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Studio Policies

Classes and Lessons

Beginning Piano/Keyboard Classes meet weekly for 60 minutes. Students are grouped by age and need no prior experience with music or keyboards. Classes will focus on basic music and keyboard fundamentals such as rhythm, note-reading, technique, ear training and playing in a group as well as music appreciation and music history. Class size will be a maximum of 4 students.

I strongly urge students to purchase an acoustic piano before the second year of study, as an electronic keyboard severely limits the technical and musical skills a student can practice on at home. Please call if you have questions or concerns in this area.

Small Group Piano Classes meet weekly for 75 minutes. These classes are designed for the second year of study, or Syllabus IB, and above. Class time includes a combination of private instruction at the piano; group theory, scale and ensemble work; computer work; music appreciation; performance and activities on the Kurzweil Digital piano. Class size will be a maximum of 4 students.

The Private Lesson program includes a combination of group musicianship classes, individual music-lab time and private lesson instruction. Students come for either a 45-minute or 60 minute weekly lesson, 15 minutes of which is scheduled for music lab work. Lesson and lab times will overlap so that one student will be working in the lab while another student is starting or finishing a private lesson.

Musicianship classes are held once a month, and they take the place of private lessons for that week. (At this time I don't have musicianship classes for adults). Musicianship classes meet for one hour; they focus on theory, ensemble playing, performing, listening to others perform, ear training, music history and music appreciation. Students are grouped by age, theory level and playing ability. Class size ranges from 3 to 8 students.

The private lesson program is recommended for more advanced students where a group class of the appropriate level is not available. With the shorter lesson times, students need to be able to follow detailed written instructions for theory, technique, scales, etc. and should be able to work well independently at home.

Responsibilities

It is my philosophy that success in music comes best from a 3-way effort between student, parent and teacher.

Student's Responsibilities

- Practice
- Complete homework
- Follow directions in class and at home
- Ask questions when you don't understand
- Keep a positive attitude
- Respond cheerfully to parents' reminders; remember, they are helping you to be successful!

Parent's Responsibilities

- Provide daily encouragement
- Remind students to practice 5-6 days per week

- Check to see that instructions are being followed and assignments completed
- Provide proper equipment in good working order
- Provide structured time and a quiet place to practice
- Come to the last 10 minutes of each class
- Let the teacher know how things are going at home, relay concerns, and ask any questions needed.

Teacher's Responsibilities

- Provide high quality, well prepared lessons and a positive learning environment
- Encourage and motivate students to practice
- Demonstrate a love of music
- Respect students' opinions and value their creativity
- Encourage communication between student/parent and teacher, answer any questions, help to solve problems

Practice Guidelines

All students will be expected to practice a minimum of 5-6 days per week, 30 minutes a day. Here are some general guidelines for practice as a student progresses:

Beginner-Syllabus I 30 minutes daily

Syllabus Levels II-III 40 minutes daily

Syllabus Levels III-IV 50 minutes daily

Syllabus Levels V-VI 60 minutes daily

Syllabus Levels VI+ 60 minutes daily or more

Materials needed at home:

- Beginning students need an acoustic piano (tuned, in good working order) or electronic keyboard instrument at home for practice
- Electronic keyboards should have standard sized keys, an adjustable bench and/or a keyboard stand to ensure proper posture and technique
- Second year students (and above) should have an acoustic piano, tuned and in good working order, at home for practice
- CD player and tape player, close to the piano, for use during practice at home
- Metronome

Other materials (the teacher will take care of ordering these items, this list just gives you an idea of the costs involved.)

- Lesson book
- Theory Book/Musicianship Class Book
- Blank Cassette Tape
- Blank Staff Paper

-Other seasonal, solo or duet books

-Subscription to Piano Explorer

Enrollment Agreement

Enrolled students are committing to a full school year of classes/lessons (2 semesters of 18 weeks each) and are responsible for paying the full year's tuition. If it becomes necessary to discontinue lessons part way through the year, students need to give one month's advance notice before terminating lessons. Students will be responsible for payment for one month after termination notice is given. *Important: no termination notices will be accepted for the months of May or June; by signing the enrollment agreement students/parents agree to continue lessons and be held responsible for payment through the end of June.* Makeups for summer lessons are available throughout the summer as needed.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition is based on 2 semesters of 18 weeks each. See current schedule for exact times and dates. Tuition is billed in 10 monthly installments, from September 1 through June 1.

Tuition Schedule:

Class Yearly Monthly

Length Tuition Payment

Beginners Class 60 min. \$\$ \$\$ /month

Small Group Class 75 min. \$\$ \$\$ /month

Private Lesson/Lab/Monthly Class 45 min. \$\$ \$\$ /month

Private Lesson/Lab/Monthly Class 60 min. \$\$ \$\$ /month

Books, CD's and other materials will be billed monthly and will probably average \$\$-\$\$ per month.

Materials Fee: A \$\$ materials fee will be charged per semester to cover the costs of copies, library books, lab equipment, software, etc.

Adjudications (optional): Generally adjudication and festival fees run between \$\$-\$\$, less for beginners and more as you advance.

Make-up Policy

No refunds are given for missed lessons or classes.

For students who inform the teacher of an absence at least one day in advance, makeups will be given in small groups, in 60- or 75-minute sessions. Makeup classes will be held once a week, with a different age group/theory level being offered each week. A schedule will be printed at the start of each semester detailing the class times and levels. Makeups will be given on a space-available basis with no more than 4 students per group.

Students may also be able to attend another class of the same level on a different day of the week, if there is space available in that class. Call at the beginning of the week for the best possible choices.

Arriving, Leaving and Parking

Please be prompt in dropping off and picking up your child, as we have limited space inside the music studio, with groups of 3-4 children coming and going. We can respect my neighbors by parking directly in front of my house, in my driveway, or on the street (along my property line).

Parents, if at all possible, please come in to the last 5-10 minutes of your child's lesson each week. This will give us an opportunity to address any questions or concerns about the week's assignment or the child's progress.

Course of Study, Progress Reports, Performance Opportunities

All students will be placed in a music theory workbook and will learn to play the scales/chord progressions from the Oregon Music Teacher's Association Syllabus. All students will experience ensemble playing or duet-playing and will work on improvising and sight reading skills. Students will experience a variety of musical styles, including classical, popular, jazz, and sacred (optional). Students are usually motivated to practice music they like, so I am always trying to find out what students want to play most. Please keep me informed!

Progress reports will be issued 4 times a year, at mid-semester and semester's end. Students will be graded on practice days recorded, completion of theory assignments, theory and music history/appreciation tests, completion of lab work, lesson preparation and class participation.

We have two recitals at The Music Room each year, in December and in the Spring. Various music adjudications are available through the Oregon Music Teachers Association and Federated Music Clubs. Ask for details.