

LESSONS

Individual Lessons

Students may register for either 45-minute lessons or 60-minute lessons, in consultation with the instructor and depending on their goals and expectations for progression. Anyone reaching the level of Intermediate is strongly encouraged to register for 60-minute lessons. In very select circumstances, a student may be permitted to register for 30-minute “mini” lessons.

Group Lessons

Three times throughout the year, small-group lessons will replace the individual lessons for that week. Students are grouped according to age and skill level. When determining the groups and the schedule options for each group, every effort will be made to select days/ times which allow the greatest number of students to attend.

Recitals and Special Events

The studio provides several opportunities to perform publically, attend special events (such as concerts,) and participate in contests. It's important for each student's musical growth to perform publically and attend special events whenever possible, so please prioritize these on your home calendar—particularly the studio recital dates.

Schedule

The Studio Year runs from August 18, 2019 through July 31, 2020. Enrolling in the studio is a commitment between the instructor, students, and parents for the entire studio year, including the summer. Students lose momentum and skills developed when they discontinue their study during the summer. Students who do not participate in summer lessons are not guaranteed a spot in the studio for the next year.

The 2019-2020 Studio Year Calendar provides the specific dates for weekly individual lessons, group lessons, holiday weeks, and special events.

Attendance

Your tuition reserves an exclusive weekly time with me in the studio, so missed lessons cannot be rescheduled or made up at a different time. If you know ahead of time that you won't be able to attend a particular lesson, you may choose to do a video lesson or a remote lesson.

- **Video Lessons:** If you're unavailable during your lesson time, simply make a recording of your assignments and send me the video (or a link to the video) before your scheduled lesson. I will spend your reserved time reviewing your video, and will reply with my feedback either written, in a video, or both.
- **Remote Lessons:** If you are available during your lesson time but cannot be physically present in the studio, you can have a remote lesson via Skype or Viber. This option may be useful if inclement weather prevents you from getting to the studio, if you're out of town but have access to a piano, if you are too contagious to be in public but feel well enough for lessons, or if you don't have a ride to the studio.

Discontinuing Lessons

It is anticipated that a student will study for the full studio year. However, I understand that sometimes lessons just don't work out for a student or family, or life gets in the way. This decision should be made thoughtfully with plenty of discussion between the instructor, parent, and student so that lessons can cease at the end of a semester with a positive sense of closure. To discontinue lessons, a minimum one-month notice is required.

Regrettably, I reserve the right to dismiss a student in any of these circumstances, without refund of that month's tuition:

- Failure to make payments promptly
- Persistent absences or tardiness
- Failure to honor studio policies
- Uncooperative attitude
- Frequent lack of lesson readiness (e.g. bringing materials, following assignments)
- Inappropriate or disrespectful behavior, theft, and/ or misbehavior in my home

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition

Tuition is factored for the Studio Year and divided into 12 monthly installments (August 2019 through July 2020.) Your tuition reserves an exclusive weekly time with me in the studio. It also covers individualized plans for each student's course of study, development of teaching materials and supplemental curricula, continuing education/ professional development, event planning, and more. The monthly tuition does not relate to a certain number of lessons per month -- it is merely the yearly tuition broken up for your convenience. Most months have four lessons, some more or less. Contact the studio for the current tuition rates.

Fees

An annual non-refundable registration fee of \$70 per student is required to help cover the cost of student binders, group materials, the studio lending library and technology, scheduling and bookkeeping, incentive programs, studio upkeep and maintenance, cost of the recital location, and more. Registration fees are due with the August tuition for returning students, or at the time of registration for new students. For families with more than one student, the fee for the second and each additional student is \$40. For students registering after February 1, 2020 but before July 29, 2020, the registration fee is \$40.

Billing and Payments

Tuition is due and payable on or before the first lesson of each month (whether or not the student is in attendance,) with a three day grace period. On the fourth day following the due date, a \$15 late fee per student will be added to your account. Beginning on the seventh day following the due date, an additional \$1 per student per day will be added to the late fee until tuition is paid.

Account statements will be provided via email before your first scheduled lesson each month. I accept cash, checks, and most major credit cards. Credit card transactions on my website are subject to a 2.9% convenience fee to help defray the cost of bank charges. A \$35.00 fee will be added to your account for any checks returned due to non-sufficient funds (NSF.)

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Student Materials

Students will need their own music books to use throughout the year, which the studio buys in advance. The actual cost of such materials (including sales tax and shipping, handling, or other applicable fees) will be posted to the student's account and will appear on the following month's statement. Students are expected to promptly reimburse the studio for these materials in accordance with tuition due dates.

Lending Library

The studio maintains a large collection of supplemental books and sheet music, and students are encouraged to borrow from this "Lending Library." Please treat these materials with care so that everyone can enjoy and benefit from them. Use only a pencil for markings, and write lightly. Any markings must be completely erased before returning the music to the Lending Library. Any borrowed music not returned within 3 weeks (unless being used for a performance) or returned with damages will be billed at its replacement cost.

Equipment

All piano students must have an acoustic or digital piano available for home practice. Just as you can't learn to drive without a car, a student can't learn to play the piano without a piano. The quality of a student's home instrument plays a significant role in their potential for success. Except for the first 60 to 90 days of lessons, a keyboard is not interchangeable with a piano. Pianos are readily available at a relatively low cost. If you aren't sure where to start in the process of buying one, I can help you discover some great options.

Acoustic pianos should be tuned at least once a year and kept in good working order. If you prefer a digital piano, please invest in one on its own stand (not an "X" type of stand) with 88 full-sized, fully weighted, touch-sensitive keys and at least 1 pedal.