

Freedom from Sheet Music - Mastermind Overview:

- Focuses exclusively on helping advanced pianists learn how to engage the ear to learn music from recordings, in live settings, and use the ear to venture into improvisation and popular styles.
- By having group classes to optimize the education value from others.
- By offering online lessons for asynchronous progress.
- Trains members how to recognize half-steps and whole-steps to hear chord changes, melodic content, so they can identify the critical harmonic changes inside all music..
- Uses half-steps and whole-steps so you can unlock the secret inside different styles of music, from Mozart to the blues.
- Will study and learn to hear by listening to the great music of the past to learn what makes each composer unique and how to use that towards playing by ear.
- Where everybody is aligned towards the same goal: being able to play music to an advanced level without depending on sheet music.
- That's run by Elliot Sneider, DMA, pianist/composer/theorist/improviser.
- Where the focus is on application and performance of techniques in real life settings including solo performance, accompanying singers, playing with ensembles.
- That feels like hanging out with musicians (but with real musical results).

Here's how it works:

Phase 1 — **Harmonic tendencies** - We will listen to and get 'intimate' with minor and major seconds (the 'double-helix' of ear training DNA), until they are second nature so you can hear in real time the movement of harmony and melody. Focus will be on harmonic motion: Tonic - Half Step - Whole Step, Amen, Reverse Amen.

Phase 2 — **Learning Mozart by ear.** Choosing a Mozart sonata at your level we will cover the aspects to focus on, including sonata form, major-minor relationships, half and whole steps, practicing techniques so you can apply the techniques to other styles of music and other composers.

Phase 3 — **Popular Harmony** - using harmonic tendencies and simple ear training to learning to hear the progressions in Pop, Rock, Blues, and other popular styles. Understanding the relationship between harmonic motion and the styles so you can anticipate chord changes and melodic movement. Playing along with recordings and in live settings.

Phase 4 — **Jazz and beyond** - learning about chord extensions, triad overlapping, secrets of jazz soloing.

Phase 5 — **What is improvisation?** Why do we use the term to distinguish musical styles? What has it meant in the past? How does it relate to improvisations for acting? What does improvisation mean in relation to Mozart, Beethoven, and beyond?

Phase 6 — **Connecting the unconnectable** - lyrical music, the emotional and improvisation. Choosing a piece from any era to learn by ear. Dip our toes into more avante-garde and atonal ear training, including improvisation in the style of Schoenberg.

Community:

Community on a new cutting-edge platform to collaborate with other members

2x 2-hour weekly collaboration calls