

**D DISCOVER**  
**C CREATIVE**  
**A ARTS**

[www.discovercreativearts.com](http://www.discovercreativearts.com)

**PACE PIANO**  
*Robert Pace Piano*  
Lee Roberts Music Publications

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# Discover Creative Arts - Townsite Public Market

In Fall 2023, Discover Creative Arts, in Townsite Public Market, will be bringing an exciting and innovative piano method to Qathet: **Robert Pace Piano.**

In 1976, my brilliant parents, Neil & Sheila Sutherland, heard about an interesting and creative approach to learning the piano called, The Robert Pace Method. It came out of New York, and was the brain child of Dr. Robert Pace (Professor at Juilliard, Head of Piano Instruction in 1952, and Chairman of the Music Department in 1969, director of the National Piano Foundation, 1962-1977, Executive director of the International Piano Teaching Foundation.)

Miraculously, this method of piano was being offered by a group of fantastic teachers in North and West Vancouver, and I was enrolled in the program. Now, 45 years later, I have a music degree, am a professional composer, conductor, performer, instructor and have an enduring, joyful and lifelong love of music, learning and creating. I attribute this to the Robert Pace Method of Piano, my teacher, Beverley Atkinson, and the support and insight of my parents.

Dr. Robert Pace is credited with having revolutionized the art of piano teaching in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. As an educator, he passionately committed himself to helping students become independent learners and lifelong musicians. His extraordinary vision of teaching music through simple ideas that could be infinitely interrelated, reshaped, and revisited, left an enduring legacy - that of a continually self-renewing approach, as dynamic today, as when it first came on the scene.

In May 2023, I approached Karin Holm-Pedersen, one of the original North Vancouver pack of Pace Teachers, who was now newly retired and living in a beautiful house in Victoria, on Vancouver Island. Karin graciously offered to mentor me and bestowed upon me, not only her wealth of knowledge and support, but also books, teaching supplies, and everything I needed to launch Robert Pace here on the Sunshine Coast!

I am thrilled to continue the Robert Pace Legacy at Discover Creative Arts!

# **Robert Pace Piano at Discover Creative Arts**

## **Kinder-Keyboard - ages 6-7**

The first difference you will notice in the Pace Program, as opposed to other traditional piano methods, is that students work in partners and in groups, never privately with the teacher. The classes are always 45 minutes long, and students meet twice a week, with a total of 1.5 hours of class time per week.

In September 2023, Discover Creative Arts will be offering the first level of the Pace Program: Kinder-Keyboard, which will be open to 6 and 7 year olds only. As I aim to be the best Pace Teacher I can be, I am taking it slowly this first year, and offering only Kinder-Keyboard. After I have offered this first year, I then plan to branch out to different levels and ages, including adults.

Kinder-Keyboard is offered in groups of 4-6 students, twice a week, and is a year-long commitment, September 2023 - June 2024. Students will be accepted into the program after an initial Introduction Session with the parent(s)/caregiver and an informal "Readiness Test" with the student. Only 6 and 7 year olds will be considered.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, the tuition, the commitment etc..and would like to book an Introduction Session, please contact me at: **lesleyssutherland@icloud.com**

I will be meeting with families throughout July and August, and am planning to run an After-School program as well as a Home Learning program, starting in September.

I look forward to hearing from you!

**Lesley Sutherland**  
**Artistic Director**  
**Discover Creative Arts - Townsite Public Market**  
**www.discovercreativearts.com**

## **Pace Students Can:**

~ Play, read, transpose, and create a wider range of music...

**Because they learn to use the full keyboard from the start!**

~ Enjoy their own creativity and practice self-direction...

**Because they study diverse literature, create related music and compose their own music!**

~ Teach themselves, as they practice between lessons, and learn on their own after formal studies conclude...

**Because they know how to apply BIG PICTURE concepts in many ways!**

~ Learn alongside their peers, in partner lessons and group lessons...

**Because our lessons are based around a philosophy of Spiraling Learning, in a student and peer centred, supportive and fun environment!**



# What Makes the Pace Approach Different?

## **Big Picture Learning**

Piano methods often teach information as a series of isolated elements.

Example: “The key signature for G major has one sharp on F.” Later, “The key signature for D major has a sharp on F and C.” Still later, “The key signature for A major has sharps on F, C, and G...,” and so on.

Pace students, instead, learn big-picture concepts.

Example: “To identify ANY major sharp key signature.....look at the last sharp and name the line or space directly above it.”



Big pictures give students the tools to learn on their own, along with learning from their peers and their teacher.

**Lifelong Learning!**

## **Developing a Keen Ear - Rich Soundscapes**

Many approaches simplify material for basic levels by restricting students to a few highly similar tonalities. Developing a keen ear is a central goal of the Pace approach. This approach therefore favours a rich soundscape for beginning levels and onward. The Pace method keeps things simple through careful structuring of concept sequences. This enables students to play and hear a lively range of sonorities—including all major and minor keys, plus pentatonic, whole tone, 12-tone, chromatic, bitonal, blues, and modal tonalities—rather than depending on teacher or recorded accompaniments for tonal variety.

**Outstanding Repertoire!**  
**Musical Literacy!**

## **Curriculum is Student-Centered**

Piano methods frequently emphasize teacher-scripted activities over student-directed ones. Teacher-scripted activity:

“For a different effect, change the final C to G.”

The Pace curriculum encourages student-centered learning by featuring student-scripted activities regularly.

Example: “Improvise your own new musical question-and-answers each day.”

**Student-scripted experiences build confidence and self-sufficiency.**

**Student-Directed,  
Adaptable Learning!**

## **Mastery - Creative Practice**

Some methods base mastery of material mainly on multiple direct repetitions. Creative activities are intermittent, and not a primary means for reinforcing learning.

**In the Pace Approach, creativity is a cornerstone of the curriculum.**

By regularly varying and transposing new material many ways, students practice recall while also creating something new.

Creative practice promotes student-directed learning plus the flexibility to adapt the process of learning to each new situation.

**Creativity!**

**For more information on The Robert Pace Method of piano, and to book your child’s Introduction Session, please contact Lesley Sutherland at [lesleyssutherland@icloud.com](mailto:lesleyssutherland@icloud.com)**