



Book Club for Pianists & Piano Lovers

Meet and share ideas about your favorite piano related books. You can bring a book to share or just come and listen and ask questions in an informal gathering.

November 6, 2022, & March 19, 2023, 3:30–4:30 PM. Deer Park library

Piano Book Club Basics

- ✓ Bring a book to share.
- ✓ Get inspired to practice or listen to more piano music. Socialize with other piano books' lovers
- ✓ Listen and/or ask questions. Get exposure to new ideas and different viewpoints
- ✓ Choose your own book to read about: Piano Performance, Pianists' Biography and Memoir, Piano Learning, Piano Teaching, Practicing, Piano Composers, History of Pianists, Piano Technique, etc.
- ✓ Get ideas on what to read next
- ✓ Bring your own beverage
- ✓ No fees or membership
- ✓ No need to RSVP, simply join us if you have the time
- ✓ Two meetings a year gives you more time to read long books
- ✓ Questions? –Email Dr. Olga Rua at olga.m.rua@gmail.com. Visit olgaruapiano.com for books' lists

Choosing a Book

- ✓ Ask a book club member for a recommendation, or see olgaruapiano.com/Book Club
- ✓ Search the internet for Piano related books and choose from them
- ✓ Search book reviews and choose from the best
- ✓ Choose an interesting author and read some of his books

General questions to answer about each

- ✓ Did the book appeal to you? Why or why not?
- ✓ Why do you think the author chose the title?
- ✓ What did you think of the character, plot, and theme development?
- ✓ Which parts or aspects of the book didn't you understand?
- ✓ Read your favorite passage or quote to the group. Why is it your favorite?
- ✓ What are the similarities to other books?

More detailed questions about the book

- ✓ How did the book make you feel and why?
- ✓ Support your views with examples/passages from the text
- ✓ How did you experience the book? Were you drawn into the book, or did it take a while?
- ✓ What were the great strengths (or weaknesses) of the book?
- ✓ Has the book changed/enhanced your view of the subject?
- ✓ Has the book changed/enhanced the way you live your life or look at the world of piano?
- ✓ How relevant/popular do you think this book will be in 10 years?
- ✓ What was the most surprising, intriguing, or difficult about the book?
- ✓ How convincing was the book, and why?
- ✓ Who suggested the book, and why did they recommend it?
- ✓ Bring your copy of the book. Different people can interpret the same exact thing differently and having the text to refer to helps clarify things
- ✓ Be ready to give your book a rating 1-5 stars or a one-word/phrase summing up your experience

Reading Closely

Take Notes: use sticky notes or have a notepad handy to mark your favorite passage or things you may want to bring to the group for a response

Big Six Considerations:

- ✓ **Style:** Were there striking word choices or turns of phrase you'd like to share? Was the writing filled with rhythm, repetition, or irony?
- ✓ **Narrator:** Why do you think the author chose this particular point of view? Is the narrator reliable (are they telling the whole story)?
- ✓ **Character:** How believable, sympathetic, complex are the characters, and why? What motivates them? Did you identify with or admire any of them, and why? In what ways do any of the characters change?
- ✓ **Plot:** If there was an unusual structure (i.e. flashbacks, shifting time periods), why do you think the author chose this structure and do you feel it helped or detracted from the point? Did the plot unfold naturally, or did you feel manipulated? What loose ends, if any, did the author leave? Talk about your thoughts on the ending. If you could rewrite it, would you?
- ✓ **Setting:** How essential was the setting? If the book had a particular mood/atmosphere, how did the author achieve it?
- ✓ **Theme:** Would you say the book had a moral, or driving idea? Were there recurring symbols, words, objects that you noticed?

Character List: Sometimes it helps to write down the major characters and their motivations

Chapter Headings: Take a look at any chapter headings (titles, quotes). Do they add to the theme?

Gut reactions: At the end of the book (or each chapter/section) write down your initial response to the plot, characters, or language. Don't overthink, just a quick impression

Re-reading: before your meeting, re-read your notes. If you have time, re-read the first and last chapters