

Updated July 2008

PIANO STUDIO OF Teacher

Studio Policies for 2008/2009

MISSION STATEMENT: Coaching and encouraging children and teens to enjoy making music for a lifetime.

REGISTRATION FEE:

A \$40 Registration/Reservation Fee will reserve a lesson space in my studio schedule for the school year (September-May). The registration fee is non-refundable except when no suitable class or private lesson time is available. The fee is then used to help defray the cost of theory games and teaching aids, ensemble books, music library materials, incentives and awards, and the annual spring recital.

MUSIC & MATERIALS:

Music and materials needed usually cost about \$60 per year per student. Re-registered, continuing students will pay this at the beginning of summer session and new students will pay this fee at the beginning of the school year with the Registration/Reservation Fee. New students will receive a three-ring binder for assignment sheets and handouts when they begin lessons.

PIANO TUITION:

Preschool/Kindergarten Classes (Ages 4-6): \$XX per month for 30-minutes weekly

Young Student Classes (1st grade students): \$ XX per month for 40-minutes weekly

Older Student Classes (Ages 7+): \$ XX per month for 50-minutes weekly and \$ XX for 60-minutes weekly

Older Student Private/Partner Lessons (Ages 7+): \$ XX per month for 25-minutes weekly private and 10-minute partner lessons plus a 15-minute computer lab session.

Partner Lessons (all ages): \$ XX per month for 40-minute lessons.

Private Lessons (all ages-limited availability): \$ XX per month for 45-minute lessons plus a 15-minute computer lab session.

Approx. six 45-minute to 1-hour (length depending upon ages) Group Musicianship Classes are scheduled throughout the year, depending upon the students' ages and skill level.

Lesson tuition includes 32 lessons for the school year (September through May) and a Spring Recital. School year tuition fees are divided into three (3) equal quarterly payments. Families are welcome to pay the three (3) months tuition all at once or pay monthly by the tenth of the month. A late fee of \$15 is added for any tuition payments not received by the tenth of the month. A \$35 service charge will be charged to all accounts for checks returned for insufficient funds. Checks should be made payable to *Teacher*.

Homeschool Students who take lessons during the school day receive an approximately 25% tuition reduction.

CLASS LESSONS:

Piano classes are small (no more than five students) and each student has the use of a digital piano or keyboard. The goal of each class is to create a positive, fun, relaxed learning atmosphere. Friendships develop and the joy of sharing music is experienced. Students may progress more rapidly in a stress-free piano class environment and are grouped according to age and ability. Students are responsible for bringing ALL of their materials with them to each class session. Piano classes generally follow the local traditional school calendar, beginning in late August or early September and ending in May. In September, each student will receive a Studio Calendar and copy of the Studio Policies, a copy of which will be put in the back section of the student music binder.

In my experience, motivation for consistent progress and excellence is the greatest challenge for students today. Working in small groups, students learn not only from the teacher but also from each other. I have observed that student enjoyment and enthusiasm is enhanced, interaction and positive peer pressure provide positive motivation for accurate playing, playing in groups significantly improves rhythmic ability, and students see others working at learning the same skills and feel less isolated as they practice at home.

PRIVATE LESSONS:

If I am unable to place a student into a class appropriate for his or her age and ability, I will teach a private lesson if my studio schedule permits. If, at a later date, I have a weekly group that would be appropriate for a private student, I will request that the student join the group.

The Private Lesson Program includes a combination of weekly private lesson instruction of 45-minutes and Group Musicianship Classes. The weekly private lessons are preceded or followed by an individual 15-minute computer lab session. Approximately six times during the school year, I will schedule a 45-minute to 1-hour Group Musicianship Class (length depending upon ages) for my students for listening exercises, theory review games, ear training, music history and playing in ensemble. Students are grouped roughly by age and skill level. These classes will replace the private lesson for that week and no new materials are assigned. Group Musicianship Classes will be clearly indicated on the studio calendar so that you may plan your schedules accordingly.

SUMMER SESSION:

Summer Session will be the months of June & July. Re-registered, continuing students will be requested to take four lessons during those months, private or group, and will be billed for one month's tuition along with the registration fee and materials fee. Summer scheduling is more flexible for lesson time and length. Students who DO NOT take lessons during summer session are still required to pay the tuition and fees to hold a spot in the studio for the new school year.

ATTENDANCE:

A lesson time is reserved for students each week and month of the school year whether or not the student attends each lesson. A student who does not attend a lesson will simply miss the benefit of that lesson. Students who miss lessons due to busy schedules, lack of preparation, or vacation times are not eligible for a rate adjustment. Rescheduled lessons are at the teacher's discretion. Lessons missed by the teacher will be rescheduled as the calendar permits. Teacher is entitled to one lesson cancellation during the year due to illness or emergency.

Students who plan to discontinue taking lessons during the school year must give ONE MONTH'S advance notice or pay an additional month's tuition fee.

DAILY PIANO PLAYING:

Daily playing time is essential for students to experience success in learning their materials. Families and students should have a plan for when this playing time will take place each day. The student must fill in a weekly playing chart (on the assignment sheet) and be responsible for completing the materials on the assignment sheet. Each first year student must commit to playing the piano and the materials assigned daily for 15 to 20 minutes, five days a week (5 to 15 minutes daily for 4 to 6-year-old students). Students beyond their first year of lessons must commit to playing their materials assigned daily for a minimum of 20-30 minutes, five days a week. It is consistent, efficient, daily practice that leads to the satisfaction and joy of steady progress towards solid musicianship.

Please note that these policies are in accord with recommended professional policies of the Music Teachers' National Association and the Music Teachers' Association of California. Tuition fees take into consideration that I must provide all of my insurance, retirement, social security, and continuing education costs, as well as bear the expense of equipping and maintaining my studio, instruments, libraries and other equipment and supplies. They also take into consideration that I spend even more hours in planning, study, scheduling, phone calls, e-mails, bookkeeping, and organizing other studio related responsibilities, than I do in actual lesson time. Teaching is my profession, my business, and my art; I wish to present and live up to policies that give me the time and financial security to devote most of my energy to the creative act of sharing music with people. I acknowledge my students' and their parents' place in a three-way relationship, and pledge to do my best to make music study a rich, growing experience for my students.

MUSIC BACKGROUND & EDUCATION:

Music has been an integral and exciting part of my life since childhood. I have sung in church choirs since the third grade and in school choirs from elementary through university. As a child, I auditioned and was selected to sing in a small children's chorus for a professional musical recording in Hollywood. I have sung numerous solos in church services, weddings, funerals, community events, recitals, county fairs, master classes, and concerts. I have directed children's choirs, youth choirs, adult choirs, and community choirs and served as a choral section leader at the university level.

While growing up in Southern California, I studied piano for nine years and hold a Bachelor of Arts degree (1989) from Cal State University, Chico, in Vocal Performance, with an emphasis on Choral Conducting. I am a member of the local Butte County branch of MTAC (Music Teacher's Association of California), MTNA (Music Teachers' National Association) and its affiliate, CAPMT (California Association of Professional Music Teachers) and the National Guild of Piano Teachers (NGPT). I am currently actively involved in the music ministry of my church in Chico as a vocalist and pianist/keyboard player.

I regularly attend piano teaching and music technology workshops and conferences, read professional publications, participate in two local piano teacher organizations and in several piano teacher internet groups as I am a believer in life-long education. I have been teaching piano lessons since 1989 in Wyoming and California.