Your Students

(Even if they don't have iPads)

Piano Maestro can be used as a resource during a lesson as well as a platform for assigning and assessing homework. In both cases, the key is to get acquainted with our **Curriculum**, which you can see [here](#).

Getting Started

If you don't have the app yet, download it from the app store (free download), place the iPad on your piano (where you would normally place sheet music) and give it a try. As you may notice, there's a "Journey" section and a "Library" section. The "Journey" section is built chapter by chapter, continually rising in difficulty. Each chapter contains a group of songs and exercises (with full background music) that are focused on working on a specific level or skill of playing. A short description of each chapter's curriculum is also mentioned by the chapter title. In the "Library" you can search for additional songs/exercises according to their level (Elementary, 1A, 2A etc.) or according to category (Pop&Rock, TV&Game Themes etc. for songs, or Scales, 5-Finger-Position, Rhythm etc. for exercises).

Piano Method Books Included

Notice that in the Library there's also a section called 'Methods' - this is where you will find some of the known and beloved piano method books out there. We are thrilled to host "Alfred's Premier Piano Course" and "Piano Pronto" by Jennifer Eklund, and additional books are soon to be included as well. Having these method books integrated with our 'gamified' practicing platform gives you an exciting new way to compliment the use of your favorite method book. Give it a try - your students will love it!

Up-To-Date Content

One of the most fun things about starting to play music is playing songs you know. This is why we put hits and all-time favorites right from the start, aside from classical repertoire and necessary exercises – your students will be thrilled to get a chance to practice and learn the latest hits they know by heart with full accompaniment music... We currently have well over 400 songs/exercises to choose from, while more are added on a weekly basis.

The Learning Process

When choosing a song, there are 2 modes - 'Play' and 'Learn'. 'Play' would be to play the full song in full speed while 'Learn' would pass your student through a step-by-step 'hand made' learning process designed to prepare him/her for the full version - each phrase separately, slow tempo, each hand by itself etc.- each song according to its complexity. Whether it's during 'Music Lab' time, or for home practice between lessons, the 'Learn' mode is a huge help. In addition, in the 'Play' mode you will find multiple practice options available upon hitting 'pause' – one can change the tempo, show/hide the note names, choose which hand to practice and also have the notes linger until you get it right – this is for those who would know what practice options they need to slowly master the song. When you first introduce Piano Maestro to your students, it's very much recommended that you demonstrate all this, and especially important to point out that they can choose to play it using their own real piano/keyboard (if they have one at home).

Assigning Homework

The beauty of Piano Maestro is that it motivates practicing at home, because it feels like a game. With the **Home challenge button** (just next to each song's 'Play' Button), you can now assign specific songs for your students to play at home, which they will see in the 'Home Challenge' section of the app. Alternatively, you can simply ask them to reach a certain chapter in the 'Journey' section or a certain page in a method book, and see their excitement and motivation go sky-high! You can find our detailed chapter curriculum here.

Not all your students have an iPad within reach?

That's no problem. You can now download Piano Maestro's correlating sheet music (free for teachers), email or print them out and hand it to your students during the lesson. This way they will also be able to practice and enjoy the songs and exercises they did in the lesson. Furthermore, Piano Maestro has the option to create as many profiles as you wish on a single device, meaning the students can always play it on your device with their progress saved.

Assessing Homework

Piano Maestro has an option to connect between a teacher's account and the student's home account and profile. Once connected, their personal profile on your iPad will sync with their profile on their home device and all progress will be saved and can be picked off where they last left off! To connect, go to the 'Teacher Zone' (red button in the upper right corner of the main menu) and into the "Manage Students" tab. There you will be able to create and manage new student profiles and send connection invitations to your students. In addition, once you're connected, we start sending you **weekly progress reports** showing you exactly how well they did at home – how much they practiced, which songs they played and much more.

During a Lesson (private or group lessons)

Many of our registered teachers have reported using it extensively during lessons. Either for giving and checking home assignments, introducing a new song/exercise or simply as a bonus activity to lift up a child's spirits. When teaching group lessons with multiple keyboards, you can simply connect the keyboards to the iPads using a MIDI cable - this way the keyboard sounds will not interfere with one another, and multiple students can practice at once. If you only have one iPad, students can take turns practicing with it (as many teachers reported doing), or you can use it for special activities – creating exciting competitions between students, fun games or demonstrations in your class (a projector/smartboard can help in these cases).

Free Sheet Music

Did we mention that as a teacher you can download and use the sheet music of the songs and exercises of the app? Thought to mention it again, just in case.

What's Free and What's Not – a word about pricing

The app Piano Maestro is free to download and try out. One can freely play with it until chapter 6, and in the 'Free' category in the 'Library'. After that, one would need to buy a subscription in order to proceed to the premium zone (chapter 7 and on). The price is \$5 per month for the annual plan (total of \$59.99 per year) or \$9.99/month for the month-by-month plan. Please remember, while we do need to make our keep (and pay the licensing fees), we're first and foremost all about promoting music education so it is possible to contact us and apply for scholarships for you and/or your students.

Downloading sheet music and receiving progress reports (connecting to students) is free.

Why Subscription?

Piano Maestro in many ways is like a gym, but for piano playing. It's an ever-growing practicing tool, with new songs, exercises and features being added all the time. It also provides the opportunity to play and practice copyrighted hits and popular songs that entail royalty payments (and a lot of fun!). Piano Maestro is a tool designed to escort your students throughout the year and motivate them to practice, making your teaching much more effective. For parents, sending their kids to weekly piano lessons is an important investment of time and money. With Piano Maestro, they can make the most out of it, as their kids will progress much faster (and have a lot of fun doing so!).

We also invite you to join our JoyTunes Teachers Facebook group. This group will give you the ability to suggest new features for our apps, ask any questions you may have, receive tips on different ways to use our apps in your private lesson or classroom and more!

Of course, you can always write us at education@joytunes.com

