

STUDIO POLICY 2020-2021

SALLY HODGES PIANO STUDIO

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“Learning to enjoy music through the study of piano is the goal of my piano studio: providing instruction in piano technique and repertoire, music theory and music literature for all ages and abilities of students.”

STUDIO OFFERINGS

- **Piano Lessons** are offered for all ages: beginners, elementary, high school, and adults.
- **Organ or Harpsichord lessons** can be scheduled on request if there is adequate keyboard skill.
- **Group lessons/master classes** for students are held periodically, in place of the private lesson.
- **Competitions and Festivals** - National Federation of Music Teachers' Junior Festival, Omaha Music Teachers' Association activities, Nebraska Music Teachers' District Festival, Fall Festival
- **Recitals** – Spring Awards recital (April/May), other recitals TBA
- **Music studio equipment:** two pianos, harpsichord, keyboard, digital organ
- **Online, Zoom lessons** - lessons offered online as an option to in-studio lessons.

CALENDAR

- **Regular teaching year:** nine months, from September through May
- **Summer lessons:** optional, according to schedules of students and teacher in June/July
- **Vacations:** Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas break, Memorial Day, August

TUITION AND FEES

- **Lesson Tuition Fee per month during the school year (nine months):**
One student: \$90.00 (30 minutes) \$120.00 (40 minutes) \$180.00 (one hour)
Family of two (discounted): \$165.00 (one hour)
- **Specially scheduled or single lessons: \$25.00 (1/2 hour); \$35.00 (3/4 hour); \$45.00 (one hour)**
- **Studio Fee - \$40.00 per single student or \$75.00 per family – paid once a year in September** at the beginning of fall lessons – covers recital expenses, awards, studio materials, and loan library.
- **Payment of lesson fees for the month is due on the first lesson of the month** (bill by email).
- **Tuition fees:** include private lessons and group lessons. Although the number of lessons per month may vary, the fee remains the same.
- **Payments are not refundable:** If a student withdraws from lessons during the month or misses lessons, no refunds will be made.
- **Fees for competitions and festivals:** If a student participates in any competition or festival that requires a fee, you will be billed for the fee.
- **Online, Zoom lessons** - fees are the same as in-studio lessons.

MUSIC AND SUPPLIES

- **Music:** Students will need to purchase music for lessons at local music stores or online. You will be billed for any music purchased by the teacher; lesson books, theory books, repertoire books.
- **Metronomes:** should be purchased and used for practice, with instruction from teacher.

NEW STUDENTS, TRANSFER STUDENTS

- All new students or transfer students from other teaching studios will have an interview and a visit to my piano studio before starting lessons, in order to get acquainted with me and my program.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES AND MAKE-UP LESSONS

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend weekly lessons during the school year, as this is the time reserved for your lesson. A change in your lesson time may be requested, but it may not always be possible to reschedule. **Please notify me if student is unable to attend a lesson.**
- **Makeup Lesson Policy:**
 - **Forgotten lessons or last-minute cancellations will NOT be made up.**
 - **Inclement weather or teacher cancellation:** Makeup lessons will be offered for inclement weather or if teacher has to cancel a lesson.
 - **Sick Policy:** If a student has been ill or has a fever within the 24 hours before a lesson, please do not send him/her to the lesson. Every attempt will be made to reschedule the lesson.
- **School Activities Policy:** Students who have school activities and need to miss a lesson: please contact me several days in advance to attempt rescheduling.
- **A 30- day notice** is required before termination of lessons.
- **Parents** are always welcome to attend lessons. Please call with questions or with any concerns. .
- **Group lessons** will be held periodically instead of the private lesson. This is part of our regular lesson cycle, and students are expected to attend, as this is covered by the tuition fee.

PRACTICE

- **Regular daily practice** is more beneficial than irregular practice several times a week. Students cannot progress in their music instruction without regular practice.
- **Suggested daily practice times (5 times a week):**
 - **Beginners:** 15 minutes; **Elementary:** 20 minutes; **Intermediate/Advanced:** 30-40 minutes.
- Teacher will check recorded practice times in the assignment book at the weekly lesson. Parental supervision of practice for young students is encouraged.

GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS OF STUDIO

- Students are expected to participate in the Spring Recital and are encouraged to participate in other recitals, a festival or competition, or school/ church performances during the year.
- Students are expected to bring to lessons all materials they are currently working on.
- Students are encouraged to attend other musical events in the community; school or church music programs, symphony concerts, etc. Participation in school band, orchestra, or choirs is encouraged.

TERMINATION OF LESSONS

- Students who begin the year are expected to finish the year, as this is a commitment. However, there are circumstances that may preclude terminating lessons: student's failure to practice or failure repeatedly to prepare for lessons; irregular in attendance; disruptive behavior. If your child is resisting practice and/or missing lessons, then I would recommend discontinuing lessons.
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TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

- Master of Music Degree (emphasis on piano) – University of South Dakota, 1997
- Certified Teacher of Music in Piano (Music Teachers' National Association)
- Professional memberships: Omaha Music Teachers' Association, Music Teachers' National Association, Nebraska Federation of Music Teachers, American Guild of Organists, Association of Anglican Musicians.
- Twenty-five years teaching experience and operating a private piano studio