

My name is Alex Hopkins. I am the Music Director at Congregation Kol Ami. I started learning Piano at age 5, hated it, subsequently quit after 2 years of wasting my parents' money, and decided to learn the clarinet instead (this did teach me the notes)- but I always had a keyboard or piano around the house growing up. Without any pressure to practice, I fell in love with the piano, and as a teenager started to teach myself to play from chords and lead sheets, mainly so I could sing and perform and accompany myself. One thing led to another, and I paid my way through Law School in Sydney, Australia by playing piano and singing in pubs and clubs at night. After graduating Law School with honors, I disappointed my family and took an offer from Disney Cruise Line to be their youngest piano bar entertainer in company history- a gig I still play to this day. I am an avid songwriter, had a lead role in a Television series when I was 15 years old, and believe you don't need to play scales at 100mph to play musically. I hope to offer a different approach to the piano than simply learning fingerings and scales- we do need some basics, but once these are established, I'm interested in trying to help you make MUSIC not just complete exercises- songs themselves are exercises. If you want to sing and write songs while playing the piano or guitar, that is also something I can help you with, having studied voice for many years and having worked as a writer and producer in the studio with many great artists. If you want to get into Juilliard I don't think I'm probably the right teacher for you. If you'd like to try my methods to get playing and making music, I can't wait to work with you.