

1999

## MISSED LESSONS

Missed lessons may be made up at the teacher's discretion depending on the student's need and the times available. Lessons missed by the teacher will definitely be made up. I will send out a list of all student's lesson times for swapping purposes. It is up to the individual to arrange to swap and let me know as soon as possible. If you do not wish to be included on this list, please let me know.

## CANCELED LESSONS

If you have to cancel a lesson, please call before noon on the day of the lesson, or, if possible, the evening before. My phone is

## PURCHASE OF MUSIC

To make things easier for busy parents, I purchase all music (except some popular music of the students own choosing) and give it to the students at their lessons. You will receive a statement for any music that your child receives. Included will be tax or shipping/handling charge (usually 5%). Please pay for music promptly. While I never skimp on quality music, I try to choose music that is of reasonable cost and will best suit your child. Sometimes music may be recycled among students. If you would like to recycle any music, or find recycled music, please make sure to mention it to me. Often, a student may borrow one of my "library copies". I am happy to lend music out for a short time, however, if it is a piece that the child should have, it should be purchased for the student.

## NOTEBOOK

Please provide your child with a large spiral bound, school-size notebook for lesson assignments. This book is also used for written communication between parents and myself and I usually write down money owed for music in this notebook.

## PRACTICING

Practicing is the student's "homework" and should be done every day (or at least six days per week). Many students, especially beginners, need help in setting up consistent practice times. It may seem hard at first to find a time every day in which to practice. I recommend that the parent and child sit down and write out a schedule of times that work the best for you. While this time could change daily, it is better to use the same time each day so it becomes a habit. Young children (up to age 8 or so) may wish to divide their practice time into two equal blocks of about 15 minutes each, while older beginners should try to practice for one-half hour at one time. Recommended time for intermediate students is 45 minutes to one hour, and advanced students for about an hour or more each day. These are not hard and fast rules as practicing needs can vary from week to week, but general guidelines. Practicing time includes sight-reading, technical warm-ups, written theory, creative work, and review of old pieces.

After a schedule is set up, try to let the child take complete responsibility for practicing. If needed, a weekly practice chart may be kept and reviewed at lessons. Practicing should be fun and we spend a lot of time at lessons talking about how to practice as well as what.

The best practicing time is usually right after a lesson because the material is fresh in their mind. Also be aware of written assignments--please check the notebook book each week to assist your child with specific things to do and remember. The notebook is also a good place to communicate with me

about any problems or general information you wish to share, as well as checking on new music moneys due.

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

There are so many important things parents can do to help their children have a rewarding and positive experience playing the piano. Please constantly encourage your child and compliment him or her on the work accomplished. There is nothing better than praise to spur a child onto higher achievements. Ask them to play a piece that they learned rather than explain what they learned at a lesson. Maybe you can have a "home recital" for friends and/or family once a month.

I often ask parents who are able to play with their children to accompany them and play duets. This is a wonderful opportunity to make music together! In addition, parents are also asked to help with ear training activities as well as check written theory lessons. This gives me a little more time to work on music at lessons and is much appreciated.

Many students "compare notes" as to pieces learned, levels achieved, etc. Please discourage this or just explain that everyone is different and learns at a different pace. Very often a child will hit a plateau in their music development or get discouraged over a particularly hard piece of music. Reassure him/her that this happens to everyone and that it won't be terrible if the piece is not "perfect" for the lesson and that the teacher will help with the problem. That's what lessons are for!

Parents can further help in creating a good atmosphere for practicing by providing good lighting at the piano and making sure the room and area are free from other distractions. Also, by getting your child to lessons on time and picking up promptly, your child will know that you respect the work that they are doing.

If you every have any questions or wish to discuss your child's lessons with me, please don't hesitate to call. I try to keep in touch with you too, to keep you updated on your child's progress and any special needs that she or he might have. The best time to reach me is in the evenings after 7 PM. or on weekends.

HAPPY MUSIC MAKING !!